



# 2018 Optimist Gulf Coast Championship

March 10 – 11

*Hosted by Fairhope Yacht Club (FYC)*

*Organizing Authority (OA) is FYC in conjunction with USODA*

## SAILING INSTRUCTIONS (SI)

### 1. RULES

- 1.1. The regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS)* and by the “USODA Conditions for Sanctioned Regattas and Championships.”
- 1.2. The following applies to RRS 61:
  - (a) RRS 61.1(a) is changed to add that the red protest flag required in RRS 61.1(a) shall be attached to the sailor’s lifejacket in a manner that allows it to be concealed before it is needed and after the protested boat(s) has been informed. The third sentence of RRS 61.1(a) is changed to read, “She shall display the flag until the protested boat(s) has been informed.”
  - (b) RRS 61.1(a)(2) is deleted.
  - (c) The following new rule is added:

**“61.5 Informing the Race Committee (RC)**

In addition to meeting the requirements of RRS 61.1, a boat intending to protest another boat concerning an incident in the racing area that she is involved in or sees shall, at the first reasonable opportunity after she finishes, notify the RC finish vessel of her intent to protest and the sail number of the boat(s) she is protesting.”
- 1.3. **Appendix P** will apply. The title of RRS P2.2, “Second Penalty” is changed to, “Second and Subsequent Penalties.” At the end of the first sentence, add, “unless her penalty is signaled after she finishes, in which case she shall promptly notify the RC finish boat that she is retiring.” RRS P2.3 is deleted.
- 1.4. SI breaches for which a discretionary penalty may be applied by the Protest Committee (PC) are designated by “[DP]” – Discretionary Penalty.
- 1.5. SI breaches for which a standard penalty – as stated in the SI, including Addendum 2 – may be applied by the Race Committee (RC), without a hearing, are designated by “[SP]” – Standard Penalty. This change is added to RRS A5.
- 1.6. SI breaches designated by “[SP] [DP]” mean that the Standard Penalty [SP] applies to the initial breach only. Subsequent breaches will be at the discretion of the PC – [DP].
- 1.7. The “Graded Penalty System” will apply and is attached as Addendum 2. “Fleet” is defined as the number of registered boats which subsequently completed competitor Check-In at the regatta venue (see SI 16.2). Percentage penalties will be rounded up to the nearest whole number.
- 1.8. RRS 63.7 is changed such that if there is a conflict between the Sailing Instructions (SI) and the, Notice of Race (NOR), the SI shall govern.



## 2. **FORMAT OF THE CHAMPIONSHIP**

The will be a Championship Fleet which will sail as one fleet.

## 3. **NOTICES TO COMPETITORS**

Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board located in the FYC Ballroom.

## 4. **CHANGES TO THE SAILING INSTRUCTIONS**

Any change to the SI will be posted on the official notice board by 0830 on the day that it will take effect, except that any change to the scheduled time of racing will be posted by 1900 on the day before it will take effect.

## 5. **SIGNALS MADE ASHORE AND LAUNCHING**

5.1. Signals made ashore will be displayed from the flagpole located in front of the clubhouse.

5.2. When flag “AP” is displayed, “1 minute” is replaced with “not less than 45 minutes” in Race Signal “AP”. This changes Race Signal “AP.”

5.3. All boats shall be kept at the venue in their assigned space until the harbor start (see SI 5.4).

5.4. [SP] Harbor Start: Boats shall not launch until flag “D” is displayed on the flagpole with one sound signal, and shall obey verbal launching instructions.

## 6. **SCHEDULE OF RACES**

### 6.1. **Saturday, March 10**

0800-0900	Check-In for Competitors & Support (Coach/Spectator) Boat Flag Registration
0800-0930	Continental Breakfast
0915	Coaches’ Meeting
0930	Competitors’, Coaches’ and Parents’ Meeting
1000	Harbor Start
1030	First Warning
	Lunch on the water
After Racing	Competitors Dinner

### **Sunday, March 11**

0730-0900	Breakfast
0830	Coaches’ Meeting
0900	Harbor Start
0930	First Warning
	Lunch on the water
1400	No First Warning Signal after this time
After Racing	Awards Ceremony

6.2. A maximum of eight (8) races are scheduled for the championship. Four (4) races are scheduled for each day of racing, however, up to five (5) races may be sailed in one day providing the championship never gets more than one race ahead of schedule.



## 7. RACING AREA

- 7.1. The racing area will be west of FYC on Mobile Bay.

## 8. THE COURSE AND CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

- 8.1. SI Addendum 1 illustrates the course, including the general configuration of the marks, the order in which marks are to be passed, and the side on which each mark is to be left. The course length and exact configuration will be based on sailing conditions.
- 8.2. If one of the gate marks (mark 3P or 3S) is missing, boats shall round remaining mark 3 to port.
- 8.3. For a change of the next leg of the course, the RC will lay a new mark (or move the finishing line) and remove the original mark as soon as practicable.
- 8.4. The angle from mark 2 to mark 3P/3S may be changed up to 15 degrees in either direction to compensate for wind / current differences on that side of the course, without signals or change marks, provided the change is made before any boats begin that leg. This is added to RRS 33.

## 9. MARKS

- 9.1. Rounding marks 1, 2, 3P and 3S will be orange tetrahedrons.
- 9.2. Change marks will be yellow tetrahedrons.
- 9.3. The starting marks will be a RC vessel displaying an orange flag at each end of the starting line.
- 9.4. The finishing marks will be a RC vessel displaying an orange flag at one end of the finishing line and an orange tomato at the other end of the finish line.

## 10. RESTRICTED AREAS (see also SI 19 and SI Addendum 1) [DP]

- 10.1. The **racing area** is the space encompassing the course, starting area, and finishing area. It extends 100 yards beyond any racing boat and all marks. Except as permitted by SI 19, only competing boats and official boats (designated as such by the RC) may enter the racing area while boats are racing.
- 10.2. The **waiting area** is the area to leeward of the racing area below the starting line, marked by a series of small balls or marks. Coach and support (parent or spectator) vessels are to anchor with their anchors at or behind the line formed by the row of small balls or marks.
- 10.3. The **corridor** is the lane to starboard of the RC finish vessel between the finish line and the waiting area, inside the race course. Boats are reminded when returning to the waiting area to not sail upwind of the starting line or across the starting line. Except as permitted by SI 19, only competing boats and official vessels (designated as such by the RC) may enter the corridor while boats are racing.

## 11. THE START

- 11.1. Races will be started in accordance with RRS 26.
- 11.2. The Class Flag will be a white flag with an Optimist symbol.
- 11.3. The starting line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on a RC signal vessel at the starboard end and a staff displaying an orange flag on a RC vessel at the port end.



- 11.4. At least five (5) minutes prior to the first warning signal of a race, the RC will display its orange starting line flags.
- 11.5. A boat starting later than five (5) minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start (DNS), without a hearing. This change is added to RRS A5.
- 11.6. The RC **will not hail** the sail numbers of boats that are OCS or subject to starting penalties under RRS 30. Unofficial ‘RC actions’ will be broadcast on **VHF channel 68** as a courtesy to coaches and spectators after all boats have started. The official list of RC actions will be posted on the notice board.
- 11.7. Any starting penalties from races that are abandoned or recalled after the starting signal and not re-sailed on the same day will not carry over to those races if they are re-sailed on another day in the regatta. This changes RRS 30.4 and 36.

## **12. THE FINISH AND RETURN TO THE STARTING AREA**

- 12.1. The finish line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on a RC finish vessel at the starboard end and the course side of a mark at the port end.
- 12.2. **[SP]** Immediately after finishing all boats shall sail clear of the finishing area and promptly return to the waiting area via the corridor shown in SI Addendum 1.
- 12.3. Flag “A” displayed (with no sound) while boats are finishing means “No more racing today.”

## **13. ON-WATER JUDGES FOR RULE 42**

On-water Rule 42 Judge boats will display flag “J” or a US Sailing Judge flag. A Rule 42 Judge may also be aboard the RC signal vessel and if so, that boat will display the appropriate flag.

## **14. TIME LIMITS**

- 14.1. The time limit for the first boat in a race to sail the course and finish is ninety (90) minutes.
- 14.2. Boats failing to finish within twenty (20) minutes after the first boat in a race sails the course and finishes will be scored Did Not Finish (DNF) without a hearing. This change is added to RRS 35 and A5.

## **15. PROTESTS, SCORING REVIEWS, REDRESS REQUESTS, AND PENALTIES**

### ***General***

- 15.1. Protest and scoring review forms are available at the PC desk located in the FYC Ballroom. Protests, requests for redress or reopening, and requests for scoring review shall be delivered there within the appropriate time limit.
- 15.2. The protest time limit is 45 minutes after the RC finish vessel docks. The protest time limit (filing deadline) will be posted on the official notice board as soon as practical.
- 15.3. The protest notices required by RRS 63.2, and the notification of protests by the RC or PC required by RRS 61.1(b), will be posted on the official notice board as soon as possible after a protest has been delivered, but not later than 30 minutes after the protest time limit.
- 15.4. A breach of SI 5.3, 5.4, 12.2, 17, 18, 19, 20, and 21 will not be grounds for a protest by a boat. This change is added to RRS 60.1(a).



- 15.5. Hearings will be held in the protest room located in the FYC Jubilee Room. The helmsman shall represent the boat. This change is added to the first sentence of RRS 63.3(a). Representatives of boats who are parties to a hearing and their witnesses shall remain on call in the vicinity of the PC desk.

### ***Redress Requests***

- 15.6. Requests for scoring reviews for possible scoring errors are considered requests for redress per RRS 62.1. They shall be filed with the PC, on forms provided, within the time limit and will initially be reviewed by the RC. If resolved by the RC, no hearing will be scheduled. If not resolved by the RC, the RC will request a hearing and the PC will proceed under RRS 63.1.
- 15.7. If the RC posts a list of boats scored OCS, UFD or BFD on the official notice board before the time limit in SI 15.2, a request for redress based on such a posted score shall be made no later than 30 minutes after the protest time limit. This change is added to RRS 62.2.
- 15.8. Requests for redress relating to an OCS or starting penalty shall state the procedural error the competitor believes the RC may have made. Further, the competitor will be expected to establish that he or she started properly. This change is added to RRS 62.2.
- 15.9. On the last scheduled day of racing a request for redress based on a PC decision shall be delivered no later than 30 minutes after the decision was posted. This change is added as the last sentence to RRS 62.2.

### ***Penalties***

- 15.10. A list of boats penalized for breaking RRS 42 will be posted as soon as practical after racing.
- 15.11. **[SP]** A boat that has taken a penalty under RRS 44.1 shall complete and sign the penalty acknowledgment log at the PC desk.
- 15.12. After application of any standard penalties **[SP]** or discretionary penalties **[DP]**, a boat's score shall not be made worse than the score for "DSQ".

## **16. SCORING**

- 16.1. The Low Point Scoring System of RRS Appendix A will apply as revised below.
- 16.2. The number of boats entered in the series will be defined as the number of registered boats which subsequently completed competitor Check-In at the regatta venue. This change is added as the first sentence to RRS A2 and A4.2.
- 16.3. One (1) completed race shall constitute a regatta.
- 16.4. Scoring will be based on races completed:
- (a) When fewer than five (5) races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores.
  - (b) When five (5) or more races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.



## **17. SAFETY AND CHECK-OUT / CHECK-IN PROCEDURES [SP] [DP]**

- 17.1. Before launching each day, **competitors shall sign-out** at the Safety Check-Out/In tables located at the Gazebo on the beach, indicating their departure to the race course. A competitor who will not be racing that day shall notify Safety Check-Out/In table before the Harbor Start.
- 17.2. Immediately upon returning to shore, but **not later than 30 minutes** after the RC finish vessel docks, **competitors shall sign-in** at the Safety Check-Out/In tables located at the Gazebo on the beach, indicating their return to the FYC.
- 17.3. A competitor retiring from a race or intending not to start a race shall notify a RC vessel or safety vessel before leaving the course, or if that is not possible, notify a FYC official immediately upon returning to shore.
- 17.4. A boat with multiple infractions of SI 17.1, 17.2 or 17.3, Safety Check-Out / Check-In Procedures, may be protested by the RC and the penalty will be at the discretion of the PC.
- 17.5. A condition of entry and participation in this regatta is the wearing of a U.S. Coast Guard approved lifejacket or, for international sailors only, a lifejacket approved by their country's corresponding authority, properly secured at all times while on the water, except for brief periods while removing or adding clothing. All lifejackets must be suitable for the competitor's weight. Wet suits, dry suits, and inflatable lifejackets are not approved nor permitted as lifejackets. Failure to wear a proper lifejacket will result in a penalty up to and including disqualification at the discretion of the PC. These changes are added to RRS 40, and the Preamble to Part 4 will not apply to RRS 40.
- 17.6. Competitors shall have a whistle attached to their lifejacket at all times while on the water.
- 17.7. Each boat shall have a secure loop in the end of its bow line.

## **18. EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT [SP] [DP]**

- 18.1. Boats are allowed only one hull, daggerboard, rudder (including tiller and extension), mast, boom, sprit, and sail during the regatta. Any request to consider approving equipment substitutions shall be submitted in writing to the RC before the end of protest time limit the day prior to the day for which the substitution is to be made. If changes are required during a day's racing, approval may be made verbally and the written request submitted before that day's protest time limit.
- 18.2. Measurement may be made of boats at any time during the regatta at the direction of the RC.

## **19. SUPPORT (COACH and SPECTATOR) PERSON REGULATIONS (see SI 10 & SI Addendum 1) [SP] [DP]**

- 19.1. **Coaches** are expected to be good role models for young sailors and conduct themselves accordingly ashore and on the water.
- 19.2. **Parents (spectators)** who are on the water either in support or coach vessels are considered coaches for the purpose of SI 19. Those parents who serve on RC vessels (including patrol and safety vessels) may not communicate in any way with their sailors or their coaches from the time the orange starting line flags are displayed until their sailor has finished his or her race (the "No Communication Period"). The only exception to this rule is when directed by the Principal Race Officer (PRO) or they are involved with safety and rescue. During periods of time when





communication with coaches and/or sailors is permissible, these parents shall not transfer any strategic or tactical information (including audio or video recordings) gained due to their advantageous location on the race course or their access to RC communications, unless such information is made available to all sailors, coaches and other parents/supporters.

Communications of a personal nature (e.g., ‘great race’, ‘get something to drink’, ‘go see your coach’, etc.) are always permissible outside the “No Communication Period”.

### 19.3. General support (coach and spectator) boat requirements:

- (a) Support vessels shall display a numbered flag provided by the OA at all times while on the water. All support vessels shall carry a VHF radio and monitor the RC channel, **VHF 68**.
- (b) No ‘team’ flags, private signal flags, or any object that might be construed as a signal shall be flown from coach or support vessels while racing is underway.
- (c) Support vessels shall follow the instructions of RC, patrol, safety, PC, and other race management vessels at all times.
- (d) No support vessels shall tie up to or congregate around any aid to navigation, such as buoys or channel markers, or tie up to any fixed fishing gear or fishing floats.

### 19.4. Restrictions:

- (a) All support vessels shall stay out of the racing area while boats are racing and at least 100 yards away from any racing boat, and move slowly and **with minimal wake**, except where permitted in this instruction.
- (b) Certain support vessels may be designated as rescue craft by the PRO or Safety Officer and given permission to enter the racing area for the purposes of rescue operations only.
- (c) When the RC hoists (or is displaying) its orange starting line flags, all support vessels in the starting area shall proceed immediately to the waiting area and shall remain there until the RC lowers the orange starting line flags, at which time support vessels may exit the waiting area and proceed slowly **with minimal wake** to the weather mark, only on the starboard side of the course. The RC may close the starboard side of the course to support vessels.
- (d) There shall be no anchoring inside the course or in the vicinity of the finish line.

### 19.5. Penalties:

- (a) Competitors affiliated with any coach, parent, or spectator vessel that breaks SI 19 may be protested and penalized under RRS 41, Outside Help, in which case the Preamble to Part 4 will not apply. This change is added to RRS 41.
- (b) Coaches, parents, or spectators that repeatedly and/or intentionally break SI 19 may be subject to disciplinary actions up to and including exclusion from the venue.

## 20. ENVIRONMENT [DP]

Competitors and coaches are expected to comply with RRS 55. Trash may be placed aboard RC, support or coach vessels.

## 21. SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS - EVENT ADVERTISING [DP]

Boats are required to display advertising, if any, chosen, supplied, and as instructed by the OA.



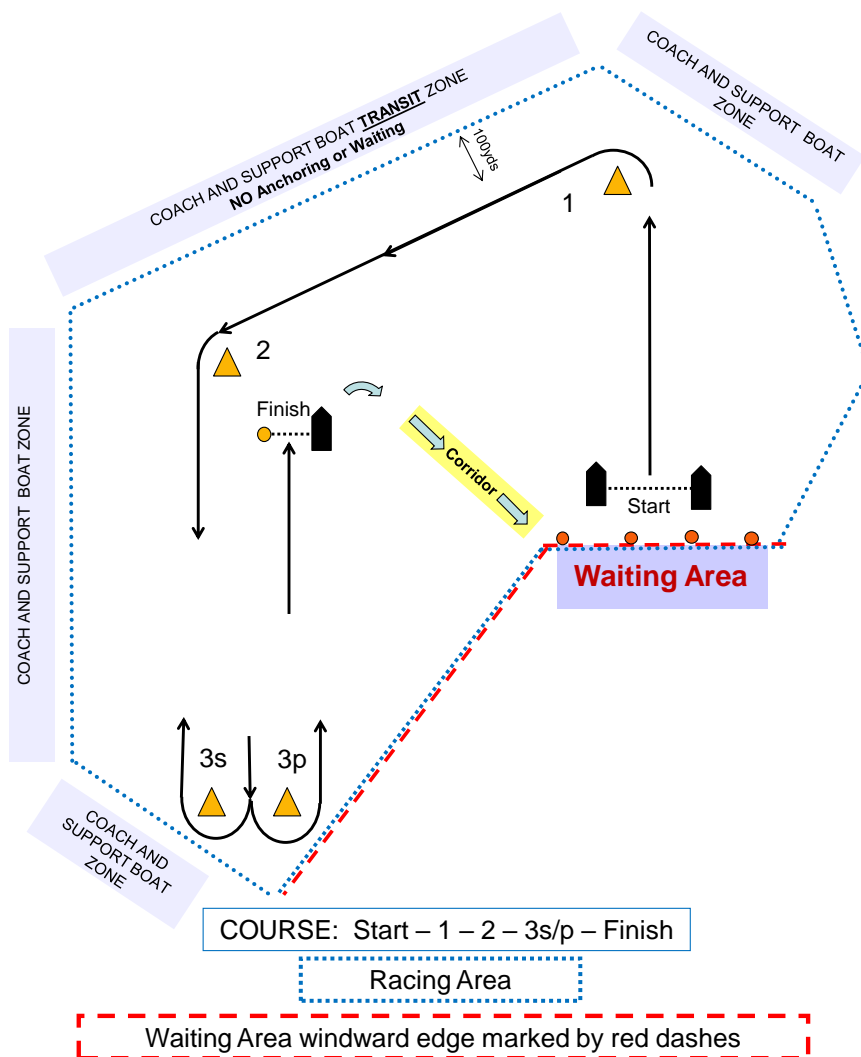
**22. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY**

Competitors participate in the regatta entirely at their own risk. See RRS 4, Decision to Race. The OA 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. During online registration, all competitors and their parent/guardian checked the USODA Event Waiver box indicating they have read and agree to the USODA Event Waiver.

**23. PRIZES**

Prizes to be awarded are described in the Notice of Race. Subsequent prizes may be awarded at the discretion of the OA.

**SI Addendum 1 – Race Course and Restricted Areas**



*Note: Diagram not to scale. Mark colors and shapes are illustrative only.*





## SI Addendum 2 – USODA Graded Penalty System

### Graded Penalty System – Percentage Penalties rounded up to the next whole number

Penalties apply to the race of infringement; otherwise, to the first race of the day.

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#### 1. Minor SI penalties

*Penalty approximately equal to 5% of fleet*

- a) Not displaying the assigned colored division streamer (N/A)
- b) Launching before ‘Harbor Start’ signal (SI 5.4)
- c) Failure to return promptly to waiting area after finishing (SI 12.2)
- d) Failure to report penalty taken (SI 15.11)

#### 2. Minor class rule penalties and intermediate SI penalties

*Penalty approximately equal to 10% of fleet*

- a) Bailer not attached to hull (CR 4.3)
- b) Paddle not attached to hull (CR 4.3)
- c) Daggerboard not attached to hull (CR 3.3.4)
- d) Painter not attached to mast step (CR 4.3)
- e) Whistle not attached to personal flotation device (CR 4.2)
- f) One sail tie 5 mm or more loose (CR 6.6.3.4)
- g) Two sail ties 3 mm or more loose (CR 6.6.3.4)
- h) Accidental loss of sail tie (CR 6.6.3.4)
- i) Sailing across a race in progress before starting or after finishing (RRS 24.1)
- j) Out of the waiting area (N/A)
- k) Failure to report for measurement after finishing (N/A)
- l) Failing on-water measurement inspection (SI 18)
- m) Failure to comply with Safety Check-Out/Check-In procedures (SI 17.1/17.2)
- n) Failure to report retirement or DNC (SI 17.3)
- o) Breaches of SI 19, Support Person Regulations

#### 3. Intermediate class rule penalties

*Penalty approximately equal to 30% of fleet*

- a) No bailer, paddle or painter in boat (CR 4.3)
- b) No whistle (CR 4.2)
- c) No lanyard, locking device or other arrangement to attach mast to the hull (CR 3.5.2.11)
- d) Sail outside limits of bands (CR 3.5.2.7)
- e) Two ties 5 mm or more loose (CR 6.6.3.4)
- f) Three or more ties 3 mm or more loose (CR 6.6.3.4)
- g) Throat, tack or clew eyelet 3 mm or more loose (CR 6.6.3.4)
- h) Failure to wear an approved life jacket (SI 17.5)
- i) Repeated infringement of Section 1 or Section 2 penalties, above



**4. Class rule breaches for which the penalty may be 0%**

- a) Class rule 3.2.2.12
- b) Class rule 3.2.3.2.d
- c) Class rule 3.3.1.3
- d) GRP Sheet plan 23 and measurement 58

**5. Major class rule penalties (as per RRS)**

*Penalty up to DSQ – requires Protest Hearing*

- a) All RRS, except as amended
- b) All SI, including amendments
- c) Use of uninspected equipment
- d) Use of unapproved fittings
- e) Repeated infringement of Section 3 penalties, above

**Regatta Chairs:** Gennifer Taloney and Elizabeth McGriff

**Principal Race Officer:** Nathan Adams

**Chief Judge:** Chris Luppens

**Scorer:** Scott Hartwell