



SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

2026 NIGHT RACE SERIES



May 30 – June 27, 2026

Fort Walton Yacht Club
Fort Walton Beach, Florida

1. RULES

The regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing* (RRS).

2. NOTICE TO COMPETITORS

Notices to competitors will be posted on the FWYC bulletin board.

3. RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

3.1 The race committee will utilize VHF channel 72.

3.2 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.

Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted before the end of registration on the day it will take effect, except that any changes to the schedule of races will be posted by 2000 on the day before it will take effect.

4. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

4.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed at the Smack Point flagpole.

4.2 When flag AP is displayed ashore, “1 minute” is replaced with “not less than 5 minutes” in the Race Signals for AP.

5. SCHEDULE

5.1 Dates of racing: May 30 and June 27, 2026

5.2 Number of races: two (2) races will be attempted for each fleet.

5.3 Race Day Events:

Registration/Check-in	18:00 - 18:45	Patio
Skippers Meeting	18:45	Patio
First Warning	19:25	

6. CLASS FLAGS

Unless otherwise briefed at the Skippers Meeting, there will be a single common start for all fleets using a Pink Class flag.

7. COURSES

7.1 The racing area will be located on Choctawhatchee Bay using Government, Club and/or temporary marks.

7.2 Courses will be available by the Skippers Meeting on each race date.

8. MARKS AND LINES

The starting and finishing mark will be an orange buoy unless briefed otherwise at the Skippers meeting.

9. THE START

9.1 The starting line will be between the Smack Point flagpole and the starting mark.

9.2 Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall avoid the starting area during the starting sequence for other races.

9.3 In the event of individual recalls, the race committee will endeavor to hail offending boats. Failure to broadcast, broadcast in a timely manner, or be heard by the offending boats will not be grounds for a request for redress. This changes rule 62.1(a).

10. CHANGE OF COURSE

There are no provisions to change the legs on the course.

11. THE FINISH

The finishing line will be between the Smack Point flagpole and the finishing mark.

12. TIME LIMITS

12.1 The time limit for each race is three (3) hours.

12.2 Boats failing to finish within 30 minutes after the first boat in her fleet sails the course and finishes will be scored Did Not Finish without a hearing. This changes rules 35, A4 and A5.

13. HEARING REQUESTS

Hearing request forms are available on the bulletin board and must be filed within one (1) hour after the last boat finishes. The protest period time limit, and the times and locations of protest hearings will be posted on the FWYC bulletin board

14. PENALTY SYSTEM

For all classes rule 44.1 is changed so that the Two-Turns Penalty is replaced by the One-Turn Penalty.

15. SCORING

15.1 The High Point Scoring System of the Addendum to the NOR will apply. This changes rules A4 and A9.

15.2 One (1) race is required to be completed to constitute a regatta.

15.3 No race scores will be excluded. This changes rule A2.

16. SAFETY REGULATIONS

16.1 Each boat must have operational lighting in accordance with US Coast Guard Navigation Rules Part C.

16.2 A boat that retires from a race shall notify the race committee as soon as possible.

17. PRIZES

17.1 Prizes will be awarded based on the number of boats in each fleet.

17.2 The Awards Ceremony will take place as soon as possible after the last race of the regatta.