



SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

The 72nd Mug Race

Organizing Authority - The Rudder Club of Jacksonville
8533 Malaga Ave.
Jacksonville, FL 32244 USA
1 May – 3 May 2026

1 RULES

- 1.1 The Regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing 2025-2028* (RRS).
- 1.2 Rule SI 10.9 changes RRS A4 by providing that a boat starting later than 30 minutes after the starting signal will be scored “Did Not Start” (DNS) without a hearing.
- 1.3 Rule SI 10.7 changes RRS rules 29.1 and 30.1 by providing an alternative to restarting when OCS.
- 1.4 Rule SI 12 Time Limit changes RRS 90.3(a)
- 1.5 Rule SI 13 changes RRS 60 Protests and Requests for Redress by providing for arbitration as set forth in Appendix T Arbitration.
- 1.6 Rule SI 15.15 changes RRS 41 by providing that a boat accepting assistance under RRS Fundamental Rule 1.1 is exempt from the provisions of RRS 41, Outside Help.
- 1.7 Appendix V (Penalty Turns) will be in effect.

2 NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

Notices to Competitors will be placed on the official web site at <https://www.regattanetwork.com/event/30689> and the notice board located in the registration area of the Quality Inn, Palatka.

3 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Changes to Sailing Instructions will be posted on the Official Web site Bulletin Board, and The Official Mug Race Bulletin Board on the north exterior wall of the Rudder Club. At 2:00 pm 1 May, the Official Bulletin Board shifts to the lobby window of the Quality Inn in Palatka. Changes will be posted there prior to 6:30 am on 2 May.

4 SCHEDULE OF RACES

- 4.1 There will be one race.
- 4.2 The scheduled time for the warning signal for the Multihull Fleet is 7:55 am on 2 May 2026. The scheduled time for the warning signal for the Monohull Fleet is 8:05 am on 2 May 2026.
- 4.3 Time will be based on the National Institute of Standards and Technology time as broadcast by radio station WWV in Fort Collins Colorado. These may be accessed by telephone at 303-499-7111, by Internet at <https://time.gov> or by radio. The station radiates at 10,000 Watts on 5, 10, and 15 MHz; and 2500 Watts on 2.5 and 20 MHz

5 CLASS FLAGS

The class flag for all competitors will be as follows:

Class		Pennant
Multihull Fleet	P1	
Monohull Fleet	P2	

6 RACING AREA

The racing area is between the Memorial (US 17) Bridge in Palatka and the Buckman Bridge as depicted on NOAA charts 11487 and 11492. See Appendix A.

7 COURSE

- 7.1 The course is as depicted in Appendix A to this document.
- 7.2 From the Start Line sail north along the river through the mid-course gate located just south of the Shands Bridge at approximate position N29° 58.9' W81° 37.4' then to finish line located on the east side of river approximately 1/4 mile south of The Buckman Bridge. Approximate position of the finish line is N30° 11.1' W81° 39.7'.

Note: All positions are approximate. Rhumb lines between marks do not necessarily provide for safe navigation. Each boat is responsible for its own safe navigation.

8 MARKS

The mid-course gate will have a race committee signal boat at the eastern end of the line and an inflated cylinder at the western end.

9 AREAS THAT ARE OBSTRUCTIONS

All government navigation markers marking shoal areas and the shoal areas they mark are considered continuing obstructions for boats whose draft requires passing the marks on the channel side. This is not to restrict shoal draft boats from passing shoreward of the marker.

10 THE START

- 10.1 The Multihull Fleet warning signal will be at 7:55 am on 2 May. Rule 26 will be in effect, with Code Flag India used as the Preparatory Signal.
- 10.2 The Monohull Fleet warning signal will be at 8:05 am on 2 May. Rule 26 will be in effect, with Code Flag India used as the Preparatory Signal
- 10.3 The starting line shall be between an orange flag on the Signal boat and US Government Red lighted buoy #48, north of the US 17 bridge in Palatka.

- 10.4 Starting flags and sound signals will be displayed from the committee boat at the east end of the starting line.
- 10.5 An automated signal device (Ollie) will be used; its signals will be broadcast on Marine VHF Channel 78. The broadcast and any repeated signals are as an assist.
- 10.6 A boat is “racing” from four minutes prior to its start time.
- 10.7 The “I” flag rule (RRS 30.1) will be in effect except that RRS 30.1 is modified as follows. Any boat that is on the course side and within five of her boat lengths of the starting line or its extensions during the last minute before her starting signal may accept a five minute penalty applied to her elapsed time, in lieu of restarting. If she chooses not to accept the alternative penalty or is greater than five of her boat lengths from the starting line on the course side, she shall comply with RRS 30.1. This changes RRS 29.1 and 30.1
- 10.8 Boats should ensure that Mug Identification Placard is clearly displayed to the Committee Boat.
- 10.9 A boat starting later than 30 minutes after the starting signal will be scored did not start (DNS) without a hearing. This changes RRS A4

11 THE FINISH

- 11.1 The finish line will be between a staff bearing a Blue Flag on the Signal Boat and an inflated cylinder to its west marking the other end of the line. The site for the finish will be south of the Buckman Bridge on the East side of the channel approximately N30° 11.1' W081° 39.7'. When finishing, ensure that the boat's Mug Identification Placard is clearly visible to those on the Finish Boat.
- 11.2 The finish line is closed except for boats actually finishing. If you do not hear a horn sounded as you finish, come by the Signal Boat on the non-course side and ensure that they were able to see your Mug Identification Placard.
- 11.3 Mid-course Gate.
 - (a) A mandatory mid-course gate will be set in accordance with SI 7.2. The Race Committee will record the time of all entries passing this line. Times for entrants passing this line will be used to compute class prizes when no entrant of that class finishes within the time limit, even if the entrant is later forced to retire in accordance with SI 12. These times will not be used in the scoring of overall finish positions unless this line is used as a shorten course finish line in accordance with RRS 32.2(c).
 - (b) The mid-course gate will be between an orange flag displayed on the Mid Course Signal Boat and an inflated cylinder to her west.
 - (c) All boats passing the mid-course gate must display their Mug Identification Placard to the Mid-Course Signal Boat.

12 TIME LIMIT

Racing ends at 8:05 pm. Boats finishing after that time will be scored Did Not Finish (DNF). Yachts south of the mid-course gate after 6:30 pm are required to retire from the race and will be scored as DNF. This changes RRS 90.3(a).

13 PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

Protests must be filed at the Rudder Club Race Office. No protest will be accepted after 90 minutes past the race time limit. If you intend to protest, notify the Finish Signal Boat after you have finished and cleared the finish line. Protest hearings will be scheduled as soon as possible and posted on the official notice board at the Rudder Club. Appendix T, **Arbitration** is in effect for this race. Competitors are encouraged to review this rule. Appendix T is a US Sailing Prescription. This changes RRS 60.

14 SCORING

The scoring system for the Monohull and Multihull fleets is the Portsmouth North American Yardstick. Ratings will not be wind speed adjusted (D-PN). The scoring system for the Cruiser fleet is PHRF Time on Distance (course length is 38.0 nm).

15 SAFETY REGULATIONS

- 15.1 All boats must sail past the Signal Boat on its non-course side and check-in prior to starting. Before 7:50 am, boats should pass the signal boat so that their Mug Identification Placard is clearly visible to those on the boat and acknowledged.
- 15.2 Rudder Club race support boats will patrol the race course to render assistance in the event of an emergency. Any of the support team members may assist you and you will not be charged or need to worry about vessel salvage rules. It is their commitment to the race to assist boats in danger and to help the boat reach the designated ramp area assigned the sector in which they are sailing. Support boats will emergency tow a boat from danger and only to these designated points. Support boats may display a red and yellow checkered flag to signify their role as support boats. If approached by a support boat, boat shall display their Mug Identification Placard.
- 15.3 All skippers must notify the Race Committee if they retire from the race. This is a United States Coast Guard Requirement. Violators may be required to pay the cost of any search initiated as a result of their failure to comply with this requirement. The following means are available:
 - (a) Rudder Club telephone (904) 264-4094;
 - (b) VHF Channel 78 through any Rudder Club Support Boat.
 - (c) Email to raceoffice@rudderclub.com
- 15.4 All boats while racing will display a colored banner from their backstay, starboard shroud or sail plan in that order of preference. This banner shall be removed when the boat is no longer racing. The banners will be provided in the race packet.
- 15.5 All entrants sailing single-handed shall wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved lifejacket while racing. A violation of this requirement is protestable.
- 15.6 After sunset at 8:05 pm, boats still on the race course or in its vicinity must display running lights and proceed in accordance with the Inland Navigation Rules.
- 15.7 All participants are reminded that a vessel under sail may not impede the passage of a vessel that can safely

navigate only within a narrow channel or fairway. Tugs pushing barges ahead are frequently encountered in the racing area and fit this category and should not be impeded. They must be given ample sea room.

15.8 In accordance with RRS 42.3(i), when necessary to avoid impeding the passage of vessel whose passage is not to be impeded under the Inland Rules of Navigation, a boat may use its engine or any other means of propulsion provided it does not gain a significant advantage in the race.

15.9 Likewise in accordance with RRS 42.3(i) a boat may use any other means of self-propulsion provided it does not gain a significant advantage in the race in order to transit under the Shands Bridge. The area where this is permissible is from north of the mid-course gate to two boat lengths north of the Shands Bridge.

15.10 The Racing Rules of Sailing govern the relationship between yachts while racing. These rules do not apply between racing yachts and non-participating vessels or yachts after completing the race and departing the race area. After sunset at 8:06 pm, all boats are in a non-racing status. In above cases, the Inland Navigation Rules apply.

15.11 Participating boats are encouraged to carry on board day and night distress signals. The simple orange rectangle displaying a black ball and circle is suitable for day while flares or star shells are best for night. Signals are required for operating after sunset.

15.12 All boats are to have on board a tow line to be used if the vessel requires towing to the nearest shoreline for the boat's safe removal from the river. Vessels offering an emergency tow are not required to provide a tow line.

15.13 It is the person in charge's (skipper's) responsibility for the logistics, safety and sportsmanship of his crew and boat.

15.14 Each boat will be provided a Mug Identification Placard. This placard will be used to record mid-course and finish time and to identify the boat at any time during the race. The boat shall conspicuously display it to the check-in, finish and mid-course line boats as well as to any race support boat that approaches them. It is the boat's responsibility to ensure that the placard has been seen by the race support boats in each instance.

15.15 A boat accepting assistance under RRS Fundamental Rule 1.1 is exempt from the provisions of RRS 41, Outside Help. This changes RRS 41.

15.16 All DSC equipped boats are encouraged to have a Mobile Marine Service Identity Number (MMSI) and have a working GPS integral to or connected to their VHF DSC equipped Radio. See <http://www.boatus.com/MMSI/>.

15.17 All boats are recommended to have a VHF radio or mobile telephone on board in case of emergency.

15.18 All windsurfers, non-race ready sailing canoes (does not include International racing and other race ready canoes), and small, open, non-self-rescue entries shall provide a dedicated support boat to follow them along the entire course. The support boat shall be equipped with a Marine VHF Radio capable of receiving and transmitting on Channel 78 or a cellular telephone. Support boats shall also be equipped with operable running lights that meet the requirements of the Inland Rules of Navigation.

The support boat shall be in accompaniment when the vessel checks in at the starting line and finishes or the entrant will be scored DNS. The cell phone number and/or the boat's call sign shall be recorded on the registration form.

15.19 The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission provides information on all ramps in Florida on its web site at <https://gis.myfwc.com/BoatRampFinder/>.

16 PRIZES

16.1 Trophies will be awarded at the awards ceremony at 10:30 am on Sunday 3 May 2026 at The Rudder Club.

Mug Race 2026 Course Diagram (Sailing Instructions Appendix A)

Caution - Chart is not for navigation. Direction of Travel – Bottom to Top Left Side First

