



1st Annual Christmas Run Race

December 28th, 2023

Notice of Race

The North East Keelboat Alliance (NEKA) invites you to participate in the first annual Christmas Run Race, an intended feeder race for the Sailing Inc. Southernmost Regatta. NEKA is both the race manager and organizing authority (OA).

The notation “[NP]” in this and subsequent documents indicates that the relevant rule is only protestable by the Race Committee. This changes RRS 60.1(a). The notation “[DP]” indicates that the penalty for a breach of the rule may, at the discretion of the protest committee, be less than disqualification.

1. RULES

1.1. The race will be governed by:

1.1.1. The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS), except as modified by this Notice of Race (NOR), the Sailing Instructions (SI), or any amendments thereto. The following rules are changed:

1.1.1.1. RRS 52 is modified to allow the use of canting keels and water ballast for boats racing in compliance with a rating which allows them.

1.1.1.2. RRS 41 is modified to allow communication between competitors by VHF Radio.

1.1.1.3. From sunset to sunrise, Part 2 is replaced with the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (IRPCAS).

1.1.2. US Sailing Safety Equipment Requirements (SER) for “Coastal” races except as modified by these NOR’s, SI’s, or any amendments thereto.

1.1.3. The current IMS Rule and Offshore Racing Congress (ORC) Rating Systems rules and regulations except as modified by the NOR, SI’s, or amendments thereto (www.orc.org/rules).

1.1.3.1. ORC Rule 201.2 restricting the amount of water to be carried aboard shall not apply.

1.1.4. Each boat shall carry an operating VHF radio capable of transmitting and receiving on Channels 05A, 13, and 16, and a cell phone, the number of which shall be on file with the OA and which shall be kept on while racing and for two hours after finishing.

1.1.5. [NP] An operational AIS transponder shall be carried and switched on in both receiving and transmitting modes. Failure to comply with this rule shall not be grounds for protest or redress except by the OA, modifying RRS 60.1. RRS 62.1(a) and RRS 63.1 shall not apply.

2. ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

- 2.1. The race is open to all monohulls from 30 to 40 feet in length with a valid ORC Club or ORCi rating certificate.
- 2.2. All entries are to be made online via YachtScoring.
- 2.3. All rating certificates shall be valid by and may not be modified after December 22nd, 2023
- 2.4. An entry fee of \$10.00 per foot LOA shall be paid by credit card or PayPal by December 22nd, 2023. LOA maybe rounded downward to the nearest whole number.
- 2.5. Competing boats may enter into an 'open' or 'four-up' division. The 'four-up' division is described in NoR 2.6.
- 2.6. 'Four-up' crews are to be comprised of four sailors the minimum age of which is at least 16 or older as of January 1, 2023. Two crew shall be older than 16 and less than 26 by December 31, 2023; of the other two crew, at least one must be female. Aside from the minimum age requirement, the fourth crew is unrestricted.
- 2.7. Exceptions requests to NOR 2.6 may be granted at the discretion of the OA, who will have sole authority. Requests shall be made by emailing info@nekasailing.org no later than December 22nd, 2023.

3. SCHEDULE

- 3.1. A skippers meeting may be held at a date and time to be announced and may be held virtually. Competitors are reminded to monitor the Official Notice Board on YachtScoring.
- 3.2. The first warning shall be at 0955 in the vicinity of Port Everglades Lighted Buoy 'PE' [RW MO (A) W 8s]. The start is preliminary scheduled for December 28th, 2023.
- 3.3. Presentation of awards will take place at a date, time, and place to be announced.

4. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 4.1. Sailing Instructions will be posted on or before 1800 on December 26th, 2023 at YachtScoring.

5. COURSES

- 5.1. Competitors will start in the vicinity of Port Everglades Lighted Buoy PE and finish in the vicinity of Key West Entrance Lighted Whistle Buoy KW [RWMO(A) W 8S WHISTLE], leaving a series of marks and the continuous line connecting them, to starboard for an approximate course distance of 160nm. This continuous line is not necessarily indicative of the boundary for safe navigation and does not include the course from the Key West Entrance Buoy to the finish.
- 5.2. The course shall be described in further detail in the Sailing Instructions.

6. PROTESTS

- 6.1. Protests shall be filed as described in the Sailing Instructions as soon as possible after finishing.
- 6.2. A Protest Committee appointed by the OA will decide protests.
- 6.3. RRS Appendix T shall apply.

7. PENALTY SYSTEM

- 7.1. [DP] RRS 44.3 shall apply. In the case of a protest involving the rules of Part 2 and OCS, the boat at fault, instead of being disqualified as a result of a hearing, may, at the discretion of the Protest Committee, have her corrected time increased by 2%. This modifies RRS 64.1.

8. SCORING

- 8.1. [NP] The OA may divide boats into ORC classes based on their ORC rating. Races will be scored using ORC Triple A/P, Time on Time.
- 8.2. [NP] The Race Committee shall announce its intended scoring option prior to the first warning signal, however, the rating band used for scoring will be determined by observed conditions over the duration of the race. The use of a particular rating band will not be grounds for protest or redress.

9. COMMUNICATIONS

- 9.1. Communications will be posted on the Official Notice Board on YachtScoring and may be emailed to the fleet.
- 9.2. [NP] The Race Committee may make announcements via a VHF channel to be described in the Sailing Instructions.
- 9.3. RRS 41, outside help, is changed by adding: (e) Help in the form of information freely available to all boats even if that information is only accessible at a cost. "At cost" help shall not include private forecast or tactical advice, or information customized for a particular boat or group of boats and/or their specific situation.
- 9.4. RRS 41, is further modified to allow communication between competitors by VHF radio.

10. SAFETY

- 10.1. [NP] At least 3 of the 4 crew shall have attended a US Sailing (or international equivalent) Safety at Sea Seminar after May 1, 2018. Such seminars may be attended online (ussailing.org/safety) provided not fewer than two members of the crew, including the person in charge, have attended an International Offshore Safety at Sea Course with Hands-on Training or a US Sailing sanctioned In-person Offshore Safety at Sea Seminar after May 1, 2018. If the 50% requirement cannot be met due to a "Safety at Sea with hands-on training" course not being available, the requirement may, at the discretion of the OA, be met by completing the US Sailing "Online Offshore Safety at Sea" course.
- 10.2. All competitors are strongly advised to follow STC Safety Guidelines for Rendering Assistance. These guidelines are available on the Storm Trysail Club Website.
- 10.3. [NP] Attention is drawn to RRS 1.2 Life Saving Equipment: "Each competitor is individually responsible for wearing personal buoyancy for the conditions" including but not limited to:
 - 10.3.1. Between sunset and sunrise
 - 10.3.2. When alone on deck
 - 10.3.3. When reefed
 - 10.3.4. When true wind speed exceeds 25 knots
 - 10.3.5. When visibility is less than 1 nautical mile
 - 10.3.6. With due consideration to water temperature
 - 10.3.7. At all times when a boat is being sailing double-handed
 - 10.3.8. By all crew at all other times unless the person in charge has indicated they may be set aside.

11. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

- 11.1. Competitors participate in the regatta entirely at their own risk. See rule 3, Decision to Race. The organizing authority will not accept any liability for damage or personal injury, or death sustained in connection with their participation in the regatta, including events occurring prior to, during, or after the regatta. The Skipper/Owner of each boat participating in the Christmas

Run shall be responsible for the behavior of each member of the crew of his/her boat both on the water and while ashore. The destruction of property, the breach of reasonable standards of good sportsmanship by any crew member, or any other person associated with the boat, or the failure of any of those persons to comply with any reasonable request of any Race Officer, Regatta Committee member, or their representatives, may result in disqualification of the boat and its exclusion from the regatta and future NEKA run events.

12. PHOTOGRAPHY AND MEDIA RIGHTS

12.1. Competitors grant NEKA, and its official sponsors, the unrestricted right and permission to use their name and the image for any text, photograph or video footage of either themselves or the yacht they are sailing during the event, to be published or broadcast in any media whatsoever (including but not limited to Press and TV advertisements or Internet), for either editorial or advertising purposes or to be used in press information. In this respect, competitors' names, and any biographical material of themselves may also be used or reproduced in any way known. As part of the registration process, each individual participating crewmember will be required to sign a declaration accepting this waiver of rights.

13. INSURANCE

13.1. Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance sufficient to cover liability for loss, damage, personal injury, or death.

14. PRIZES

14.1. Prizes will be awarded at a date, time, and location to be announced.

14.2. Prizes will be awarded the top three boats in each class.

15. FURTHER INFORMATION

15.1. For further information, please contact NEKA at info@nekasailing.org