



GYA Meigs Regatta

July 11-12 2026

Organizing Authority: Fort Walton Yacht Club (FWYC)

Hosted by: Fort Walton Yacht Club (FWYC)

Fort Walton Beach, FL



Sailing Instructions

1 RULES

- 1.1 The regatta shall be governed by the rules as defined in the *Racing Rules of Sailing* (RRS) and the [GYA Regulations for Sanctioned Events](http://www.gya.org) (www.gya.org).
- 1.2 The *US Sailing Prescriptions* in the Preamble to Part 5, Section B, and RRS 63.1(b) are deleted.
- 1.3 The following rules are changed by this SI;
 - Section 5.2 – RRS Signals
 - Section 9 – RRS A5
 - Section 12.3 – RRS 63.1, A4, A5
 - Section 12.4 – RRS 61.2(a)
 - Section 15 – RRS 44.1
 - Section 16.3 – RRS 35, A4, A5, A10
 - Section 18.2 – RRS A4, A5.2, and A10

2 Eligibility:

- 2.1 All yacht clubs that are current General Members, in good standing, of the GYA are eligible to participate in the Capdevielle Viper 640 class. The Viper 640 Open class is open to all sailors.
- 2.2 All other classes are open to all sailors.

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 Notice Board.

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 OF RACES

- 6.1 See GYA Sailing Regulation 5.4 and 14.1 for Capdevielle Race Requirements.
- 6.2 For ALL fleets, one (1) completed race constitutes a regatta.

SATURDAY July 11

- 08:30-10:00 Regatta Registration and Check-In Castaway Room
- 10:30 Competitors Meeting back porch
- 12:30 Warning Signal all Classes (back-to-back races to follow)

SUNDAY July 12

- 11:30 Warning Signal all Classes (back-to-back races to follow)
- 14:30 No races start after this time
- ASAP After Racing - Trophy Presentation, main dining room

- 6.3 The warning signal for the second and subsequent races of each day shall be made as soon as practicable after the finish of the first race and after any necessary crew changes.

7 CLASS FLAGS

- 7.1 Capdevielle Viper 640 / Viper Open Fleet – GYA Burgee.
- 7.2 Weta – Weta Class Flag
- 7.3 Melges 15 – Pink Flag
- 7.4 Thistles – Class Flag

8 RACING AREA

- 8.1 The racing area shall be in the waters surrounding Fort Walton Yacht Club. The Race Committee may establish racing circles identified as Circle 1 and Circle 2.
- 8.2 Unless otherwise posted on the Official Notice Board:
 - Circle 1 – Capdevielle Viper 640, Open Viper 640, and Melges 15
 - Circle 2 – Weta and Thistle

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 bow of sail number until acknowledged by the RC. Failure to do so may result in a 20% penalty in the first race of the day. This modifies RRS A5.

10 THE COURSES

- 10.1 The diagram in Attachment A shows the locations of the racing circles.
- 10.2 The diagram in Attachment B shows the race courses, the intended order in which

- the marks are to be passed, and the side on which each mark is to be left.
- 10.3 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

- 11.1 Marks 1 and 1a will be the weather mark and offset mark for Course W.
- 11.2 Marks M and Ma will be the weather mark and offset mark for Course M.
- 11.3 Marks 2S and 2P will be gate marks.
- 11.4 If one gate mark is missing, the remaining gate mark shall be rounded to port.
- 11.5 Mark colors may vary between racing circles.
- 11.6 New marks, as provided in SI 13, will be inflatable marks of a contrasting color.

12 THE START

- 12.1 Races on Circle 1 will be started in accordance with RRS 26 except as modified by the Vakaros RaceSense system as described in Addendum A.
- 12.2 The starting marks will be a race committee signal boat displaying an orange flag and a nearby inflatable mark or flag. The starting line will be between the staff displaying the orange flag on the race committee signal boat at the starboard end and the course side of the nearby inflatable mark or flag at the port end.
- 12.3 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.
- 12.4 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 VHF. 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 61.2(a).

13 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.

14 THE FINISH

- 14.1 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 a nearby inflatable mark on the starboard end.

15 PENALTY SYSTEM

- 15.1 Appendix T (ARBITRATION) of the RRS shall apply.
- 15.2 Appendix V1. (PENALTY AT THE TIME OF AN INCIDENT) shall apply. This changes RRS 44.1.

16 TIME LIMITS

- 16.1 The time limit for the first boat to reach the first weather mark is 30 minutes.
- 16.2 The time limit for the first boat to finish is 90 minutes.
- 16.3 Boats still racing and failing to finish within 20 minutes after the first boat sails the course and finishes shall be scored Time Limit Expired (TLE) without a hearing. This changes RRS 35, A5, and A10.

17 PROTESTS & REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

- 17.1 Hearing Request forms shall be available at the regatta's Official Notice Board. Hearing requests, requests for redress, and requests for reopening shall be delivered there within the posted protest time limit.
- 17.2 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.
- 17.3 Notices of protests and requests for redress shall be posted as soon as possible, but no later than 30 minutes after the protest time limit, to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or are named as witnesses.
- 17.4 Hearings will be held in the Commodore's Room and will be heard in approximately the order of receipt.
- 17.5 In addition to the obligations of RRS 60.2, the following requirement applies, Rule 60.2 is changed to add the following requirements for a valid protest: "A boat shall inform the finish line race committee boat of her intent to file a protest and the sail number (or other identification) of the protested boat(s) 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." This changes RRS 60.2.

18 SCORING

- 18.1 Capdevielle scoring shall comply with GYA Regulation 15.
- 18.2 A score of TLE 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, A5.2, and A10.
- 18.3 The Open Viper 640 fleet shall be scored as a separate fleet from the Capdevielle fleet.

19 SAFETY REGULATIONS

- 19.1 Capdevielle competitors shall comply with GYA Section D, Regulation 6.
- 19.2 **All** boats shall comply with USCG and State safety equipment regulations. It is the responsibility of each skipper to determine whether to 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 that retires from a race shall notify the RC before leaving the racing area, or if that is not possible, at the first reasonable opportunity.
- 19.3 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. TROPHIES

Trophies for the Capdevielle Viper 640s will be presented in accordance with GYA Regulation 16. Trophies for the Open Viper 640 fleet and one-design fleets will be awarded to the first-place finishers, with additional trophies potentially awarded based on the number of boats competing in each class. The Host Club may also present additional trophies at its discretion.

24. FURTHER INFORMATION

Regatta Chair: John D. Farris, patssun@yahoo.com, 850-305-9653

Principal Race Officer: William Zehner, wzehner2@gmail.com, 850-628-4047

Chief Judge: Donna Sue Marks, mrpebbles1192@yahoo.com, 727-644-1330

GYA Chief Measurer: William Zehner, wzehner2@gmail.com, 850-628-4047

Yacht Club Contact Information: office@FWYC.org, 850-243-7102

ADDENDUM A

Applies only to the Capdevielle Viper 640, Open Viper 640, and Melges 15 fleets.

USE OF THE VAKAROS ATLAS 2 / RACESENSE SYSTEM

1. Device Requirement [NP][DP]

Each boat shall carry a functioning Vakaros Atlas 2 or Atlas Edge device configured for RaceSense at check-in. Devices may be provided by the GYA Foundation or supplied by competitors.

2. Mounting Location [NP][DP]

The device shall be mounted on the aft side of the mast, centered on the boat's centerline, and shall be verified at measurement and maintained during racing.

3. Competitor Responsibility [NP][DP]

Competitors shall take all reasonable steps to maintain the device in working condition. Any damage, loss, malfunction, or failure shall be reported promptly to the Race Committee afloat or ashore.

4. System Use by Race Committee

The Race Committee will use the Vakaros RaceSense system for starting procedures and OCS identification. Relevant data will be made available to competitors.

5. Usage Instructions

The Race Committee will post instructions for operating the Vakaros Atlas 2 or Atlas Edge device on the Official Notice Board and make them available online.

6. RaceSense Active

RaceSense shall be active unless the Race Committee displays code flag O before the warning signal of a race.

7. Starting Procedure Modification

When RaceSense is active, the countdown displayed on the Vakaros Atlas 2 or Atlas Edge device shall be the official time. Visual and sound signals are provided for information only. This changes RRS 26.

8. Recalls and Penalties

When RaceSense is active, the RaceSense system's electronic identification replaces visual identification of boats infringing RRS 29 or RRS 30. The Race Committee will not display Flag X, any recall flag, or make sound signals to indicate individual recalls. This changes RRS 29.1, 30.1, 30.2, 30.3, and 30.4.

9. Redress and System Failures

Failure or malfunction of the RaceSense system, a Vakaros device, or related communications shall not be grounds for redress unless caused by an improper action or omission of the Race Committee. This changes RRS 61.1(a), 61.1(c), and 61.4(b).

10. Firmware Updates

Between race days, competitors may be required to install firmware or configuration updates. The Race Committee will notify competitors through the regatta's designated communication channels.

11. Start Line Definition (Virtual Line)

The Race Committee will mount a Vakaros device on the signal boat's orange line staff and at the port-end starting mark or starting-line vessel. When RaceSense is active, a boat is OCS when any part of her hull crosses the virtual starting line between the two Vakaros units. This changes RRS 29.1 and the definition Start.

12. Finish Line Definition (Virtual Line)

When RaceSense is active, the finish line is the virtual line between a Vakaros device mounted on the finishing vessel displaying a blue flag and a Vakaros device mounted on the finishing mark or finishing vessel at the opposite end of the line.

13. Flag O – Conventional Procedures

When the Race Committee displays code flag O with one sound signal before the warning signal of a race, Sections 7, 8, 11, and 12 shall not apply to that race. Starts, recalls, penalties, and finishes shall be conducted in accordance with the Racing Rules of Sailing without RaceSense modifications.

14. Flag R – Device Reboot Procedure [NP][DP]

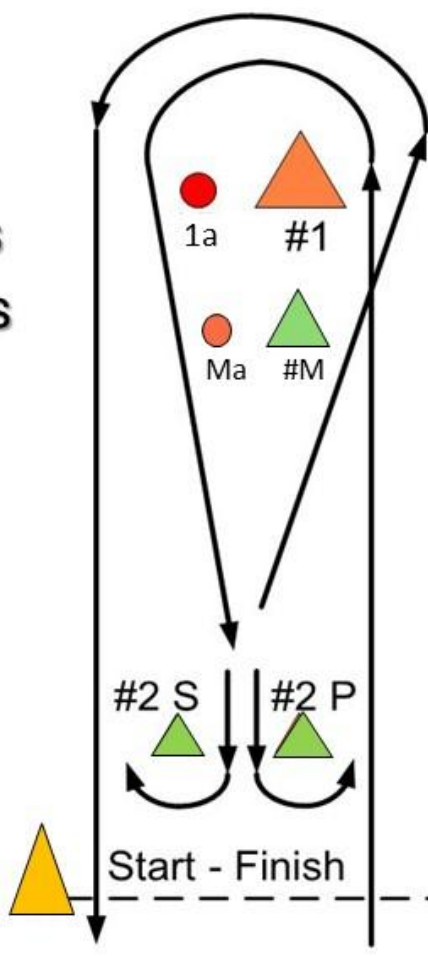
When the Race Committee displays code flag R with one sound signal before the warning signal of a race, competitors shall restart their Vakaros Atlas 2 or Atlas Edge device by turning it off, waiting at least ten (10) seconds, and turning it back on. Code flag R will remain displayed for at least two (2) minutes and will be removed no later than the next warning signal.

Attachment A – Circle Locations



Attachment B – Course Diagrams

Circle 1
Viper 640s
Melges 15s



Course W - Windward/Leeward with Offset
Mark, Leeward Finish

Signal	Mark Rounding Order
W2	Start - 1 - 1a - 2S/2P - 1 - 1a - Finish

Course M - Windward/Leeward with Offset Mark,
Leeward Finish

Signal	Mark Rounding Order
M2	Start - M - Ma - 2S/2P - M - Ma - Finish

Attachment B – Course Diagrams

Circle 2 Wetas Thistles

