



# St Petersburg Sailing Association 2024 - 2025 Race Series SAILING INSTRUCTIONS September 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025

These sailing instructions can be found in the 2024-2025 St. Petersburg Sailing Association Membership Directory & Sailing Instructions Booklet and are also posted on the SPSA website ([www.SPSA.us](http://www.SPSA.us)).

- 1 RULES All SPSA Series races will be governed by the rules as defined by US Sailing in the current version of *The Racing Rules of Sailing* (RRS) and these Sailing Instructions.
- 2 NOTICES TO COMPETITORS Notices to competitors will originate from the race committee boat. The order of starts and courses to be sailed will be posted (and may be announced as a courtesy on VHF Channel 72) at least 10 minutes prior to the warning signal for the first class.
- 3 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS Any change to these sailing instructions will be posted on the race committee boat at least 10 minutes prior to the warning signal for the first class. The race committee may also, as a courtesy, communicate on VHF Channel 72.
- 4 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE There will be no signals made ashore.
- 5 SCHEDULE OF RACES
  - 5.1 The SPSA Series will comprise two seasons - a Fall Season and a Spring Season for all classes. The combined results of each season will be used to determine the overall SPSA Series winner as described in section 18 of these sailing instructions.
    - a) Dates for the Fall Season will be:
      - Saturday, September 14, 2024(1100 Start)
      - Saturday, October 12, 2024 (1100 Start)
      - Saturday, November 9, 2024 (1100 Start)
      - Saturday, December 7, 2024 (1100 Start)
    - b) Dates for the Spring Season will be:
      - Saturday, January 25, 2025 (1100 Start)
      - Saturday, February 8, 2025 (1100 Start)
      - Saturday, March 15, 2025 (1100 Start)
      - Saturday, April 19, 2025 (1100 Start)
  - 5.2 Number of races: Conditions permitting, there will be two races for each division and class on the scheduled race dates.
  - 5.3 The scheduled time of the first warning signal for the first race of each race date is 1055.

- 5.4 To alert boats that a race or sequence of races will begin soon, the orange starting line flag will be displayed with one sound at least five minutes before a warning signal is made.
- 6 CLASS FLAGS The Blue SPSA flag will serve as the class flag for the Racing Division. The White SPSA flag will serve as the class flag for the Cruising Division.
- 7 RACING AREA The racing area is in Tampa Bay east of the St Petersburg Pier.
- 8 THE COURSES The racecourse may be made up of any combination of government marks and SPSA buoys.
- 9 MARKS SPSA series races will use government marks and/or orange SPSA buoys. A listing of the SPSA marks and buoys can be found in Appendix 1. Useful information including a locator map, bearings and distances between marks can be found in the SPSA Members Directory and on the SPSA web site ([www.SPSA.us](http://www.SPSA.us)). Determining the exact location of government marks or SPSA buoys used in any race is the responsibility of each competitor.
- 10 AREAS THAT ARE OBSTRUCTIONS The St. Petersburg Pier is designated as an obstruction.
- 11 PENALTY TURNS RRS 44.2 is satisfied by one turn to include one tack and one gybe in the same direction.
- 12 THE START
- 12.1 The starting line will be between an orange flag displayed on the committee boat and an inflatable mark or a government mark.
- 12.2 The Race Committee boat will display an "L" flag when it is prepared to check in competitors. Checking in with the race committee is mandatory. Each competitor shall communicate the boat name, sail number, class and any modifications to the boat's normal rating.
- 12.3 Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall avoid the starting area during the starting sequence for other classes.
- 12.4 A boat starting later than 30 minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start (DNS) without a hearing per rule RRS A5.
- 13 CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE The course may be shortened at any mark of the course. The orange flag on the committee boat will be replaced by an "S" flag and the committee boat will sound two short sounds.
- 14 THE FINISH
- 14.1 The finishing line will be between an orange flag displayed on the committee boat and a government mark or SPSA buoy.
- 14.2 If the race committee is absent when a boat finishes, she should report her finishing time, and her position in relation to nearby boats, to the race committee at the first reasonable opportunity.

15 TIME LIMITS AND TARGET TIMES Boats failing to finish within 60 minutes after the first boat in her class sails the course and finishes will be scored Did Not Finish (DNF) without a hearing. This changes RRS 35, A5.1 and A5.2

16 PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

16.1 Protest forms are available at the [www.spsa.us](http://www.spsa.us) website and from the Race Committee. It is the responsibility of the boat initiating a protest to secure a protest form with adequate time to meet the protest filing deadline. Protests and requests for redress or reopening shall be delivered to the Vice Commodore or, if unavailable, to a SPSA Flag Officer within the appropriate time limit.

16.2 Requests for redress are filed on a protest form and meet the same deadlines as a protest when applicable.

16.3 The SPSA Vice Commodore will coordinate the protest hearing. If necessary, the SPSA Commodore will appoint a member to substitute for the Vice Commodore.

16.4 A valid protest form must be delivered or emailed before midnight on the day of the race to any of the following: SPSA Vice Commodore, Race Committee Chairman or Commodore. The SPSA Officer receiving the protest form shall inform the protested party as soon as possible. A copy of the protest form shall be sent to the protested party.

16.5 The protested party shall respond within 24 hours of the notification and provide a list of witnesses they may bring to the hearing. It is at the discretion of the Vice Commodore or substitute to extend this deadline.

16.6 Notification will be sent by text or email no later than midnight of the 2<sup>nd</sup> day after the race to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses.

16.7 Protest hearings will be held at the St Petersburg Sailing Center, beginning at 1930 on the Thursday following the race, unless all parties agree to another time.

17 RATING SYSTEM

17.1 The Performance Handicap Racing Fleet (PHRF) system will be used. Members are encouraged to join West Florida Performance Handicap Racing Fleet (<https://www.westfloridaphrf.org>) and receive a WFPHRF rating. Boats without a current WFPHRF rating will be assigned a provisional PHRF rating by SPSA.

If a boat's WFPHRF rating changes after the Race Series has started, the new rating will only be used to score future races. Prior completed races will not be rescored utilizing the new PHRF rating. Any previously scored races affected by a PHRF rating that was in error will be reviewed by the SPSA Rating and Race Chairs.

- 17.2 Corrected elapsed time will be calculated using the “time on time” (TOT) method.
- 17.3 Cruising Division boats choosing to use cruising spinnakers, as described by WFPHRF Class Rules- Appendix E. will enter the race series in the Cruising Division Spinnaker Class. Any cruising boats choosing to use a cruising spinnaker in the SPSA season, must declare their intention to use do so no later than midnight on the Tuesday prior to their first race of any season. Use of a cruising spinnaker will reduce the non-spinnaker offset of their rating by 50%. If declared, the cruising spinnaker rating will be used for the entire season, regardless of whether the cruising spinnaker is actually deployed in a race.
- 17.4 Crew skill factors will not be used in determining ratings.

## 18 SCORING

- 18.1 Scoring will be based on the SPSA Low Point Scoring System for a Long Series. The SPSA Low Point Scoring System for a Long Series is presented in Appendix 2.
- 18.2 Season Scoring: Boats will be scored using her best (lowest) scores from 70% of races scored in each Season.
- 18.3 SPSA Series Scoring: Boats will be scored using her best (lowest) scores of 70% of races scored for the Fall and Spring Seasons.
- 18.4 Rule A5.3 will apply for scoring boats that come to the starting area but did not start, did not sail the course, did not finish, retired, or was disqualified.
- 18.5 Race Committee Credits used for scoring.
- a) The Race Committee will be credited 1 point for the first season/series race they score.
  - b) The Race Committee will be credited with an average score for the 2<sup>nd</sup> season/series race they score. The average score is computed from all races the Race Committee participated as a competitor in that Season. The credit is the average score rounded up to the nearest tenth.
  - c) If no competitors compete in the class that the Race Committee is a participant and that race is scored for any other Class, Race Committee will be scored as provided in a) and b). That race however will not be included in the 70% calculation of races scored for the Class in which the Race Committee is a competitor.
  - d) If a race is abandoned, no race committee credit is given.

## 19 SAFETY REGULATIONS

- 19.1 All boats shall check in with the Race Committee before the start of the race. Check in may be accomplished by hailing or by VHF radio on Channel 72.
- 19.2 All boats shall monitor VHF Channels 16 and 72 during the race.
- 19.3 A boat that retires from a race shall notify the race committee as soon as possible.
- 19.4 All boats must compete with two or more sailors on board.

- 20 EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with class rules and sailing instructions. On the water, a boat can be instructed by a race committee equipment inspector or measurer to proceed immediately to a designated area for inspection.
- 21 TRASH DISPOSAL Competitors shall not throw or drop any refuse overboard. Failure to properly dispose of refuse will result in disqualification from the race.
- 22 DIVING EQUIPMENT AND PLASTIC POOLS Underwater breathing apparatus and plastic pools or their equivalent shall not be used around keelboats between the preparatory signal of the first race and the end of racing on that day.
- 23 RADIO COMMUNICATION Except in an emergency, a boat shall neither make radio transmissions while racing nor receive radio communications not available to all boats. This restriction also applies to mobile telephones. VHF Channel 72 will be used for communications with the race committee.
- 24 AWARDS See Appendix 2 for the definition of qualifying boats.

24.1 Season awards will be given for each class based on the number of qualifying boats in that class as follows:

- a) 1 boat - 1st Place
- b) 2 boats - 1st Place and 2nd Place
- c) 3 or more boats - 1st Place, 2nd Place, and 3rd Place

24.2 Annual awards will be given for each class based on the number of qualifying boats in that class as follows:

- a) 1 boat - 1st Place
- b) 2 boats - 1st Place and 2nd Place
- c) 3 or more boats - 1st Place, 2nd Place, and 3rd Place

24.3 Perpetual trophies will honor the series winners as follows:

- a) The Clint and Tony Johnson Memorial Trophy will be awarded to the winner of the Racing Division Spinnaker Class
- b) The Frank Venezia Trophy will be awarded to the winner of the Cruising Division Jib & Main Class.
- c) The Rich Gahn Trophy will be awarded to the Cruising Division Spinnaker Class.
- d) The Bayboro Trophy will be awarded to the Cruising Division Non-Spinnaker Class (Sonars)

DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY Competitors participate in the regatta entirely at their own risk. See rule 3, Decision to Race, Part 1 RRS. The St Petersburg Sailing Association will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury, or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after the regattas.

- 25 INSURANCE Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance



## APPENDIX 2 SPSA Low Point Scoring System for a Long series

The SPSA Low Point System for a long series scores boats only on the races in which they compete and requires participation a defined minimum number of races scored in the series to qualify for an award. The minimum number or required races has been set at 70% of the completed races. Refer to Table A2.1 for application to both the Season and Series scoring. This system is adapted from the US Sailing recommendation for scoring a long series which spans several weeks or months.

### RACES TO COUNT AND MINIMUM REQUIRED

To qualify for an award in the Fall and Spring Seasons a boat shall compete in (come to the starting area for) at least 70% of the races scored in that Season. To qualify for the SPSA Series award the boat shall compete in 70% of the races scored in the SPSA Series and shall also compete in at least one race in both the Fall and Spring Seasons unless no races were completed in one of the Seasons.

### RACE SCORES

- a) Each boat finishing a race and not thereafter retiring, being penalized, or given redress will be scored as follows:

First	1 point
Second	2 points
Third	3 points
Fourth	4 points
Each place thereafter	Add 1 point

- b) All other boats that compete in that race, including any that finish and thereafter retire or are disqualified, will receive the score for the finishing place one more than the number of boats competing in that race.
- c) Boats that do not come to the start line will be scored DNC

### SEASON AND SERIES SCORES

The Season or Series score for each boat will be the sum of her best race scores comprising 70% of the races completed. See Table A2.1 for the number of Races to be scored based on the number of completed races. The qualified boat with the lowest series score is the winner, and others are ranked accordingly. [An excluded race counts as a race to qualify a boat for a series score but not as one of her scored races.]

### TIES AND OTHER RULES

Race ties will be scored using rule A7. Series ties will be broken using rule A8.1. Rules A1, A3, A5.1, A5.3 A6, A9 and A10 also apply.

Table A2.1 Races Scored based on 70% of completed races.

Completed Races	Races Scored	Completed Races	Races Scored
1	1	9	7
2	2	10	7
3	3	11	8
4	3	12	9
5	4	13	10
6	5	14	10
7	5	15	11
8	6	16	12