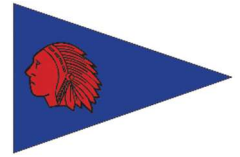




2026 RS Aero Midwinter Regatta

The Organizing Authority is
Fort Walton Yacht Club (FWYC)



March 27–29, 2026
Fort Walton Yacht Club (FWYC)
180 Ferry Road
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548
Sailing Instructions

1 RULES

- 1.1 Races will be governed by *The Racing Rules of Sailing* and the *RS Aero Class Rules*, available at <https://www.rsaerosailing.org/index.asp?p=documents>.
- 1.2 40.1 applies at all times while afloat. Flag Y will not be displayed. This changes RRS 40.1.

2 Eligibility:

- 2.1 The regatta is open to all boats of the RS Aero Class whose skippers are current members of the North American RS Aero Association or their equivalent national Class Association. Non-members can join online at <https://www.rsaerosailing.org/index.asp?p=membership>.

3 NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

- 3.1 Notices to competitors shall be posted on the official notice board located on the back porch of the Fort Walton Yacht Club. At the end of each day of racing, the Race Committee (RC) shall post its docking time as well as any RC actions. Notices of protest hearings and requests for redress shall be posted here within 30 minutes after the expiration of protest time.
- 3.2 Any questions regarding these Sailing Instructions (SIs) shall be submitted in writing to the regatta desk located in the Castaway Room one hour before the Competitors Meeting. Written answers shall be posted on the official noticeboard.

4 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Any change to the SIs shall be posted 60 minutes before the scheduled start of the first race of the day it will take effect, except that any change in the schedule of races shall be posted by 1800 on the day before it will take effect.

5 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 5.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed from the flagpole behind Fort Walton Yacht Club.
- 5.2 When flag 'AP' is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 30 minutes.' This changes RRS race signals AP.

6 SCHEDULE (Eight races are scheduled)

Thursday, March 26

- 1200 Clinic(s) and/or coaching.
- 1600-1800 Registration

Friday, March 27

- 1000 Competitors briefing
- 1155 First Warning Signal; Three (3) races are scheduled.

Saturday, March 28

- 1025 First Warning Signal; Three (3) races are scheduled. 1700-
until After Race food and drink.

Sunday, March 29

- 1025 First Warning Signal; Two (2) races are scheduled but three (3) races could be run if fewer than three were completed on a previous day.
- 1500 No race to start after. Awards ASAP after racing.

- 6.1 The warning signal for the second and subsequent races of each day shall be made as soon as practical after the finish of the first race.

7 CLASS FLAGS

- 7.1 Will be announced at the skipper meeting.

8 RACING AREA

The racing area shall be on the waters surrounding Fort Walton Yacht Club.

9 CHECK IN

[DP] Prior to the warning signal for the first race of each day, a boat shall sail past the stern of the RC signal boat on starboard and hail her sail number and be acknowledged by the RC. [SP] Failure to check in may result in a 20% scoring penalty without a hearing. This changes RRS A5.1.

10 THE COURSES

- 10.1 The diagrams in Attachment A show the racecourses, the order in which the marks are to be passed, and the side on which each mark is to be left.
- 10.2 No later than the warning signal, the RC will display the course to be sailed and an approximate compass bearing to the first leg.

11 MARKS FOR W2 and W3

- 11.1 Marks 1 and 1a will be orange tetrahedron and orange ball respectively. Marks 2S, 2P, (gate marks) will be green tetrahedrons.
- 11.2 The starting marks will be a staff displaying an orange flag on the RC signal boat and a nearby orange tear drop.
- 11.3 New marks will be yellow tetrahedrons and orange offset ball.
- 11.4 The finishing marks will be a staff displaying a blue flag on the RC signal boat and a nearby orange tear drop mark.

12 MARKS FOR H1, H2 and TW

Mark 1 will be an orange tetrahedron, Mark 2 will be an orange tetrahedron, Mark 3 will be an orange tetrahedron.

- 12.1 The Starting marks will be a staff displaying an orange flag on the RC signal boat and a nearby Green tetrahedron.
- 12.2 The finish marks will be a staff displaying a blue flag on the RC signal boat and a nearby orange tear drop mark.

13 THE START

- 13.1 Races will start in accordance with RRS 26.
- 13.2 The starting line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the RC signal boat at the starboard end and the course side of an orange tear drop mark at the port end.
- 13.3 A boat starting later than five (5) minutes after her starting signal shall be scored Did Not Start (DNS) without a hearing. This modifies RRS 63.1, A4, and A5.
- 13.4 If any part of a boat's hull is on the course side of the starting line at her starting signal and she is identified, the RC may broadcast her bow number on a VHF radio channel provided at the competitor's meeting. The failure of any boat to hear the hail, the untimely hail of some or all OCS boats, the order of the hail, or the failure to hail any or all boats shall not be grounds for redress. This modifies RRS 62.1(a).

14 CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

To change the next leg of the course, the RC shall lay a new mark (or move the finish line) and remove the original mark as soon as practicable. When in a subsequent change a new mark is replaced, it shall be replaced by an original mark.

15 THE FINISH

- 15.1 The finishing line will be between a staff displaying a blue flag on the race committee signal boat on the port end and the course side of orange tear drop mark on the starboard end.

16 PENALTY SYSTEM

- 16.1 Appendix V, Alternative Penalties, will apply. The Two-Turns Penalty is replaced by the One-Turn Penalty. This changes RRS 44.1.

17 TIME LIMITS

- 17.1 The time limit for the first boat to reach the first weather mark is 30 minutes.
17.2 The time limit for the first boat to finish is 90 minutes.
17.3 Boats still racing and failing to finish within 20 minutes after the first boat sails the course and finishes, shall be scored Did Not Finish (DNF).

18 PROTESTS & REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

- 18.1 Rule 61.1(a) is changed to add the following requirements for a valid protest: A boat shall inform the finish line race committee of her intent to file a protest and the sail number (or other identification) of the protested boat either at the first reasonable opportunity after finishing, or if the protesting boat does not finish, at the first reasonable opportunity, and she must receive confirmation from the Race Committee. Protest forms are available on the official notice board. Protests and requests for redress or reopening shall be delivered there within the appropriate time limit.
18.2 Hearing Request forms shall be available at the regatta official notice board. Hearing requests, request for redress and request for reopening shall be delivered there within the posted protest time limit.
18.3 The protest time limit for each day of racing is 60 minutes after the Race Committee signal boat docks. The protest time limit shall be posted on the official notice board.
18.4 Notices of protests and requests for redress shall be posted as soon as possible, but no later than 20 minutes after the protest time limit, to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses.
18.5 Hearings will be held in the Commodore's Room and will be heard in approximately the order of receipt.
18.6 On the last scheduled day of racing, a request for redress based on a Protest Committee decision shall be delivered no later than 30 minutes after the decision was posted. This is in addition to the requirements of RRS 62.2.

19 SCORING

- 19.1 Boats will be scored using the Portsmouth Yardstick numbers supplied by the RS Aero class.
19.2 Each boat's series score shall be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score, except that no scores will be excluded if fewer than six (6) races are completed. This changes RRS A2.1.
19.3 A score of DNF will be two points more than the last boat to finish within the time limit, but not worse than last place. This changes RRS A4 and A10.
19.4 One (1) race shall constitute a series.

20 SAFETY REGULATIONS

- 20.1 **All** boats shall comply with USCG and State safety equipment regulations. It is the responsibility of each skipper to determine if they should start a race or continue racing. This does not supersede any class rules or regulations that may require wearing life jackets while on the water. A boat which retires from a race shall notify the RC before leaving the racing area, or if that is not possible, at the first reasonable opportunity.
20.2 In the interest of safety or to avoid unreasonable delays, the RC, at its discretion and with concurrence of the judges, may order a capsized boat rescued and scored DNF.

20. RESPONSIBILITY

Competitors participate in the regatta entirely at their own risk. See RRS 3, Decision to Race. Neither the Organizing Authority, nor the host club, nor the race officials, shall accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with, prior to, during, or after the regatta.

21 SUPPORT BOATS

Team leaders, coaches and other support persons shall stay at least 100 yards outside the areas where boats are racing, from the time of the preparatory signal until all boats have finished or retired or the RC signals a postponement, general recall, or abandonment.

22 RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

Except in an emergency, a boat that is racing shall not make voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice or data transmissions that are not available to all boats. This includes the use of cell phones.

23 CONTACTS

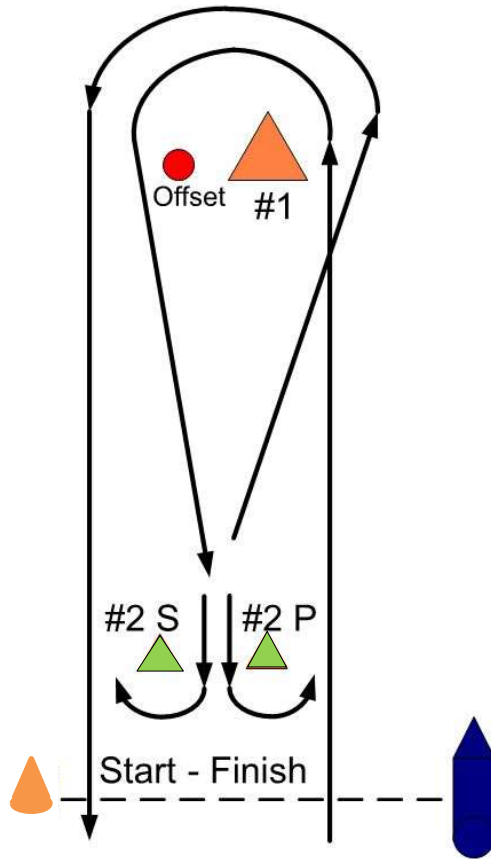
Regatta Chair: John D. Farris / Patssun@yahoo.com / 850-305-9653

Principal Race Officer: William Zehner

Chief Judge: Al Goethe / ankgoethe@gmail.com / 713-306-7424

Yacht Club Contact: John D. Farris / Patssun@yahoo.com / 850-305-9653

Attachment A – Course Diagrams



W2-Start,1,1a,2Sor2P,1,1a, Finish
W3-Start,1,1a,2Sor2P,1,1a,2Sor2P,1,1a, Finish

Appendix A – COURSE DIAGRAMS

