

505 MIDWINTER CHAMPIONSHIP

5th YEAR

Clearwater Community Sailing Center

Clearwater, Florida

March 6-7-8, 2026

NOTICE OF RACE & SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

1. ORGANIZING AUTHORITY

Clearwater Community Sailing Center (CCSC) and 505 Fleet 15, St. Pete, FL.

2. VENUE

Clearwater Community Sailing Center, 1001 Gulf Boulevard
Clearwater, Florida 33767.

3. RULES

This event is governed by the *Racing Rules of Sailing*, except as changed by this notice of race, the sailing instructions, the prescriptions of US Sailing or the rules of the International 505 Class. The 505 Fleet 15 also reserves the right to change this notice of race and SI's.

4. ELIGIBILITY

The regatta is restricted to members of the International 505 Class, American Section.

5. REGISTRATION

- Competitors may register online at: when available, **no later than March 4**. Entry forms may also be mailed.
- A late fee of \$25 applies after March 1 2026.
- Signed liability waivers must be received no later than 1000 hours, March 6, 2026. Waivers can be executed online or at check-in.

6. ENTRY FEE

- Entry fee includes three days of racing and two evening meals for the competitors.
- Entry fee will be \$255 for each 505 class boat. The entry fee may be paid on the Club's secure site.

7. SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Day	Date	Time	Activity
Friday	March 6	1030	Competitor's Meeting
		1200	First Start
			Dinner at CCSC
Saturday	March 7	1100	First Warning Signal
			Dinner at CCSC
			First Warning Signal
Sunday	March 8	1100	
Awards upon completion of racing, CCSC.			

No warning signal will be made after 1500, Sunday, March 8.

8. MEASUREMENT

- a. Sail measurement and hull weights will not be required.

9. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- a. Any changes to these sailing instructions will be posted on the official notice board after the Competitors' Meeting or by 0830 on subsequent days of the regatta. Changes to the schedule of races will be posted prior to 1800 on the day before they take effect.
- b. Changes announced at the skippers meeting will be posted on the official notice board and become effective immediately.

10. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- a. Signals made ashore will be displayed on the club flagpole.
- b. When Flag AP is displayed ashore, "1 minute" is replaced with "not less than 60 minutes."
- c. Flag "L", come within hail", indicates that a notice to competitors has been posted.

11. CLASS FLAG

The class flag will be the 505 Class Flag.

12. VENUE RACING AREA

Racing will be in the Gulf of Mexico SOUTH of the entrance to Clearwater Pass. If the Race Committee and Class Representative agree, racing may be held in the bay.

13. COURSES

- a. The course will be a standard Windward/Leeward, twice around, and finish to leeward.
- b. The windward mark 1 will be approximately 0.8-1.2 nautical miles from the leeward mark 2, depending on wind conditions. Rounding marks 1 and 2 shall be left to port. There will be no offset mark at mark 1 and mark 2 will be a single mark.
- c. No later than the warning signal, the race committee signal boat will display the approximate compass bearing of the first leg.
- d. Legs of the course may be changed after the preparatory signal, per RRS 33, and the original marks will be moved and remain the same mark.

14. CHECK IN - CHECK OUT

All boats shall check in with the race committee (RC) before the first preparatory signal of the first race of each day. Boats shall pass astern of the committee boat on either tack, so that their sail number can be recorded. Any boat leaving the course prior to the end of racing for the day shall endeavor to check out with an RC boat with a verbal hail, radio call on VHF CH 72 or cell phone call to 727.644.1330.

15. MARKS

All marks will be identified at the competitor's meeting.

16. THE START

- a. Starting marks will be:
 - (a) The port limit mark, the same as the finish mark.
 - (b) The pathfinder.
 - (c) There will be no gate launch boat.

- b. Races will be started using RRS 26. Signals will be displayed from the race committee boat, which will also display flag G, signifying a gate start.
- c. The pathfinder for the first race sailed will be appointed by the race committee. The pathfinder for subsequent races will be the boat that finished third in the preceding race. When this boat is unable to race or has acted as pathfinder previously, the pathfinder will be appointed by the race committee and will normally be the boat that finished fourth in the preceding race. The sail number of the pathfinder will be posted on the official notice board for the first scheduled race of the day, and on the race committee boat for the second and subsequent races of the day. Prior to the preparatory signal the pathfinder shall report to the RC signal boat, which will be near the port limit mark.
- d. At the starting signal, the pathfinder will begin a close-hauled port tack from to leeward of the port limit mark.
- e. The starting line (except for the pathfinder) will be between the port limit mark and the center of the stern of the pathfinder.
- f. The starting line will be open from the time the pathfinder has passed the port limit mark. Before each start, the RC signal boat will display the maximum amount of time that the gate will remain open after the starting signal. This time will not be less than 30 seconds. This changes RRS 26.
- g. All boats (except for the pathfinder) shall start on starboard tack after the pathfinder passes the port limit mark. RRS 29.1, individual recall, shall not apply.
- h. The pathfinder shall sail a close-hauled course until the end of the start time limit, after which it ceases to be a starting mark and may continue or tack onto starboard tack.
- i. The RC may, if all boats have started before the designated time, drop the G flag with horn to release the pathfinder.
- j. At the end of the designated start time the G flag will be dropped with a long horn. Thereafter, no boat shall start and any boat that has not started shall be scored DNS without a hearing. This changes RRS A4.
- k. While starting, a boat shall not interfere with the pathfinder. Any boat that interferes with the pathfinder or causes another boat to interfere in any way, shall take a two turn penalty to exonerate herself.

17. THE FINISH

The finishing line will be between the staff displaying a blue flag on an RC boat and the course side of the finishing/port limit mark.

18. TIME LIMIT

The time limit is 75 minutes. The finishing window is 20 minutes after the first boat in her fleet sails the course and finishes. A boat scored TLE shall be scored points for the finishing place two more than the points scored by the last boat that finished within the finishing window but not worse than DNF. The RC, in its sole discretion, may award places to any of the last 3 boats, before they have finished without a hearing. This changes RRS 35, A4, A5.1 and A5.2

19. SCORING

The Low Point Score System of RRS, Appendix A will apply. A minimum of 1 race is required to constitute a series. If five or more races are completed, a boat's worst score will be excluded. This changes RRS A2.

20. SAFETY REGULATIONS

Safety equipment – The following equipment shall be carried at all times while racing:

- i. A compass.
- ii. A towing line not less than 10 meters long and not less than 6 mm in diameter
- iii. Personal buoyancy – All competitors shall, while racing, wear adequate personal buoyancy having a minimum buoyancy of 4.5 kg for each competitor. A wet suit does not alone constitute adequate personal buoyancy.
- iv. Responsibility – All those taking part in the regatta do so at their own risk and responsibility. The hosting organization is not responsible for the seaworthiness of a boat whose entry is accepted. Attention is drawn to RRS Part 1, Fundamental Rule 3. All competitors shall sign the liability waiver form acknowledging acceptance of responsibility for their own safety.
- v. A boat that retires from a race shall notify RC as soon as possible via hail, VHF CH 72 or cell call to 727 644 1330 -

21. PROTESTS

- a. Protests shall be written on the forms available on the official notice board and submitted to the RC at the CCSC within the protest time limit. Protests and requests for redress or reopening shall be delivered there within the appropriate time limit.
- b. The Protest Time Limit is 60 minutes after the last boat has finished the last race of the day or RC signals “no more racing today”, whichever is later.
- c. Notices will be posted no later than 30 minutes after the protest time limit to inform competitors of hearing in which they are parties or named as witnesses. Hearings will be held in the protest room. Jury attendance may be in whole or part via video conference.
- d. Notices of protests by the race committee or protest committee will be posted to inform boats under rule 61.1(b).
- e. On the last scheduled day of racing a request for reopening a hearing shall be delivered.
 - i. within the protest time limit if the requesting party was informed of the decision on the previous day.
 - ii. no later than 30 minutes after the requesting party was informed of the decision on that day.
- f. On the last scheduled day of racing a request for redress based on a protest committee decision shall be delivered no later than 30 minutes after the decision was posted.

22. TRASH DISPOSAL

Trash may be placed aboard official boats, never in the Gulf or Bay.

23. RADIO COMMUNICATION

Except in an emergency, a boat shall neither make radio transmission while racing nor receive radio communications not available to all boats. This restriction also applies to mobile telephones.

24. PRIZES

Prizes will be awarded to the helm and crew of the top 3 finishers. The 505 Class perpetual championship trophies will also be awarded.

25. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

Competitors participate in the regatta entirely at their own risk. See RRS 3, Decision to Race. The organizing authority nor CCSC 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.

26. Information

- a. PRO: Donna Sue Marks??
- b. Event Chair: Ethan Bixby, eebixby@gmail.com, 727-385-7775