

THISTLE CLASS ASSOCIATION 2026 MIDWINTERS EAST CHAMPIONSHIP



March 4 – 8, 2026
Pensacola Yacht Club
1897 Cypress Street
Pensacola, Florida 32502



NOTICE OF RACE

The organizing authorities for this event are the Thistle Class Association (TCA) and Pensacola Yacht Club (PYC).

[NP] denotes a rule that shall not be grounds for protest or request redress by boat and for which the Protest Committee may refuse to hold a hearing. (*This changes RRS 60.1, 61.1 (a) and 63.2 (a)*).

1. RULES

- 1.1. The regatta is governed by the rules as defined in the *Racing Rules of Sailing* (RRS).
- 1.2. The US Sailing prescriptions to the Preamble to Part 5, Section B and to RRS 63.1(b) shall not apply.
- 1.3. Rule 60.4(a)(2) is changed as follows:
"2) if it alleges a breach of rule 31 and is from a boat that was not involved in, **and** did not see, the incident, or..."

2. CODE OF CONDUCT AND OFFICIALS [NP]

- 2.1 Competitors and support persons shall promptly comply with any reasonable request or instructions from the Regatta officials, including the officials in charge of the boat parking, hoist master and the harbor/channel traffic.
- 2.2 The Organizing Authority shall appoint a Safety Officer (SO). The SO will be on the RC Signal vessel at all time during races and it will be his/her decision:
 - a) To continue or abandon a race in progress;
 - b) To start (or not) more races for the day;
- 2.3 When the SO, or his/her designee, displays the Flag D with one sound ashore means 'Boats shall not leave the PYC Marina until this signal is removed. The warning signal will not be made before the scheduled time or less than 45 minutes after flag D is removed.'

3. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS [NP]

- 3.1. Sailing Instructions will be posted on the official notice board online at least one week prior to the start of the event.

4. COMMUNICATION

- 4.1. [NP] Notices to competitors shall be posted on the official notice board located on Regatta Network. An unofficial notice board may be maintained at PYC.
- 4.2. There will be a competitor meeting on Wednesday, March 4 at 1800 hrs. on the lawn of PYC immediately preceding the welcome party.
- 4.3. [NP] On the water, the RC may transmit via VHF radio for courtesy broadcasts and safety instructions under RRS 37.
- 4.4. The channel will be communicated via the Sailing Instructions.
- 4.5. Except in an emergency, a boat that is racing shall not make or receive voice or data communication that is not available to all boats.



5. ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

- 5.1. Skippers must be an active member of the Thistle Class Association (TCA), boats must have a valid measurement certificate on file with the TCA, and carry class required safety equipment. Skippers may race a borrowed or chartered Thistle as long as the boat is registered with the class.
- 5.2. Eligible boats must register at: <https://www.regattanetwork.com/event/30570>. To be considered an entry in the event, a boat shall complete all registration requirements and pay all fees.
- 5.3. Online registration closes March 4th at 1200 hours CDT. Entries received after that time will be accepted at the sole discretion of the OA and/or the Host.

6. FEES and REFUNDS

- 6.1 Registration Fees are:

Entry Fee		Refunds		
Through February 19 th	February 20 th to March 5 th	Before February 1 st	February 2 nd to March 1 st	After March 2 nd
\$375	\$425	90%	50%	No refunds

- 6.3 Meal plans available for family members, support persons, and guests can be purchased at \$60 per person for the event.

7. GREEN REGATTA

- 7.1. This regatta is a Sailors for the Sea "Clean Regatta." All competitors are encouraged to use non-single use water bottles and recycle all appropriate items.
- 7.2. RRS 47 applies at all times on the water and ashore. Trash may be placed aboard support and RC vessels while on the water and trash cans while ashore. The penalty for breaching rule RRS 47 will be decided by the Protest Committee and could be different than a disqualification (*This changes Preamble of part 4 RRS and RRS 47*).
- 7.3. Any document used by the OA, RC, Protest Committee (PC), and competitors as a way of communication will be posted on the official notice board located on Regatta Network.

8. ADVERTISING

- 8.1. Boats may be required to display advertising which will be supplied by the Organizing Authority (OA).
- 8.2. Advertising will conform to class rules.

9. PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

DAY	TIME	ACTION
Wednesday, March 4	0900 – 1200	Registration (Watson Sailing Center)
	1300 – 1700	Coach TCA and on water tuning
	1800 – 1830	Competitors Briefing (PYC Lawn)
	1830	Welcome Social (PYC Lawn)
Thursday, March 5	1100	First Warning Signal
	TBD	Refreshments by the Hoist after racing
	1800	Governing Board Meeting (Watson Sailing Center)
Friday, March 6	1100	First Warning Signal
	1800	Dinner and Party (Pensacola Yacht Club Ballroom)
Saturday, March 7	1100	First Warning Signal
	TBD	Refreshments by the Hoist after racing
Sunday, March 8	1000	First Warning Signal
	1400	No Warning Signal after this time
	TBD	Awards and Burger Buffet after racing



- 9.1 A total of ten (10) races will be attempted with a maximum of three (3) races each day. The number of races each day is at the discretion of the Safety Officer, depending on weather conditions or other causes.
- 9.2 Three (3) races scored are required to constitute a regatta.

10. MEASUREMENT

- 10.1. Each boat shall have a valid measurement certificate and be registered with the TCA.
- 10.2. Boats may be inspected at any time.

11. SUBSTITUTION OF SKIPPERS

- 11.1 Substitution of skippers amongst the crew registered for the boat is permitted per TCA Bylaws.

12. VENUE AND HOUSING

- 12.1 The Regatta will be held at Pensacola Yacht Club, 1897 Cypress Street, Pensacola, Florida 32502
- 12.2 The regatta headquarters will be at the Watson Sailing Center, located on the Pensacola Yacht Club property.
- 12.3 Races will be sailed on Pensacola Bay as specified in Appendix A of the Notice of Race.
- 12.4 Housing: Tent camping and limited RV parking (with power and water) are available for a nominal fee. Please contact the PYC Dockmaster at dockmaster@pycfl.com for RV reservation(s) as sites are limited.
- 12.5 Plentiful hotels and homes for rent via VRBO are available.
(Pro TIP: Make reservations early since this is the beginning of Spring Break for many schools and Universities.)

13. THE COURSES

- 13.1 The courses to be sailed will be described in the sailing instructions.

14. PENALTY SYSTEM

- 14.1. Appendix V will apply

15. SCORING

- 15.1 A boat's series score shall be the total of her race scores. No score shall be excluded.

16. SUPPORT BOATS

- 16.1. Support Boats shall be registered and marked with an OA supplied identifier.

17. DRY SAIL AREA

- 17.1. Dry sail spaces will be assigned for all competitors and be available beginning Wednesday, March 4th. For arrival before the 4th please contact the Regatta Chairman to make arrangements.

18. RISK STATEMENT

- 18.1 Competitors participate in the event entirely at their own risk. See RRS 3, Decision to Race. The OA will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after the regatta.
- 18.2 Sailing is by its nature an unpredictable sport and therefore inherently involves an element of risk. By taking part in the event, each competitor and the responsible adult agree and acknowledges that:
- a) They are aware of the inherent element of risk involved in the sport and accept responsibility for the exposure of themselves and their boat to such inherent risk whilst taking part in the event;
 - b) They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their boat and their other property whether afloat or ashore;
 - c) They accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omission;



- d) Their boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the event and they are fit to participate;
- e) The provision of a race management team, patrol boats and other officials and volunteers by the event organizer does not relieve them of their own responsibilities.
- f) The provision of patrol boat cover is limited to such assistance, particularly in extreme weather conditions, as can be practically provided in the circumstances.

19. INSURANCE

- 19.1. Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum value of \$100,000 USD. Competing teams must provide proof of insurance at registration on-site.
- 19.2. Proof of insurance may be supplied to the Regatta Chairperson prior to the event by sending to Susan@pycflboard.com

20. AWARDS

- 20.1. Trophies will be awarded for first through fifth place. Perpetual MWE trophies may also be awarded.
- 20.2. Other awards will be made at the discretion of the Organizing Authority.

21. FURTHER INFORMATION

- 21.1. For any questions or further information, please contact Susan Domagala, Regatta Chairperson at Susan@pycflboard.com or by calling 941-224-5477 or Tommy Glenn at tbglenn@gmail.com or 256-508-4636.

22. MEDIA RIGHTS

- 22.1 Upon registration to the event, competitors agree that photos and videos may be taken of their person and used as part of the organizing authority's public relations activities, e.g. via websites, newsletters, print and tv media and social networks. In addition, competitors or their guardians grant the organizing authority without compensation the unlimited right to use images, photographs, television, and radio material produced of them during the event.



Appendix A Race Area

