

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS



2026 WEDNESDAY NIGHT FUN RACES



March 11 – September 30, 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 and FWYC Group message.

3. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Any change in the sailing instructions will be posted before 4:45 PM on race day.

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: every Wednesday in 2026 from March 11 thru September 30.

5.2 Number of races: 30 race days are anticipated.

5.3 Race Day Events:

Registration/Check-in:	4:30 PM – 5:00 PM	On the patio
Skippers Meeting:	5:00 PM	Optional
First Warning:	5:25 PM	

5.4 [NP] Sail Configuration that differs from the Fleet Default Rating Category must be declared by 5:00 PM either on FWYC Group message or at the Registration/Check-in table. Boats that do not declare a non-default configuration will be scored using the fleet default rating. This changes RRS 61.1(a) and shall not be grounds for redress

6. CLASS FLAGS

Unless otherwise briefed at the Skippers Meeting, the class flags will be Pink

7. THE COURSES

7.1 The racing area will be located on the waters of the Choctawhatchee Bay.

7.2 Courses will be short to medium distance utilizing Government, Club, and/or temporary marks.

7.3 Courses will be available at registration/check-in by 4:45 PM each race day.

8. MARKS

Unless briefed at the Skippers Meeting the Shalimar Yacht Basin silver “cigar” water tower will be the starting and finishing mark.

9. THE START

9.1 Unless otherwise briefed at the Skippers Meeting, the starting line will be between the Smack Point flagpole and the starting mark.

9.2 The fleet starting order will be announced at the Skippers Meeting.

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

- 9.4 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. THE FINISH

- 10.1 Unless otherwise briefed at the Skippers Meeting, the finishing line will be between the Smack Point flagpole and the finishing mark.
- 10.2 In the event of a shortened course at the Smack Point flagpole, the finishing line will be from the flagpole through the finishing mark to the opposite shore.
- 10.3 If another race will be run, the AP Flag will be displayed while boats are finishing.

11. PENALTY SYSTEM

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

12. TIME LIMITS

- 12.1 The time limit for a race is three (3) hours for all fleets unless otherwise briefed at the Skippers Meeting.
- 12.2 If a Bermuda start is used, time will begin elapsing with the scheduled start of the last boat in each fleet.
- 12.3 Each skipper is responsible for keeping track of the elapsed time but if the time limit expires, the race committee will endeavor to notify all boats.

13. SCORING

- 13.1 Series scoring will use the High Point System of the Addendum. This changes rules A4.1, A4.2, and A9.
- 13.2 Boats must compete in at least 60% of all sailed races to qualify for overall awards.
- 13.3 Results will be posted on the bulletin board and <https://nextsailor.com/regatta/2026WNFR>

14. PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

- 14.1 Protests forms are available on the FWYC bulletin board.
- 14.2 Protests and requests for redress shall be delivered within the protest time limit of one (1) hour after the last boat has finished.
- 14.3 Notices will be posted no later than 30 minutes after the protest time limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses. Notices will specify the hearing time(s) and location(s).

15. SAFETY REGULATIONS

A boat that retires from a race shall notify the race committee by any means as soon as possible.

16. RADIO COMMUNICATION

- 16.1 The race committee will broadcast/monitor VHF channel 72.
- 16.2 Except in an emergency, a boat shall neither make nor receive radio communications not available to all boats while racing.