International Lightning Masters World Championship

Saint Petersburg Yacht Club,

Saint Petersburg, Florida, USA

March 31 - April 4, 2027

NOTICE OF RACE

International Lightning Class Association (ILCA) and the Saint Petersburg Yacht Club are the Organizing Authority (OA) for the International Lightning Masters World Championship.

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, National Prescriptions will not apply.

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

1.4 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 for 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 17, 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 than March 25th, 2027 online at Yachtscoring.com.

2.2 The Official Notice Board will be online, located 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 RC 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 RC to have been for emergency purposes.

4 ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

4.1 The Masters World Championship is open to ILCA Members where the skipper/helmsman is 55 or greater years of age, and the total combined crew age is 130 or greater as of 31 December 2027. Masters teams may register with co-skippers within the team of three, so long as each skipper meets the age requirement herein. No substitution of skippers or crew members is permitted within the team of three as prescribed by the Document Governing, Article VII. In addition, teams with co-skippers will not be eligible for automatic qualification to future Championships.

4.2 Online registration will be available at Yachtscoring.com. Completed registration must be returned with the entry fee no later than February 15th, 2027, to avoid a late fee.

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

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

4.5 All participants shall sign a disclaimer of liability of behalf of the St Petersburg Yacht Club, the ILCA, its officers, the protest committee, the race management team and any sponsors of the Regatta and their members, officers, governors and agents, releasing them from the responsibility of deaths, damages to properties, personal injuries, caused before, during or after the event, understanding they participate under their own responsibility according to RRS Rule 3.

5 FEES

5.1 The entry fee is $525 USD if paid before February 15th, 2027. After this date, a $75 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.

5.3 Fees are not refundable unless otherwise noted.

5.4 Competitors will receive:

• Opening Ceremony and Dinner

• Awards Ceremony and Dinner

• Awards and Prizes

6 CREW LIMITATIONS

Crew shall be three, all of whom shall be ILCA members as specified in 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 Schedule

Day	Event	
March 31, 2027	Registration check-in, boat and sail measurement	10:00 to 18:00
April 1, 2027	Registration check-in, boat and sail measurement	10:00 to 18:00
	Practice race warning signal	14:00
	Opening Ceremony & Dinner	19:00
April 2, 2027	Warning signal first race of the day	10:00
April 3, 2027	Warning signal first race of the day	10:00
April 4, 2027	Warning signal first race of the day	10:00
	Prize giving ceremony & Dinner	19:00

8.2 A maximum of six (6) races are scheduled.

8.3 The RC 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 a six-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.

8.5 No warning signal shall be made after 1500 on April 4th, 2027.

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 March 31st and April 1st, 2027, unless other arrangements are made with the OA.

10 CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT

RRS 50 is not changed.

11 VENUE & RACING AREA

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 For the Masters World Championship, when fewer than four (4) races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores. When four (4) 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 VESSELS [DP]

15.1 Support and coach vessels must register with the OA 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 RC. 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 vessels 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]

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

16.2 Damages or failures in the boats supplied by the Organizing Authority, due to their use and natural wear and tear, will not be grounds for redress. This modifies rule RRS 60.1 (b).

17 BERTHING

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

18 CLEANING OF BOATS

There will be no undue restrictions on cleaning of boats.

19 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 Committee 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.

20 PRIZES

Prizes will be awarded as follows:

• Trophy (Perpetual) for the ILCA World Masters Champion

• Trophies for places 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 of the ILCA World Masters Championship

• 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.

• Individual Race Winner Flags will be awarded for each race.

21. INSURANCE

21.1 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.

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

21.3 A copy of the insurance coverage must be delivered at registration.

21.4 The Organizing Authority is not responsible for verifying the status or validity of those insurance certificates.

22. 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.

23 FURTHER INFORMATION

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