



2026

North American Championship



Viper640

September 30 – October 4, 2026
Pensacola Yacht Club, FL



Including Changes Aug 21st: 1.11, 8.4, 8.5, 17.1, 17.5, 17.6, 17.7, 19.1, 19.2, 21, 24.4 and 24.6

Notice of Race & Sailing Instructions



The Organizing Authority (OA) is Pensacola Yacht Club.

1 RULES

- 1.1 The regatta will be governed by rules as defined by the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS).
- 1.2 The Equipment Rules of Sailing that can be found:
(<https://d7qh6ksdplczd.cloudfront.net/sailing/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/29011153/Equipment-Rules-of-Sailing-2025-2028.pdf>)
- 1.3 World Sailing Sailor Categorization Code will apply and can be found:
([https://www.sailing.org/tools/documents/2021SailorCategorizationCode-\[26822\].pdf](https://www.sailing.org/tools/documents/2021SailorCategorizationCode-[26822].pdf))
- 1.4 In RRS 90.3(e) the expression "24 hours" is changed to "30 minutes"
- 1.5 **[NP][SP]** RRS 40 and the preamble to Part 4 are changed as follows:
 - 1.5.1 The first sentence of RRS 40.1 is deleted and replaced by: "Each competitor shall wear an approved personal flotation device (PFD) according to Class Rule C8.1, or a personal flotation device that conforms to regulations of their own country, properly secured at all times while on the water except when temporarily adding or removing clothing."
 - 1.5.2 Add to the preamble of Part 4, after 'racing': "...except rule 40.1 as amended by NoR 1.5.1..."
- 1.6 Addition to RRS 60.2 (a):
(3) "if the protestor is a boat, she shall inform the Race Committee at the finishing line immediately after finishing, or to a Committee as soon as practicable after she retires, of the boat(s) being protested".
- 1.7 National letters and sail numbers are not required on spinnakers. (*This changes RRS 77 and Appendix G1.3 (c)*)
- 1.8 In all rules governing this regatta:
Both 'athlete' and 'competitor' mean a person competing, or intending to compete, in the regatta.
- 1.9 **[SP]** denotes a rule for which a penalty may be applied by a Committee without a hearing. (*This changes RRS A5.1*).
- 1.10 **[NP]** denotes a rule that shall not be grounds for protest by a boat and for which the Protest Committee may refuse to hold a hearing. (*This changes RRS 60.1, 60.5 (b) and 63.2 (a)*).
- 1.11 **Rule RRS 60.4 (a)(2) is changed as follows:**
(2) if it alleges a breach of a rule of Part 2 or rule 31 and is from a boat that was neither involved in it nor saw the incident.

2 CODE OF CONDUCT [NP] [DP]

- 2.1 Competitors and support persons shall promptly comply with any reasonable request or instructions from the Regatta officials, including the officials in charge of the boat parking, beach master and the harbor/channel traffic.

3 ADVERTISING AND IDENTIFICATION

- 3.1 Boats may be required to display sponsors' advertising for the duration of the event chosen and supplied by the OA.

4 ELIGIBILITY

- 4.1 All skippers must be members of V640ICA.
- 4.2 The event is open to all boats of the V640ICA that comply with the Class rules. No helmsperson or crew member may be "paid" to sail in any race aboard a Viper. A signed declaration of compliance with this rule by all participants on Viper 640s at a Sanctioned regatta will be required at the discretion of the Executive Committee and in a form it specifies.
- 4.3 To qualify for the "Corinthian Trophy," boats must have their crew fully registered in Yachtscore, indicating all are Group 1 sailors. Group 1 status will be confirmed by the Organizing Authority against the WS Registrations. Refer to the WS Categorizations page for information on obtaining a categorization number.
- 4.4 In accordance with the World Sailing Statement issued March 19 2024, to help preserve the integrity and safety of the 2026 Viper 640 North American Championships, entries shall be open to participants from all nations except those participants that hold only Russian or Belarusian nationality who refuse to participate neutrally, without national symbols, colors, flags or anthems.





5 REGISTRATION AND FEES

- 5.1 Event documents, current entries and registration are available on-line at:
<https://yachtscoring.com/emenu/50783>
- 5.2 To be considered an entry in the event, a boat shall complete all registration requirements and pay all fees.
- 5.3 On-line registration closes September 19th, 2026, 1200 CST. Entries received after September 19th, 2026, will be accepted at the sole discretion of the OA after explanation by the competitor of extenuating circumstances to be considered.
- 5.4 Registration fees are:

	Entry Fee		Refunds	
	Through September 1 st	September 2 nd to September 19 th	Before September 1 st	After September 2 nd
Fees & Refunds	\$475	\$550	90%	None

- 5.5 Registration fee includes a Regatta T-shirt and all social events for competitors. Additional activities will be announced at registration. Specify your shirt sizes, and please pay for guest meals when registering on-line. Competitors registering after September 1st, 2026, may not receive an event shirt.
- 5.6 Meal plans available for family members, support persons, and guests can be purchased for \$30/person per event/dinner

6 CHANGES TO RULES

- 6.1 Changes to the *rules* will be posted on the ONB before 0830 on the day it will take effect, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted no later than 1900 on the day before it will take effect.
- 6.2 In accordance with RRS 90.2 (c), oral changes to the SI may be made on the water. A change is in effect when the Race Committee signal vessel displays code flag L with one sound. This means come within hail of the RC Signal Vessel to receive the oral changes.

7 PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Day	Time	Action
Wednesday, September 30th	0900 – 1700	Equipment Inspection, Measurements and Check-in
Thursday, October 1st	0900 – 1200	Equipment Inspection, Measurements and Check-in
	1210	Competitor's meeting
	1400	First Warning Signal of the day
Friday, October 2nd	1100	First Warning Signal of the day
	1800	Competitor's dinner at Pensacola Yacht Club and Class Meeting
Saturday, October 3rd	1100	First warning signal of the day
Sunday, October 4th	1000	First Warning Signal of the day
	1400	No Warning Signal after this time
	After Racing	Awards ceremony

- 7.1 No more than five (5) races are scheduled each day. The OA reserves the right to modify the program due to weather conditions or other causes.

8 EQUIPMENT

- 8.1 By the end of Check-In:
- Each boat shall submit a certificate of compliance of the Class rule 10.2 (Not Paid to Sail), signed by the skipper and all crew; and
 - Each boat shall submit a signed measurement form showing the boat is in compliance with Class rules; and
 - All skippers shall sign waiver and release forms; and
 - Corinthian teams shall submit the required information per NoR 4.2.





- 8.2 The Technical Committee may perform a spot inspection and measure any boat, equipment, and sails at any time throughout the event. Competitors are responsible for ensuring that their boats comply with Class rules throughout the event. A signed measurement form does not exempt a boat from RRS 78 and the requirement to comply with all Class rules throughout the event.
- 8.3 In accordance with RRS Appendix G3, a chartered or loaned boat may carry national letters or a sail number in contravention of her class rules, provided that the Principal Race Officer has approved her sail identification before the first race.
- 8.4 **[DP] [NP] Each boat shall have a working Vakaros Atlas 2 configured for RaceSense at check-in, which shall be mounted on the aft side of the mast at all times while racing.**
- 8.5 **[DP] [NP] Competitors shall do their best to keep the system safe and active. They shall inform the Vakaros staff as soon as possible, on the water or ashore, about any problems encountered with the device.**

9 [DP] REPLACEMENT OF EQUIPMENT

- 9.1 Substitution of equipment is not allowed unless authorized in writing by the Event Inspector or his designate ~~before the first race or by the Race committee (Principal Race Officer or his designate) thereafter~~. Requests for substitution shall be made to the Committee at the first reasonable opportunity.
- 9.2 Any substitution granted via SI 9.1 will be posted on the Official Notice Board.

10 VENUE AND RACE AREA

- 10.1 The venue host address: Pensacola Yacht Club, 1897 Cypress St., Pensacola, FL 32502.
- 10.2 The location of the racing area is on Pensacola Bay, Southeast of the entrance to Bayou Chico. See Attachment B.

11 FORMAT OF RACING

- 11.1 The regatta will be sailed in a single fleet.

12 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 12.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed from the flagpole located in the main yard at Pensacola YC.
- 12.2 When flag AP is displayed ashore, 1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 30 minutes.' *(This changes RRS 25.2 and Race Signals)*

13 CLASS FLAG

- 13.1 The class flag is a white flag with the Viper640 logo in red with white background.

14 OFFICIAL VESSELS

- 14.1 Official vessels will be identified as follows:
- Race committee signal vessel with a blue flag and white letters RC.
 - Protest Committee vessels with an INTERCO Flag J.
 - Safety vessels will display INTERCO Pennant 8.

15 COURSES

- 15.1 The diagram in Attachment A shows the courses, the course designations, including the approximate angles between legs, the order in which marks are to be passed, and the side on which each mark is to be left.
- 15.2 No later than the warning signal, the Race Committee Signal Vessel may display the approximate compass bearing of the first leg and shall display the Race Course to be sailed.
- 15.3 If the offset or a Leeward Gate Mark (2s or 2p) is missing the remaining mark shall be left to port.

16 MARKS

- 16.1 Marks 1, 1a and Leeward Gate will be orange inflatable tetrahedrons.
- 16.2 New marks used according to SI 18 will be yellow inflatable tetrahedron.
- 16.3 The starting marks will be an RC vessel with an orange flag and a green inflatable tetrahedron.
- 16.4 The finishing marks will be an RC vessel with a blue flag and a ~~red buoy~~ **green inflatable tetrahedron**.





17 THE START

- 17.1 The start line will be between the staff displaying an orange flag on the Race Committee Signal Vessel on the starboard end and:
- a) The Vakaros device attached to the starting mark on the port end; or,
 - b) When SI17.6 applies, the course side of the starting mark on the port end.
- 17.2 To alert boats that a race will begin soon, an orange flag will be displayed at least one (1) minute before a warning signal is displayed.
- 17.3 The Race Committee may display a board at the stern of the Race Committee Signal Vessel showing the number of the OCS/UFD boats. Any improper action or omission associated with this display board will not be grounds for requesting redress. *(This changes RRS 61.1(a))*
- 17.4 **[SP] [NP]** A boat that does not start within five (5) minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start without a hearing. *(This changes RRS 35, A5.1 and A5.2)*
- 17.5 The visual identification of boats infringing RRS 29 and RRS 30 by the Race Committee is replaced with the electronic identification by the Vakaros RaceSense system. *(This changes RRS 29.1, 30.1, 30.2, 30.3 and 30.4)*
- 17.6 If RC displays a G (Golf) flag with one short sound before the warning signal, SI 17.5 will not apply.
- 17.7 When E (Echo) flag is displayed with one long sound on the RC Signal Vessel means: "All boats are required to reboot the Vakaros device. The warning signal for the next race will not be displayed until the E (Echo) flag is removed."

18 CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

- 18.1 If during a race the Race Committee changes the position of mark 1, mark 1a (offset mark) will no longer be a mark of the course for the remainder of that race. After rounding the new mark 1, boats will sail directly to the gate or finish line.
- 18.2 Any adjustment of any leg of the course, while boats are racing, by moving mark(s) up to 010° in bearing and/or 0.2 nm in length will not be considered a change of course. *(This changes RRS 33)*

19 THE FINISH

- 19.1 The finishing line is between a staff displaying a blue flag on the Race Committee vessel on the starboard side and:
- a) The Vakaros device attached to the finishing mark on port side; or,
 - b) When SI17.6 applies, the course side of the finishing mark on the port side.
- 19.2 Unless SI 17.6 applies, the Vakaros RaceSense system will be used by the Race Committee at the finish line.

20 TIME LIMITS AND TARGET TIMES

- 20.1 The mark 1 time limit, race time limit, the finishing window and target times are shown in the table below.

Mark 1 Time Limit	Race Time Limit	Finishing Window	Target Time
30 mins.	90 mins.	30 mins.	40 mins.

- 20.2 If no boat has passed the first mark within the mark 1 time limit, the race shall be abandoned. *(This changes RRS 32.1)*
- 20.3 **[SP] [NP]** The finishing window is the time for boats to finish after the first boat sails the course and finishes. Boats failing to finish within the finishing window, and not subsequently retiring, penalized or given redress, will be scored DNF. *(This changes RRS 35, A5.1 and A5.2)*
- 20.4 Failure to meet the target time will not be grounds for redress. *(This changes RRS 61.1(a)).*

21 PENALTY SYSTEM

- 21.1 RRS Appendix P, T and US Sailing Appendix V¹ will apply.
- 21.2 RRS 44.2 is changed as follows:
- a) ~~One turn penalty replaces the Two turns penalty. However, when she may have broken one or more rules of Part 2 while in the zone around a mark other than a starting mark, her penalty shall be a Two Turns Penalty, and~~
 - b) Unless the course is shortened to finish at the windward mark, penalties while in the zone of the windward mark or on the offset leg may be delayed and taken as soon as possible on the downwind leg.





22 HEARING REQUESTS

- 22.1 The protest time limit is 60 minutes after the last boat finishes the last race of the day or the Race Committee signals no more racing today, whichever is later. The time will be posted on the ONB.
- 22.2 Hearing requests shall be delivered, within the appropriate time limit, at the following link
<https://yachtscoring.com/emenu/50783>
- 22.3 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. Hearings will be held in the protest room, located at the race office beginning at as soon as possible.
- 22.4 Rule 42 infringements will be posted by the Protest Committee on the ONB before the protest time limit expires.
- 22.5 Within the protest time limit, the RC shall post on the ONB the boats that are disqualified or penalized under A5. A boat so notified may only request for redress within 30 minutes after that posting. *(This changes RRS 61.2 (b) (3))*
- 22.6 Notices of protests by the RC or the Protest Committee will be posted on the ONB to inform boats under rule 60.2 (a) (2).

23 SCORING

- 23.1 One (1) race completed is required to constitute the Championship.
- 23.2 When fewer than six (6) races have been completed, a boat's Series score will be the total of her race scores.
- 23.3 When six (6) or more races have been completed, a boat's Series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst eligible score.

24 COMMUNICATIONS

- 24.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the Official Notice Board Online (ONB) at <https://yachtscoring.com/emenu/50783>
- 24.2 It is required that all boats have a hand-held VHF radio on board to receive communication from the Race Committee and to communicate in emergency situations.
- 24.3 **[DP]** From the first warning signal until the end of the last race of the day, except in an emergency or as required by a rule, a boat shall not make voice nor data transmissions and shall not receive voice nor data communication that is not available to all boats.
- 24.4 The RC may broadcast on the designated VHF Channel:
 - a) the course, bearing and distance information before the warning signal, start times, course changes and any other information important to racing.
 - b) **When SI17.6 applies**, Individual recalls and boats penalized under RRS 30.2, 30.3 or 30.4 using bow/sail numbers. *(This changes RRS 29.1, 30.2, 30.3 and 30.4)*
- 24.5 Any failure of a boat to receive or properly interpret the information, an action or omission of the RC acting under SI 24.4 will not be grounds for request a redress *(This Changes RRS 61.1 (a))*.
- 24.6 **The Organizing Authority (OA) includes the Vakaros Atlas 2 RaceSense as required equipment for this event. Each boat shall either provide a working Atlas 2 at check-in for configuration with RaceSense, or an Atlas 2 rented from Vakaros at the following link: <https://www.vakaros.com/products/racesense-atlas-2-rental?variant=50183164068054>**

25 SAFETY AND SUPPORT PERSON / SUPPORT VESSEL REGULATIONS

- 25.1 A towing line minimum 20 meters (66 feet) long and 6 mm (1/4 inch) diameter is required to be onboard while on the water.
- 25.2 **[DP]** Before the first warning signal of each day, all boats shall sail past the stern of the RC Signal Vessel on starboard tack and check in by hailing their sail/bow number. They shall continue to do so until their sail/bow number is verbally acknowledged by the RC.
- 25.3 **[DP] [NP] [SP]** A boat that retires from a race shall notify the RC before leaving the course area or immediately after arriving ashore via radio contact from PYC (Regatta Director or PYC staff).
- 25.4 Each support vessel shall have a working VHF radio and monitor the radio, an anchor suitable for anchoring in the waiting area, a basic first aid kit and **a kill-cord attached to the driver at all times while on the water.**
- 25.5 **[SP]** No drones are allowed closer than 500 meters from racing areas from the Warning Signal for a race and after the last boat has finished the race. As a penalty for breaching this rule the protest committee may impose a discretionary penalty to all boats associated with the owner / operator of the drone. This *rule* does not apply to the OA drones.





- 25.6 Support persons and Support Vessels shall register with the race office during registration times. They shall declare which boat or boats to which they are attached. Support persons and support vessels shall declare proof of insurance and provide photo ID of the driver. Vessels shall comply with local laws and regulations regarding their operation.
- 25.7 Under all circumstances support vessels are expected to assist any boat in danger.
- 25.8 Support boats shall display a flag or other identification symbol, as may be required by the RC.
- 25.9 **[DP] [NP]** Team leaders and other support personnel / spectator vessels shall be outside of the racing area described in 25.10 and 25.11 below while the boats are racing until the last boat finishes the last race of the day or the RC displays no more races today, unless they are helping a boat in danger. On the water coaching is not permitted at Class sanctioned events at any time (from the moment the boat has left the dock or mooring).
- 25.10 The **racing area** is defined as a surface which borders are over 100 meters from the layline.
- 25.11 The **starting area** is a rectangle with its borders 100 meters to windward and leeward and 100 meters to pin ends of the starting line.

26 [NP] INSURANCE

- 26.1 Each participating boat shall have current third-party liability insurance with a minimum coverage of not less than \$100,000 USD. Proof of insurance must be presented at registration.

27 PRIZES

- 27.1 The top placing North American Team shall be named the 2026 Viper640 North American Champions.
- 27.2 Additional awards may be presented, at the discretion of the OA.

28 DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

- 28.1 Competitors participate in the event entirely at their own risk. See RRS 3, 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.
- 28.2 Sailing is by its nature an unpredictable sport and therefore inherently involves an element of risk. By taking part in the event, each competitor and the responsible adult agree and acknowledges that:
- They are aware of the inherent element of risk involved in the sport and accept responsibility for the exposure of themselves and their boat to such inherent risk whilst taking part in the event;
 - They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their boat and their other property whether afloat or ashore;
 - They accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omission;
 - Their boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the event and they are fit to participate;
 - The provision of a race management team, patrol boats and other officials and volunteers by the event organizer does not relieve them of their own responsibilities;
 - The provision of patrol boat cover is limited to such assistance, particularly in extreme weather conditions, as can be practically provided in the circumstances.

29 CONSENT TO USE NAME AND LIKENESS

- 29.1. By entering the Regatta, competitors accept that they may be photographed and/or video recorded participating in the Regatta and/or using club facilities, and they consent to the taking of such images and to the use, reuse, publication, and republication of such images in any media, in conjunction with the competitors name or not, without compensation and without the competitor's approval of such images or any use thereof.

30 FOR MORE INFORMATION

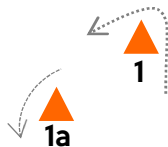
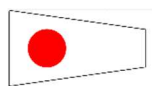
- | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|--|
| • Regatta Chair: | Tom Pace | tompacechair@gmail.com |
| • PRO | Hal Smith | hal_smith@mindspring.com |
| • Class President | Steve Chapman | chaponlac@gmail.com |
| • Technical Committee Chair | Cole Constantineau | |
| • North America President | Peter Beardsley | wpbeardsley@gmail.com |





Attachment A COURSES DIAGRAMS

COURSE 1



WIND

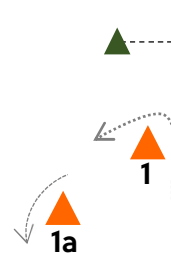
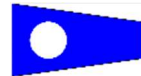


FINISH

START



COURSE 2



WIND



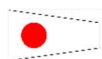
START



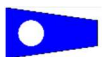
FINISH



COURSE AND ORDER TO PASS THE MARKS



Pennant 1: Start – 1 – 1a – 2S/2P – 1 – 1a – Finish



Pennant 2: Start – 1 – 1a – 2S/2P – 1 – 1a – 2S/2P – Finish

MARKS



1, 1a, 2S and 2P
(Inflatable Orange)

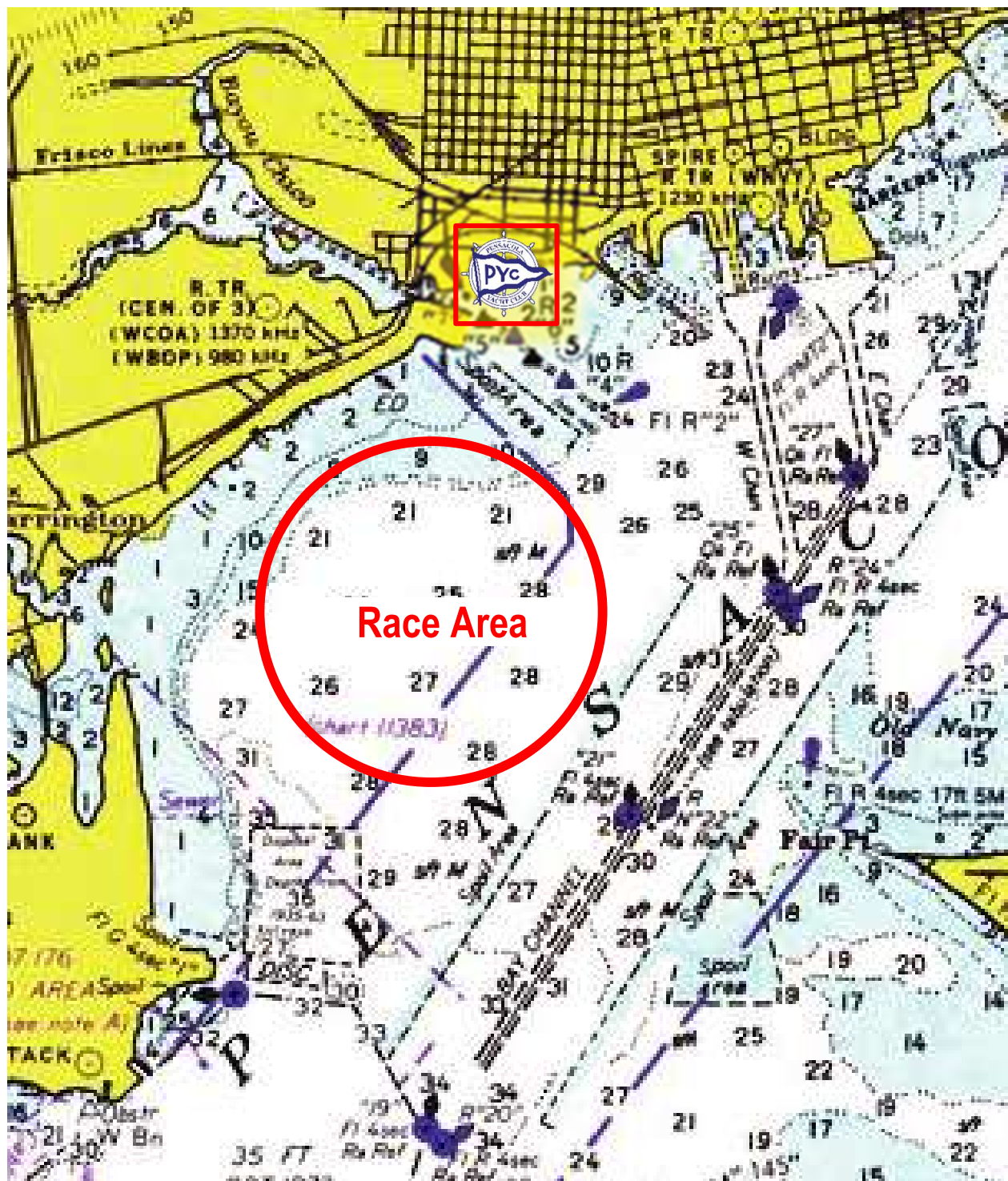


Starting and finishing marks

Marks are to be rounded to **PORT**, except that boats shall sail between the gate marks (2S/2P) from the direction of the previous mark and round either gate mark.



Attachment B RACE AREA





Attachment C

General Information

(Not part of the NoR)

C.1 CAMPING

C.1.1 There is tent camping available at this venue. Prior approval from the Organizing Authority is required. Other local campgrounds can be found at the following link: <https://www.visitpensacola.com/places-to-stay/campgrounds-and-rv-parks/>

C.2 HOTELS

C.2.1 There are no hotels within walking distance of the venue.

C.2.2 Use any of the following accommodation search sites or others to find suitable lodging to fit your budget:
www.expedia.com – for hotels and apartments www.hometogo.com – this site searches all vacation rental sites
www.vrbo.com – vacation rental options www.airbnb.com - vacation rental options

C.3 NEAREST AIRPORT

C.3.1 Pensacola International Airport is the closest major airport and is located 7 miles from the venue.

C.4 PARKING

C.4.1. Parking is available on site next to the boat launch ramps and storage fields.

C.5 FACILITIES CONTACT

C.5.1 Contact Greg Spitzer – Pensacola YC Dockmaster, dockmaster@pycfl.com – to coordinate boats arrival and camping requirements.