



SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

The Tall Ships Race 2026

Organizing Authority - The Rudder Club of Jacksonville
8533 Malaga Ave.
Jacksonville, FL 32244 USA
2 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 12 Time Limit changes RRS 90.3(a)
- 1.3 Rule SI 13 changes RRS 60 Protests and Requests for Redress by providing for arbitration as set forth in Appendix T Arbitration.
- 1.4 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.
- 1.5 Appendix V (Penalty Turns) will be in effect.

2 NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

Notices to Competitors will be placed on the official web site.

3 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Any change in the Sailing Instructions will be posted on the Official Bulletin Board on the Rudder Club north wall prior to 2:00 pm on 1 May and any changes thereafter will be published on the Event Web Site at <https://www.regattanetwork.com/event/30690> prior to 9:30 am on Saturday, 2 May. Oral changes may be made on the water and will be communicated to each boat prior to her warning signal.

4 SCHEDULE OF RACES

- 4.1 There will be one race.
- 4.2 The scheduled time for the warning signal for all boats is 10:00 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 Numeral Pennant 3.

6 RACING AREA

The racing area is between the Shands Bridge in Green Cove Springs and the Buckman Bridge as depicted on NOAA charts 11487 and 11492. See attachment A.

7 COURSE

- 7.1 The Starting Line will be southeast of the center span of the Buckman Bridge at approximately N30° 11.1' W81° 39.7'. The right (west) end of the Starting Line is an *blue flag* on the Race Committee Boat.

The left (east) end of the line will be an inflated mark.

- 7.2 The course is from the Starting Line to an inflated mark north of the Shands Bridge at approximately N29° 59.5' W81° 38.6' (approximately 12.4 miles from the Starting Line). Boats will leave the mark to Port and return to the Finish Line.
- 7.3 The Finish Line is between a blue flag on the Race Committee Boat at the right (east) end and an inflated cylinder on the left (west) end.

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 AREAS THAT ARE OBSTRUCTIONS

All government navigation markers marking shoal areas 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.

9 THE START

- 9.1 The scheduled time for the warning signal for all boats is 10:00 am on Saturday 2 May 2026.
- 9.2 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.

10 THE FINISH

- 10.1 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.
- 10.2 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 TIME LIMIT

Racing ends at 8:05 pm. Boats finishing after that time will be scored Did Not Finish (DNF). This changes RRS 90.3(a).

12 PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

Protests must be filed at the Rudder Club Race Office. No protest will be accepted after one and one half hours

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.

13 SCORING

The race will be scored using PHRF Time-on-Distance in accordance with PHRF rules.

14 SAFETY REGULATIONS

- 14.1 All boats must sail past the Signal Boat on its non-course side and check-in prior to starting. Before 9:55 am, boats should pass the signal boat so that their Mug Identification Placard is clearly visible to those on the boat and acknowledged.
- 14.2 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. 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.
- 14.3 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.
- 14.4 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.
- 14.5 All entrants sailing single-handed shall wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved lifejacket while racing. A violation of this requirement is protestable.
- 14.6 After sunset at 8:06 pm, boats still on the race course or in its vicinity must display running lights and proceed in accordance with the Inland Navigation Rules.
- 14.7 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.
- 14.8 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.
- 14.9 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.

- 14.10 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.
- 14.11 It is the person in charge's (skipper's) responsibility for the logistics, safety and sportsmanship of his crew and boat.
- 14.12 Each boat will be provided a Mug Identification Placard. This placard will be used to identify the boat at any time during the race. The boat shall conspicuously display it to the check-in and finish 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.
- 14.14 A boat accepting assistance under RRS Fundamental Rule 1.1 is exempt from the provisions of RRS 41, Outside Help. This changes RRS 41.
- 14.15 All DSC equipped boats are encouraged to have a Mobile Marine Service Identity Number (MMSI) and have a working GPS connected to or integral to their VHF DSC equipped Radio. See <http://www.boatus.com/MMSI/>.
- 14.16 All boats are recommended to have a VHF radio or mobile telephone on board in case of emergency.

15 PRIZES

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