



SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

2024 - 2025 Pursuit Races

St. Petersburg Sailing Association

St. Petersburg, Florida

1. RULES

SPSA's Pursuit Races shall be governed by the current US Sailing Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) and these Sailing Instructions.

2. ELIGIBILITY

This event is open to any single-hulled or multi-hulled sailboat eligible for a West Florida PHRF (WFPHRF) rating. If you don't have a WFPHRF, you can request a provisional rating from SPSA.

3. RACE DESCRIPTION

This race will be a "pursuit" race. Each boat's start time will be based on "Time on Distance" adjustment using PHRF ratings and the distance of the course to be sailed. A boat's finish place is determined by the order of their finish in their class.

4. NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

Notices to competitors will be posted on the SPSA website and may be distributed by email. Additionally, notices may be made via VHF Channel 72 on the day of the race.

5. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

No changes to the Sailing Instructions are anticipated. Any changes to the Sailing Instructions will be posted on the website and announced on VHF (Channel 72) on the day of the race. No changes to the sailing instruction will be made after one hour before the scheduled first start.

6. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

There will be no signals made ashore.

7. SCHEDULE OF RACES

Event, Date and Start Time:

January 1, 2025, New Year's Fun Pursuit Race 1400

January 12, 2025, Full Moon Pursuit 1730

February 2, 2025, Off the Wall Regatta 1100

May 3, 2025, Double Handed/Couples Regatta 1400

May 10, 2025, Full Moon Pursuit 1830

8. CLASS FLAGS

No class flag will be displayed.

9. RACING AREA

The start and finish will be in the vicinity of a government mark and the sailing area will be in Middle Tampa Bay

10. THE COURSE

The course to be sailed and each boat's start time will be set based on weather conditions. The distance and approximate bearing to each mark will be provided, however, determining the exact location of all marks of the course is the responsibility of each competitor.

The course and start times will be posted on the SPSA website and may be communicated by email no later than 6:00 PM on the day before the race.

11. MARKS

The SPSA 2024 and 2025 Pursuit races will use government marks.

12. AREAS THAT ARE OBSTRUCTIONS

The St. Petersburg Pier is designated as an obstruction.

13. THE START

The starting line will be at a designated mark in Tampa Bay east of the Pier. The course and starting time for each boat will be posted on the SPSA website and may be communicated by email no later than 6:00 PM on the day before the race.

To start properly, at the boat's given start time, the boat must:

1. Be behind a line that runs through either side of the designated start mark and is perpendicular to the first mark, and 2. Must cross that line within "2 boat lengths" either side of the designated start mark.

If a Race Committee Boat is on station the start will be between the start mark and the Race Committee Boat.

Boats not imminently starting shall avoid the starting area.

14. THE FINISH

The finish will be at the designated finish mark. To properly finish a boat must:

1. "break" a line that runs through either side of the finish mark and is perpendicular to the last mark of the course, and
2. sail within "2 boat lengths" of the finish mark.

If a Race Committee Boat is on Station the finish will be between the finish mark and the Race Committee Boat.

Each boat is responsible for recording its finish time and reporting it to SPSA.

15. PENALTIES

RRS 44.2 is modified so that one 360° turn satisfies the rule.

Boats failing to finish within 60 minutes after the first boat in their class sails the course and finishes will be scored Did Not Finish (DNF) without a hearing. This change rules 35, A4, and A5.

16. PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

Protests are discouraged. In the case of damage or an egregious foul, a protest may be filed. The protesting boat shall immediately hail the fleet on VHF channel 72 and announce their protest - who they are protesting and why. Protest forms are available at the SPSA website (www.spsa.us) or from any SPSA officer. Protests and requests for redress or reopening shall be delivered to the Vice Commodore or, if unavailable, to an SPSA Flag Officer by midnight of the race day. Notification will be sent by text or email no later than midnight of the day following the race to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses. Hearings will be held at the St Petersburg Sailing Center or another appropriate venue, beginning at 19:30 on the Thursday following the race, unless all parties agree to another time.

17. SCORING

This race is a "pursuit" race. Each boat is given a start time specific to that boat's PHRF rating. The boat's

start time is calculated based on "Time on Distance" adjustment using PHRF ratings and the distance of the course to be sailed. A boat's finish place is determined by the order of their finish in their class.

18. SAFETY REGULATIONS

All boats shall monitor VHF Channels 16 and 72 during the race. A boat choosing to retire from the race shall make a general announcement on VHF -Channel 72 to the fleet to inform the fleet that they are retiring from the race.

19. EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS

A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with class rules and sailing instructions.

20. TRASH DISPOSAL

Competitors shall not throw or drop any refuse overboard. Failure to properly dispose of refuse will result in disqualification from the race.

21. 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 the regatta.

22. 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 fleet.

23. PRIZES

Awards will be given for 1st Place for boats in each class that races.

24. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

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

25. INSURANCE

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