International Lightning World Championship

Saint Petersburg Yacht Club

April 5-10, 2027

NOTICE OF RACE

The International Lightning Class Association (ILCA) and the Saint Petersburg Yacht Club are the Organizing Authority.

The notation "[NP]" in a rule means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule. This changes RRS 60.1.

The regatta will be organized according to the ILCA's Constitution, its By-Laws, its Document Governing All Sanctioned Lightning Class Championships (hereafter referred to as Document Governing), and the Lightning Class Specifications.

1. RULES

1.1 The regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS).

1.2. Except when RRS 88.2 applies, no national prescriptions will apply.

1.3. Boats are required to carry portable equipment in accordance with the ILCA Bylaws, Article VIII, § 5(a).

1.4. RRS Appendix T (Arbitration) applies.

1.5. The rules identified below will be changed as noted. The sailing instructions may also change other racing rules.

1.5.1. RRS 42.3(c) is changed to read: "Except on a beat to windward, when surfing (rapidly accelerating down the front of a wave) or planing is possible, the boat's crew may pull the sheet only, (not the guy), in order to initiate surfing or planing, but each sail may be pulled only once for each wave or gust of wind. When the mainsail is pumped, only that part of the sheet between the crew member handling the sheet and the first block on the boom shall be used."

1.5.2. RRS 44 is changed to add the following: "The two turns penalty as provided in RRS Rule 44 will apply with the additional provision that when an infringing yacht has its spinnaker drawing at the time of the infringement, drops it completely (below the gooseneck) while taking her penalty, and resets it immediately and has it drawing after the penalty, the penalty is one turn instead of two."

1.6. If there is a conflict between languages, the text written in its original English Document will take precedence.

1.7 International Lightning Class Association Bylaw Article VIII, § 5(a)(ii) is amended to add: "Electronic devices with the following functionality are permitted: Heading, Time, OCS/Clear Start Messaging."

1.8 The Vakaros RaceSense system will be utilized by the Race Committee (RC). This changes RRS 41 (c). A working Vakaros Edge or Atlas 2 configured for RaceSense shall be mounted above any other instruments on the aft side of the mast at all times while racing.

1.9 Each boat shall either provide a working Vakaros Edge or Atlas 2 unit at check-in for configuration with Race Sense or shall rent a unit with mount from Vakaros at the following link: RaceSense. **The deadline for obtaining a rental unit is March 22, 2027.** Those providing their own compass/unit must also have a current RaceSense Annual or Monthly Pass/Subscription from Vakaros.

2. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

2.1 The sailing instructions will be available no later March 25th 2027, online at Yachtscoring.com

2.2 The Official Notice Board will be online at Yachtscoring.com. It is up to each team member to provide an electronic device with internet access. A physical notice board at the venue will replicate the communications.

3. COMMUNICATION

3.1. Use of hand-held VHF radios will be permitted for communication from the Race Committee to competitors on a predetermined channel to be identified in the Sailing Instructions. The Race Committee intends to use VHF radio to communicate with the fleet on the water. Failure to receive communications to the fleet shall not be cause for redress. This changes RRS 62.1.

3.2. The use of any other communication device is prohibited in accordance with the ILCA Bylaws, Article VIII, § 5(b), and such use shall require withdrawal from the race unless determined by the Race Committee to have been for emergency purposes.

4. ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

4.1. The event is open to boats of the Lightning Class per the Document Governing, Articles Governing All Lightning Class World Championships, Article V (Entries). Every nation with organized Lightning activity (at least one Active Lightning Fleet) is entitled to two entries. The host nation is entitled to two additional entries. The defending and past World Champions, current World Youth Champion, World Masters Champion at the time entries are due, ILCA World's VP, and ILCA President have a reserved slot. Three (3) additional entries may be selected by the Executive Committee from Countries not otherwise represented to foster or expand Lightning interest in those Countries. Once the initial selections have been made and if slots are available, the EC may also allocate two slots (2) in the host country's area to expand Lightning Interest. These slots can be by invitation outside of the qualification regatta process.

4.2. Each Lightning National Class Association or National Authority shall inform the ILCA class office no later than November 15, 2026, of the number of boats it intends to enter.

4.3. If a Lightning National Class Association or National Authority cannot fill its quota, those available slots will be reallocated to interested countries by December 1, 2026.

4.4. Each Lightning National Class Association or National Authority shall inform the ILCA class office no later than December 15, 2026, of the competitors that will represent their country. Contact details for the ILCA class office are as follows:

International Lightning Class Association (ILCA)
Laura Jeffers, Executive Secretary
PO Box 475, Tarpon Springs, FL 34688
Phone: (727) 942-7969
E-mail: office@lightningclass.org

4.5. Online registration for identified competitors in 4.4 will be available at Yachtscoring.com. Completed registration must be returned with the entry fee no later than February 15, 2027, to avoid a late fee.

4.6. Registration will close on **March 15**, 2027. If competitors have not completed the registration process by March 15, 2027, they will forfeit their right to participate in the regatta.

4.7. All participants must be ILCA members and are required to check in at registration.

4.8 All participants shall sign a waiver and release of liability holding harmless the Saint Petersburg Yacht Club, the ILCA, its officers, the protest committee, the race management team, and any event sponsors—including their respective members, officers, governors, and agents—from any responsibility for property damage, personal injury, or death occurring before, during, or after the Regatta. By participating, sailors acknowledge they do so entirely at their own risk pursuant to RRS Rule 3.

5. FEES

5.1 The entry fee is $700 USD if paid before 2359 hours on **February 15**,2027. After this date, a $100 USD late fee will be added, which must be paid before March 15th, 2027. Online registration will be available at Yachtscoring.com.

5.2 Entry fee includes awards and prizes, opening and closing ceremony dinner, and a $50 per boat fee to the ILCA.

5.3 Fees are not refundable.

6. CREW LIMITATIONS

Crew shall be three, all of whom shall be ILCA members as per the ILCA By-Laws, Article VIII, § 1 & 2.

7. ADVERTISING

7.1 Boats may be required to display advertising chosen and supplied by the Organizing Authority.

7.2 As per World Sailing Regulation 20 (the Advertising Code), the International Lightning Class Association restricts competitor advertising to hulls only.

8. SCHEDULE

8.1 A maximum of eight (8) races are scheduled.

8.2 The Race Committee will hold no more than two (2) races each day, provided, however, that a maximum of three (3) races may be sailed if determined necessary by the PRO given weather conditions to achieve an eight-race series, and in accordance with the guidelines contained in the ILCA Instructions to Race Committees for Lightning Class Regattas https://lightningclass.org/docs.ashx?id=368809.

8.3 No Warning Signal will be made after 1500 on Saturday, April 10th, 2027.

Day	**Event**	**Time**
April 5, 2027	Registration check-in, boat and sail measurement	10:00 to 17:00
April 6, 2027	Registration check-in, boat and sail measurement	10:00 to 16:00
	Practice race warning signal	14:00
	Opening Ceremony & Dinner	18:30
April 7, 2027	Warning signal first race of the day	10:00
April 8, 2027	Warning signal first race of the day	10:00
April 9, 2027	Warning signal first race of the day	10:00
April 10, 2027	Warning signal first race of the day	10:00
	Prize giving Ceremony & Dinner	19:00

9. EQUIPMENT INSPECTION [DP]

9.1. Each boat shall hold and produce a valid Measurement Certificate at measurement and must display a current ILCA membership decal. Boats, sails, and equipment will be measured and inspected in accordance with the Lightning Class By-Laws.

9.2. All sails shall have Official ILCA Royalty Labels. Mainsail and spinnaker numbers shall be the same. Spinnaker numbers shall be of a sufficiently contrasted color to make sail number identification possible.

9.3. Competitors are advised that the Chief Measurer or a designated representative may make spot measurements and inspection of required equipment on or off the water during the Championship. Boats may be inspected at any time.

9.4. Boats shall be available for measurement on April 5th and 6th unless other arrangements are made with the OA.

10. CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT

RRS 50 is not changed.

11. VENUE

The waters of Tampa Bay, East and Southeast of the Saint Petersburg Pier.

12. COURSES

Courses shall be windward/leeward and may include an offset mark and a gate, as described in the Sailing Instructions.

13. PENALTY SYSTEM

RRS 44 as amended by NOR 1.5.2

14. SCORING

14.1. Scoring shall be in accordance with RRS Appendix A and with the Document Governing.

14.2. Three (3) Races are required to be completed to constitute a series.

14.3. When fewer than six (6) races have been completed, a boat's series score shall be the total of her race scores. This changes RRS Appendix A, § A2.

14.4. 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 score. This changes RRS Appendix A, § A2

15. SUPPORT BOATS [DP]

15.1. Support and coach vessels must register with the OC during the registration hours.

15.2. Team leaders, coaches, and other support personnel shall stay outside the racing area (defined as 100 meters outside the lay lines of the course including the start area) and comply with other requirements as specified in the Sailing Instructions. These requirements begin from the start of the first race of the regatta until the finish of the last race of the regatta. Individual competitors may not use support boats at any time during the regatta unless such support is available to all competitors or is authorized by the Race Committee. The penalty for failure to comply with any of these requirements may result in disqualification of all boats associated with the infringing support personnel.

15.3. [DP] Support vessels shall always display the country code(s) of the country/countries on board while on the water. Identification will not be provided by the Organizing Committee.

15.4. Spectator boats shall not communicate with competitors on the water unless the RC requests that they do so for safety reasons.

16. CHARTERED OR LOANED BOATS [DP]

A chartered or loaned boat may carry national letters or a sail number in contravention of her class rules, provided that the race committee has approved her sail identification before the first race.

17. BERTHING [DP]

[DP] Boats will be berthed on trailers in the SPSC parking lot. There are three cranes to hoist and retrieve boats daily.

18. HAUL-OUT RESTRICTIONS

All boats will be dry sailed at the SPSC.

19. CLEANING OF BOATS

There will be no undue restrictions on cleaning of boats.

20. RISK STATEMENT

RRS 3 Decision to Race states: 'The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue to race is hers alone.' By participating in this event, each competitor agrees and acknowledges that sailing is a potentially dangerous activity with inherent risks. These risks include strong winds and rough seas, sudden changes in weather, failure of equipment, boat handling errors, poor seamanship by other boats, loss of balance on an unstable platform, and fatigue resulting in increased risk of injury. Inherent in the sport of sailing is the risk of permanent, catastrophic injury or death by drowning, trauma, hypothermia or other causes. The Organizing Authority 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.

21. PRIZES

21.1. Prizes will be awarded as follows:

- Perpetual trophy for the ILCA World Champion
- Audrey Matteson Trophy to the highest placing Woman
- Smither Trophy to the highest-placing first-time skipper in the World Championship
- Youth Award to the youngest competitor
- The highest-placing skipper who has reached his or her 65th birthday by December 31, 2027 shall win the Grand Master Trophy.
- The highest-placing skipper who has reached his or her 75th birthday by December 31, 2027 shall win the Great Grand Master Trophy.
- Trophies for places 1 – 10
- Flags to winners of each race

22. INSURANCE

22.1 Every participating boat must be insured with a valid third-party liability insurance, with a minimum coverage of $300,000 USD per incident, or the equivalent.

22.2 Support boats must be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with minimum coverage $300,000 USD.

22.3 A copy of insurance coverage must be delivered at registration.

22.4 The organizing authority is not responsible for verifying the status or validity of those insurance certificates.

23. DATA PROTECTION AND RIGHTS TO USE NAME AND LIKENESS

By participating in this event, competitors automatically grant to the organizing authority and the event sponsors the right, in perpetuity, to make, use, and show, at their discretion, any photography, audio and video recording, and other reproductions of them made at the venue or on the water from the time of their arrival at the venue, until their final departure, without compensation.

24. FURTHER INFORMATION

International Lightning Class Association
Laura Jeffers - ILCA Executive Secretary
PO Box 475 Tarpon Springs, Florida 34688
Email: office@lightningclass.org
Class Office Phone: +1 (727) 942-7969
Website: http://www.lightningclass.org/

Principal Race Officer
Todd Fedyszyn
Email: todd@spyc.org