



St. Petersburg-Habana Race-February 26-March 5, 2017

Preliminary Sailing Instructions

**The St. Petersburg Yacht Club is the Organizing Authority,
St. Petersburg, Florida USA**

**Hosted by the Club Nautico - Hemingway International Yacht Club de Cuba, Havana,
Cuba**

1. Rules:

1.1 The regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in the *The Racing Rules of Sailing (Rules) 2017-2020*. In the case of a discrepancy between the NOR and these Sailing Instructions, the Sailing Instructions will prevail.

1.2 This is a WFPHRF Category 1 Regatta amended to say that all classes may utilize electric and/or hydraulic winches, auto-pilots and wind vane steering. This changes RRS 52.

1.3 Between the hours of local sunset and local sunrise, Part 2 of the Racing Rules of Sailing will be replaced by Part B, the Steering and Sailing Rules, of the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (COLREGS), otherwise known as The Navigation Rules.

1.4 A Technical Committee designated by the organizing committee may perform random inspections for compliance of the equipment.

2. Notices to Competitors

Notices to Competitors will be posted on the Official Notice Board on the SPYC dock and at regatta headquarters located at the Hemingway International Yacht club at Marina Hemingway, Havana, Cuba.

3. Changes in the Sailing Instructions

A change in the Sailing Instructions will be posted on the SPYC Official Notice Board before 0700 on the day it will take effect.

4. Signals Made Ashore

Signals made ashore will be displayed from the flagstaff located on the east side of the SPYC clubhouse. When flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 Minute' is replaced by 'not less than 60 minutes' in the race signal AP. This changes Race Signal AP.

5. Schedule of Races One race is scheduled

Tuesday, February 28, 2017 - 1000 First Warning Signal

6. Class Flags & Classes

Class flags are:

Grey – Multihull
Yellow – Spinnaker Class
Purple – Non-Spinnaker
White – Cruising A & B
Light Blue – Cruising C & D

7. Course:

- * From the starting line in the vicinity of the St. Petersburg Pier, southerly to the "C" Cut Lower Range tower (Iso R 6s 56ft (N 27° 39.81' W 82° 37.18') leaving it to starboard;
- * Southwesterly through the center three spans and associated fenders of the Sunshine Skyway Bridge;
- * out Southwest Pass, leaving flashing buoy G "1" Fl G 2.5s Bell to port;
- * South – leaving Rebecca Shoal R "4" Fl R 6s to Port Approximately 24°34.44 N - 082°35.28 W
- * to the finish line at the entrance marker for Marina Hemingway

The course will not be shortened and the finishing line will not be moved. This changes RRS 32.1. The rated distance for this race is 284 miles. This distance is not subject to protests or requests for redress. This changes RRS 62.1

8. The Start and Starting Line

8.1 The starting line will be between a staff bearing an orange flag on the race committee signal boat and the starting mark, a yellow tetrahedron.

8.2 Before the first warning signal each boat shall sail past the stern of the signal boat and hail her name and sail number, which will be acknowledged. If unable to check in orally before the first warning signal, she shall hail the race committee signal boat on VHF channel 63 and state her position relative to the starting line.

8.3 Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall stay clear of the starting area and of boats whose warning signal has been made.

8.4 The race will be started in accordance with RRS 26.

8.5 Order of starts:

First	-	Multihull
Second	-	Spinnaker
Third	-	Non-Spinnaker
Fourth	-	Cruising Divisions A & B
Fifth	-	Cruising Divisions C & D

8.6. The race committee may change the location of the starting line in response to certain weather conditions. They will display flag "L" and proceed to the new location. Should the race committee pass a mark or marks of the course enroute to the new location, that mark will be eliminated from the designated course. **The new starting line will then be between a staff bearing an orange flag on the race committee signal boat and a government mark.**

8.7 If the starting line is moved, the rated distance of the race will be adjusted accordingly. The adjusted distance is not subject to protests or requests for redress. This changes RRS 62.

8.8 A designated observer may announce all visual signals being displayed by the race committee on VHF Channel 63. Information reported by the designated observer is provided as a courtesy to competitors and does not in any way alter the competitor's responsibility to observe the race committee's signals that govern the conduct of the racing. Errors or omissions on the part of the designated observer will not be grounds for granting redress. This changes RRS 62.1 (a).

9. Recalls

9.1 The race committee signal boat will attempt to hail OCS Boats on VHF Channel 63. The delay of such a hail or failure of a competitor to hear such a hail will not be grounds for granting redress. This changes RRS 62.1(a)

9.2 After a General Recall, the recalled class's next warning signal will be made after the first attempt to start all other classes. If there is more than one recalled class they will start in their original order.

10. The Finish

10.1 The finish line will be between a staff bearing an RC Flag on the race committee boat and the Marina Hemingway Sea Buoy located at approximately 23° 05.4 N and 082° 30.5 W, leaving the Sea Buoy to port.

10.2 When you are approximately 12 nautical miles from the finish line, call Marina Hemingway on Channel 16 (They may shift you to Channel 77), request permission to enter Cuba Waters and continue to finish. When you are one hour away from the finish call again.

10.3 If the finish race committee boat is not on station at the time of finishing, each such boat shall record her finish time as described in *RRS 34*, the US Sailing Prescriptions, and must submit her finish time to the Race Committee stationed at The Hemingway International Yacht Club no later than eight hours after her finish time. This changes *RRS 34*, the US Sailing Prescriptions.

10.4 Night Finishing

When finishing in darkness, it is the skipper's responsibility to identify him/herself to the race committee by using a strong/bright light to illuminate the sail number in such a manner that they can be clearly read by the race committee, plus call the race committee on Channel 68 until the race committee acknowledges your vessel as finished.

11. Penalty Systems

11.1 The Scoring Penalty, *RRS 44.3* will apply. The penalty will be the number of places nearest to 20% (or two (2) places) of the number of boats entered in a class, or in a division if the class has been divided. Penalties for any infractions of the Racing Rules outside of those for Part 2 and Part 3 may be made at the discretion of the Protest Committee. Alternate Penalty Acknowledgement forms must be turned in no later than eight hours after your finish time. This Changes *RRS 64*.

11.2 *RRS 28* is changed as follows: (a) In rule 28.1, delete the first sentence and replace with: "A boat shall cross the starting line after having been entirely on the pre-start side at or after her starting signal and sail the course described in the sailing instructions and finish." (b) In rule 28.2, delete the first sentence and replace with: "A string representing a boat's track from the time she begins to approach the starting line from its pre-start side to cross it until she finishes shall, when drawn taut, ..." (c) Add new rule 28.3 Penalty: "A boat that does not cross the starting line as required by rule 28.1 will receive the 20% scoring penalty as calculated in *RRS 44.3* without a hearing. This changes *RRS A4* and *A5*

11.3 Discretionary Penalty Rule: The Protest committee can assign a discretionary penalty to any breach of the Rules except for those of Rules of Part 2, for which the penalty will remain disqualification.

12. Protests

12.1 A boat intending to file a protest shall notify the race committee on VHF Channel 16 immediately after finishing.

12.2 Protest forms are available at regatta headquarters. Protests shall be delivered to the race committee no later than 8 hours after the finishing time of the protesting yacht. This changes *RRS 61.3* and *62.2*.

13. Scoring: The low point Scoring System, *RRS Appendix A* will apply.

14. Safety

14.1 The safety of a boat and its crew is the sole and inescapable responsibility of the Skipper, who must insure that the boat is fully sound, thoroughly seaworthy and manned by experienced crew who are physically fit. The Skipper of the boat must be satisfied as to the soundness of the hull, spars, rigging, sails and all gear, and must ensure all equipment is properly maintained and stowed, and that all aboard know where it is kept and how it is used.

14.2 The organizing authority will conduct an informal net throughout the race. Information regarding this procedure will be distributed no later than the skippers' meeting.

14.3 If a boat's engine is operated for propulsion while racing, the details of the operation shall be logged and reported to the race committee within the protest time.

14.4 Boats withdrawing from the race shall notify the race committee by radio or e-mail as soon as possible. If unable to contact regatta authorities, contact the St. Petersburg Yacht Club 727-822-3873 and notify the U.S. Coast Guard that it has withdrawn from the race and state its position and destination.

15. Communications

15.1 Each boat shall carry a transponder.

15.2 From the time of their preparatory signal until they have finished or withdrawn from the race, competitors may not receive weather, current or navigational information except by broadcast from a public source available to all competitors without charge. This restriction also applies to boat-to-boat transmissions.

15.3 General use of the Internet and publicly available web sites to obtain weather and Gulf of Mexico current information including National Weather Service data is permitted. Weather routing data developed specifically for the race may not be received while racing.

15.4 Protests alleging infringement of SI Paragraph 15 shall only be initiated by the race committee. This changes RRS 60.1.

16. Disclaimer of Liability

Competitors participate in this regatta at their own risk. See RRS 4 "Decision to Race." The organizing authority, the sponsors, the race committee, officers and board of directors of the SPYC, 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.