

THISTLE CLASS ASSOCIATION 2026 MIDWINTERS EAST CHAMPIONSHIP



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



SAILING INSTRUCTIONS (SIs)

[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 For other rules and documents that apply, please refer to the Notice of Race (NoR).

2 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1 Any change to the sailing instructions shall be posted at least one hundred twenty (120) minutes prior to the first warning signal on the day it will take effect, except that any change in the schedule of races shall be posted by 2000 on the day before it will take effect.
- 2.2 Changes to the sailing instructions may be made on the water. The RC Signal vessel will signal “come within hail” by displaying Flag Lima with one sound. Each boat will receive and acknowledge the oral change.

3 COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS

- 3.1 Notices to competitors shall be posted on the official notice board (ONB) located on the regatta webpage on RegattaNetwork: https://www.regattanetwork.com/event/30570#_newsroom.
- 3.2 [NP] An unofficial notice board may be maintained at PYC at the Watson Sailing Center.
- 3.3 The race office is located on the upper floor of the Watson Sailing Center.
- 3.4 The Race Committee working channel will be VHF 69.
- 3.5 The PYC Safety Team and competitor working channel will be VHF 72.

4 CODE OF CONDUCT

- 4.1 [DP] Competitors and support persons shall comply with reasonable requests from race officials. See NoR 2.1.

5 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 5.1 Signals ashore will be displayed from the flagpole located on the lawn at PYC.
- 5.2 When flag AP is displayed ashore, “1 minute” is replaced with “not less than sixty (60) minutes” in race signal AP. *This changes RRS Race Signals AP.*
- 5.3 [DP] [NP] Flag D with one sound 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 sixty (60) minutes after flag D is removed.’

6 SCHEDULE OF RACES

Wednesday March 4th	1400 (approximately) First Practice Race Warning Signal 1800 Competitors' Meeting (Located on PYC Lawn)
Thursday March 5th	1100 First Warning Signal
Friday March 6th	1100 First Warning Signal
Saturday March 7th	1100 First Warning Signal
Sunday March 8th	1000 First Warning Signal 1400 No Warning Signal after this time Awards after racing

7 CLASS FLAG

The class flag will be the Thistle Class logo on a green, purple and white pennant.

8 RACING AREA

8.1 Refer to **NoR Attachment A** for a chart of the racing area.

9 THE COURSES

- 9.1 The diagrams in **Attachment 1** show the courses (including the course designation), the order in which marks are to be rounded, and the side on which each mark is to be left.
- 9.2 The RC intends to have a gate at the leeward end of the course. If there is no gate, the single leeward mark shall be left to port.

10 MARKS

- 10.1 Marks 1 and gates 4p/4s will be orange inflatable marks.
- 10.2 Mark 1a will be a red ball.
- 10.3 The starting marks will be either two Race Committee vessels displaying orange flags or an RC vessel displaying an orange flag at the starboard end and a green inflatable mark at the port end.
- 10.4 The finishing marks will be an RC vessel displaying a blue flag at the starboard end and an inflatable green mark at the port end.
- 10.5 The change mark will be a yellow inflatable mark.

11 THE START

- 11.1 The starting line is between a staff displaying an orange flag on the RC signal vessel at the starboard end and the staff displaying an orange flag on the RC starting pin vessel at the port end or the course side of the port-end starting mark as described in SI 10.3.
- 11.2 A boat starting later than 4 minutes after her starting signal will be scored DNS without a hearing. *This changes A4, A5 and 61.4(b)(1).*
- 11.3 After the first race of the day, it is the intention of the RC to start subsequent races as soon as practicable after the last boat finishes the previous race.

12 CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

- 12.1 To change the next leg of the course, the race committee will lay a new mark (or move the finishing line) and remove the original mark as soon as practicable. When in a subsequent change a new mark is replaced, it will be replaced by an original mark.
- 12.2 The race committee may, without signal, move a mark to change the direction up to 10 degrees or the length up to 0.1 nm of the previous length, or adjust the angle or width of the leeward gate, provided that no boat is sailing to the mark. *This changes RRS 33.*

13 THE FINISH

- 13.1 The finishing line is between a staff displaying a blue flag on the RC signal vessel at the port end and the course side of the starboard-end finishing mark as described in SI 10.4.

14 TIME LIMITS

- 14.1 The Mark 1 Time Limit, Race Time Limit (see RRS 35), and the Finishing Window are shown in the table below.

Mark 1 Time Limit	Race Time Limit	Finishing Window	[NP] Target Time
25 minutes	90 minutes	20 minutes	45 minutes

- 14.2 If no boat has passed the first mark within the Mark 1 Time Limit, the race will be abandoned.
- 14.3 The Finishing Window is the time for boats to finish after the first boat sails the course. Boats starting but failing to sail the course within the Finishing Window, and not subsequently retiring, penalized or given redress, will be scored Time Limit Expired (TLE) without a hearing. TLE is defined as the average score of all boats not Finished and still Sailing the Course at the close of the Finish Window. If fewer than 33% of competitors have Finished within the Finish Window, the race shall be abandoned. *This changes RRS 35, A5.1, A5.2 and A10.*

15 HEARING REQUESTS

- 15.1 The protest time limit is sixty (60) minutes after the signal boat docks at the end of the day.
- 15.2 Protest forms will be available at the protest desk on the second floor of the Watson Sailing Center.
- 15.3 Protest notices will be posted no later than thirty (30) minutes after the protest time limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named witnesses. Hearings will be held in the Jury Room inside the Watson Sailing Center on the second floor.
- 15.4 For races held on the last day of racing, scoring inquiries must be filed within the protest time limit or thirty (30) minutes after the provisional results are posted, whichever is later.
- 15.5 If a scoring inquiry with RC does not resolve a competitor's question, a Request for Redress must be filed in accordance with RRS 61.2.

16 SCORING

- 16.1 Three (3) completed races shall constitute a series.
- 16.2 Ten (10) total races are scheduled.
- 16.3 In accordance with RRS A2.1, each boat's series score shall be the total of her race scores with no races excluded.

17 SAFETY REGULATIONS [DP][NP]

- 17.1 Before the start of the first race of the day, and after returning to the racing area from a postponement or retirement, competitors shall sail past the stern of the RC signal vessel on starboard tack and hail their sail number until acknowledged.
- 17.2 A boat that retires from a race shall notify the race committee either before leaving the race course area or, if that is impracticable, immediately after arriving ashore.

18 REPLACEMENT OF CREW OR EQUIPMENT [DP][NP]

- 18.1 Substitution of crew shall not be allowed without prior written approval of the RC.
- 18.2 Substitution of damaged or lost equipment shall not be allowed without written approval of the RC. Requests shall be made as soon as practicable.

19 OFFICIAL VESSELS

- 19.1 Race Committee vessels will fly either a blue or yellow "RC" flag.
- 19.2 Judge vessels will fly either code flag "J" or a flag with "JUDGES" on it.

20 SUPPORT VESSELS [DP][NP]

- 20.1 Coaches must register prior to the first day of racing with the Organizing Authority. Vessels will be provided a flag and assigned a number.
- 20.2 All open cockpit support vessels less than 26 feet in length shall be equipped with a functioning engine safety cut-off switch (kill switch) which shall always remain attached to the support person at the helm while the engine is running.

21 ON THE WATER COACHING

On the water coaching by a TCA sanctioned coach will be permitted per TCA Bylaw X ¶ 3b.

22 AWARDS

See **NoR 20** for the prizes to be awarded.

23 RISK STATEMENT

- 23.1 RRS 3 states "The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue to race is hers alone." By participating in this event, each competitor agrees and acknowledges that sailing is a potentially dangerous activity with inherent risks. These risks include strong winds and rough seas, sudden changes in weather, failure of equipment, boat handling errors, poor seamanship by other boats, loss of balance on an unstable platform and fatigue resulting in increased risk of injury. Inherent in the sport of sailing is the risk of permanent, catastrophic injury or death by drowning, trauma, hypothermia or other causes.

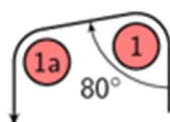


ATTACHMENT 1

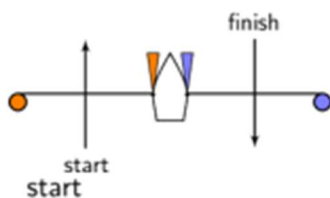
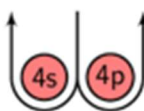
Illustrating the Courses

Mark colors and shapes are representative. Refer to SI 10.
(not to scale)

LA
gate



wind



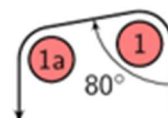
Signal **Mark rounding order**

LA1 Start-1-1a-4s/4p-Finish

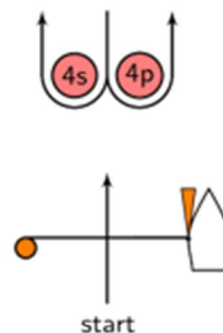
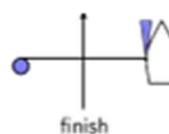
LA2 Start-1-1a-4s/4p-1-1a-Finish

LA3 Start-1-1a-4s/4p-1-1a-4s/4p-1-1a-Finish

WA
gate



wind



Signal **Mark rounding order**

WA1 Start-1-1a-4s/4p-Finish

WA2 Start-1-1a-4s/4p-1-1a-4s/4p-Finish

If a gate mark is missing, then the remaining mark is to be left to port.
The starting pin may be either an inflatable buoy or an RC vessel displaying an orange flag.