



Notice of Race
North Gulf Challenge
May 20-23, 2027

SPYC Ocean Racing Series

The Organizing Authority is the St. Petersburg Yacht Club,
St. Petersburg, FL

This Race is Hosted by St. Petersburg Yacht Club and Pensacola Yacht Club

*All times are in EST

1. Rules

- 1.1. The regatta will be governed as defined by the 2025-2028 Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS).
- 1.2. In accordance with the WFPHRF Rules, this shall be a Race Category 1 event.
- 1.3. This regatta is an Official St. Petersburg Yacht Club Ocean Racing Series event.
- 1.4. As allowed by RRS 88.2, the US Sailing Prescriptions to RRS 60, 63.2, and 63.4 do not apply to these classes.

2. Advertising

- 2.1. Boats may be requested to display advertising chosen and supplied by the organizing authority in accordance with RRS 6.1.

3. Eligibility and Entry

- 3.1. Classes will be Spinnaker, Racer/Cruiser, Cruiser, Double-Handed and Multi-Hull Class. Spinnaker Classes shall hold either a current and valid ORC and/or PHRF certificate. A yacht that holds both certificates will automatically be dual scored. All other classes shall have a current WFPHRF certificate.
- 3.2. There must be a minimum of 4 boats per class to constitute a class. Any class with less than four will be placed in the appropriate ORC or WFPHRF class within their class.
- 3.3. Skippers in Cruiser class must declare their intent to use an asymmetrical spinnaker or a cruising chute no later than 1700, May 19, 2027, by notifying the event Chair/PRO.
- 3.4. All entries must be done on Yacht Scoring. <https://www.yachtscoring.com>
- 3.5. Each entry must include a complete and accurate list of all crew participating in this event.
- 3.6. Waivers must be signed electronically by the skipper and all crew on Yacht Scoring.
- 3.7. No boats' entry will be final without a completed and signed online (YS) waiver from each participating crew member. If there is a crew member substitution, that crew member must complete and sign an online (YS) waiver.
- 3.8. No boat will be scored without completing all entry requirements.

4. Fees

- 4.1. Entry fees paid prior to 1700 April 20, 2027 - \$400.00 (tax included)
- 4.2. Entry fees paid after 1700 April 20, 2027, but before May 13, 2027 - \$500.00 (Tax included)
- 4.3. Deadline for entries is 1700, May 13, 2027. Entries after 1700, May 13, 2027, will be accepted solely at the discretion of the Organizing Authority with an explanation of why and will pay an additional (non-refundable) late fee of \$50.00.
- 4.4. Entry Fee includes two tickets to the Sunday After-Race Party
- 4.5. Boats that entered and withdraw in writing prior to, May 13, 2027, will receive a refund of the entry fee less an administrative fee of \$25.00.

5. Schedule

- 5.1. May 19, 2027 – Registration will be done in person at SPYC. If you have questions, you can also email us through Yacht Scoring.
- 5.2. Skipper's meeting will be held in person at SPYC. Wednesday May 19 for all classes at SPYC.
- 5.3. Pre-Race landside activities will be at the St Petersburg Yacht Club, 11 Central Avenue, St. Petersburg, Florida.
- 5.4. Race Schedule: The Race Committee will attempt to have 1 race for each class. Cruiser Class will start on Wednesday May 19. All other classes will start on Thursday, May 20, 2027.
- 5.5. Cruiser Class- First warning will be at 17:00, Wednesday, May 19, 2027.
- 5.6. All other classes-First Warning will be at 1000, Thursday, May 20, 2027.
- 5.7. May 23, 2027- Pensacola Yacht Club will host the post-race party and awards presentation. Post race activities will begin at 13:00 to include food, drinks, and entertainment.

6. Sailing Instructions

- 6.1. The sailing instructions will be available on SPYC, PYC websites and on Yacht Scoring by May 17, 2027

7. Courses

- 7.1. The course shall be from the start line will be off the St. Petersburg Pier, southerly to "C" Cut Lower Range (Iso R 6s 56ft), southwesterly through the Skyway Bridge, out the Southwest Channel, Bell Buoy G"1" FI G 2, northwesterly to RW "T" MO (A) Recon buoy, north-north westerly to Entrance to Pensacola Bay G"1" FI G 2.5s, will then race up the channel into Pensacola Bay and finish at Pensacola Bay Lighted Bouy 25.
- 7.2. The Course to be sailed will be included in detail in the Sailing Instructions.

8. Safety

- 8.1. Each yacht participating in the event shall be fitted with and capable of the following in accordance with the following SER regulations- SER 2.3.1, SER 2.4.1, SER 2.5.1, SER 2.7.2, SER 3.2.1, SER 3.7.1, SER 3.14, SER 3.15, SER 3.22, SER 3.24.1, SER 3.26, SER 3.27.1, SER 3.32, SER 3.35, SER 3.36,
 - Working head or fitted bucket
 - Lifelines with stanchions and pulpits affixed to the deck
 - A permanently installed manual bilge pump capable of 10gpm operable from the deck
 - Mechanical propulsion system quickly available and capable of 4 hour minimum
 - Jacklines installed with a minimum breaking strength of 4500lbs, allowing the crew to reach all points on deck
 - Life sling with self-igniting light, stored on deck and ready for immediate use
 - GPS with electronic MOB identification
 - Soft (wood) plugs attached or adjacent to every through-hull opening
 - Searchlight
 - Radar reflector
 - Bucket with lanyard
 - Knife, sheathed, readily accessible from the deck or cockpit
 - No halyards that required a person to go aloft to lower a sail
 - For boats over 30', a boom support to prevent the boom from dropping if the mainsail or halyard fails

- 8.2. Crew training. Two persons on board shall hold a current World Sailing Hands-on Safety at Sea Certificate except for a Double Handed entry; in which case one person is required to hold a current World Sailing Handson Safety at Sea Certificate. Both crew members shall have attended a half-day, one-day, or two-day U.S. Sailing Safety at Sea Seminar within the last 5 years, including online courses when available, or hold a valid U.S. Sailing Safety at Sea Certificate, or have attended other courses as accepted by U.S. Sailing or another national authority. One crewmember shall hold a current World Sailing Hands-on Safety at Sea Certificate.
- 8.3. All boats must conform to the current US Sailing Safety Equipment Requirements (SER) for Ocean Racing. In addition to the stated methods of meeting 2.2.1 Stability within the current Monohull SER Ocean U.S. Sailing document, boats may also satisfy their stability requirement for this race by possessing a minimum ORC Stability Index of 115.
- 8.4. Each boat must also meet requirements of ISO 12217-2A 7.2.2 Operative VHF/FM transceiver with Channels 9, 16, 68, 71 and 72. (DSC and GMDSS equipped and MMSI registered VHF radios are required per SER 3.8.1 and 3.8.2.). An operational AIS Transponder shall be carried and be switched on, such that it is receiving and transmitting throughout the race.
- 8.5. Each boat is required to carry a life raft (or life rafts) with an occupancy rating capable of carrying each occupant on board the vessel. Or an immersion (survival) suit for each person on board. SER 3.39 Life Raft is modified to include: The life raft is required to have a canopy but does not need to have an insulated floor. It shall contain at a minimum a 24-hr. pack (ISO 9650 Pack 2), or the Pack 2 equipment specified in WS Offshore Special Regulations 4.20.2 contained in a grab bag that has inherent floatation. It may be stowed in a valise in an immediately accessible location beside the companionway if it does not weigh more than 88lb. Immersion (Survival) suits must have an inherent reserve buoyancy of at least 15.5 lbs. and otherwise meet SOLAS requirements.
- 8.6. Two SOLAS smoke flares shall be carried on board.
- 8.7. SER 13.16.1 is modified to include that a boat shall carry a 406MHz EPIRB that is water and manually activated and is registered to the boat. This device shall be equipped with an internal GPS.
- 8.8. Engine and Fuel (SER 2.7.1): SER 2.7.1 is amended as follows: A boat shall have a mechanical propulsion system that is quickly available and capable of driving the boat at a minimum speed in knots equivalent to the square root of LWL in feet (1.81 times the square root of the waterline in meters) with sufficient fuel to provide range under power for 120 miles.
- 8.9. The following additional safety requirements apply to Doublehanded classes. The VHF/FM transceiver required by SNOR 8.1.2 shall be switched on and accessible from the cockpit while afloat. Each crew shall carry a Personal AIS MOB locator beacon whilst wearing their lifejacket. A lifejacket which shall be worn at all times, while above decks. The Personal AIS MOB beacon may be a substitution for a personal EPIRB beacon.
- 8.10. Each boat shall have a permanently mounted magnetic compass independent of the boat's electrical system suitable for steering at sea (this changes SER 3.19.1).
- 8.11. The mainsail shall have reef points capable of reducing at least 20% of the sail's area.
- 8.12. Each boat shall have installed and current, electronic navigation charts (ENC) appropriate for the race area, at a minimum, including NOAA chart numbers US3GC06M and US3GC05M.
9. **Penalty Systems**
- 9.1. The scoring penalty, RRS Rule 44.3, (a), (b), (c), will apply.
10. **Scoring**
- 10.1. The Low-Point Scoring System of Appendix A will apply, except no race will be excluded.
- 10.2. Spinnaker Classes will be scored using dual scoring, ORC-All Purpose and/or WFPHRF for yachts that possess both valid certificates for this regatta.
- 10.3. The WFPHRF RLC Rating will be used for all classes.

11. Berthing

- 11.1.** SPYC docks will be available to competitors for this event. A dockage reservation can be made via Yacht Scoring or with the SPYC Dock Master no later than May 13, 2027. Contact SPYC Docks at 727-822-3227, dockmaster@spyc.org. Each boat's skipper will be responsible for procuring their own dockage.
- 11.2.** Parking in the SPYC garage is prohibited for non-members. Parking is available in the city parking lot south of the club.
- 11.3.** Dockage will be available for competitors at the Pensacola Yacht Club following the race. Make reservations with the CYC harbor master NLT Saturday, May 19, 2027. Contact Greg Spitzer PYC Dockmaster at dockmaster@pycfl.com. Phone# 850-232-5191. Each boat's skipper will be responsible for procuring their own dockage.

12. Radio Communications

- 12.1.** Except in the event of an emergency, a boat shall neither make radio transmissions while racing nor receive communications not available to all boats, except as modified by the Sailing Instructions. This restriction also applies to cell phones.
- 12.2.** The Official Bulletin board will be Yacht Scoring. All competitors shall have a way to access YS to receive all communications posted.
- 12.3.** The Race Committee may use RRS90.2(C) to make changes to the NOR and/or the Sis on the water over VHF radio.

13. Awards

- 13.1.** Awards will be given as follows. Classes will be divided into divisions according to the number of entries.
- 13.2.** First, Second and Third place awards will be given for each class in the North Gulf Challenge. Other special awards will be given out as deemed by the organizing authority and regatta organizers.

14. Disclaimer of Liability and Personal Conduct

- 14.1.** Competitors participate in this regatta at their own risk. See RRS 3 "Decision to Race" and RRS 4.4. The organizing authority, the sponsors, the race committee, officers, and board of directors of the SPYC and PYC, and all those involved in these organizations will not accept any responsibility for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during or after this regatta.
- 14.2.** The Skipper/Owner of each boat participating in the Regatta shall be responsible for the behavior of each member of the crew of his/her boat both on the water and while ashore. The failure of any of those persons to comply with all federal, state, and local government regulations as well as the St. Petersburg Yacht Club and Pensacola Yacht Club policies or with any reasonable request of the Organizing Authority, Race Officers or their representatives may result in the disqualification of the boat and its exclusion from the Regatta. This modifies RRS 76.
- 14.3.** All competitors shall follow all Current CDC, State of Florida, Pinellas County, City of St. Petersburg, and St. Petersburg Yacht Club and Sailing Center Guidelines/Restrictions for Health and Safety.

15. Further Information

- 15.1.** Please contact Event Chair Joseph Toth at Toth1983@hotmail.com or PRO Paul Goodman, at paulgoodm@gmail.com.
- 15.2.** Future posting will also be available on the SPYC, PYC and YS websites.

16. Additional Information

- 16.1.** SPYC requests that everyone who does not have reciprocity get a Guest Card using a Visa or MasterCard. This can be done online www.spyc.org. On the Home page go to "Regattas", scroll down to "SPYC Guest Card, fill out the information and "Submit".
- 16.2.** The Club requests you and your crew members to submit 48 hrs. in advance of May 19, 2027. Cards can be picked up at the Front Desk upon arrival.
- 16.3.** For Hotel accommodations near SPYC, go to the SPYC website www.spyc.org. From the home page go to Regattas and then Local Accommodations.
- 16.4.** Pensacola Yacht Club (PYC) will provide regatta membership to all race participants and crews, allowing access to facilities and dining. Credit cards will be needed for any payments.
- 16.5.** PYC will have slips and parking available on a first come basis for any participants. Reservations for slips will be required. Information will be shared upon registration.