

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS (SIs)

RS AERO WOMEN'S NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

October 4-6, 2024

Hosted By: Fairhope Yacht Club

Organizing Authorities: RS Aero North American Class Association
Fairhope Yacht Club

1 RULES

- 1.1 The event is governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing* and *Class Rules* of the International RS Aero Class Association.
- 1.2 **All competitors shall be a member of the RS Aero Class Association prior to registration at 08:00 Saturday October 5th.**

2 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1 Any changes to these Sailing Instructions will be posted no later than 15 minutes after the Skipper's Meeting on the Official Notice board, located under the clubhouse next to the tiki bar.

3 COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS

- 3.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the Official Notice board located under the clubhouse next to the tiki bar.

4 CODE OF CONDUCT

- 4.1 Competitors shall comply with reasonable requests from Race Officials.

5 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 5.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed from the flagpole, at the gazebo.
- 5.2 When code flag "AP" (postponement) is signalled ashore, "one minute" is replaced with "30 minutes" in the Race Signal AP. This modifies "Race Signals".

6 SCHEDULE OF RACES

- 6.1 October 4, Friday. (all times listed are Central Time).

2:30 Practice Race

- October 5, Saturday (all times listed are Central Time).

09:00-10:00 Registration / Breakfast

09:30 Race Committee Meeting

11:00 Skippers Meeting

12:55 Warning Signal for first race, other races to follow at discretion of

PRO

Lunch provided on the water

No race to start after 05:00 pm

October 6, Sunday (all times listed are Central Time)

09:00- 10:00

Breakfast

11:00

Warning Signal for first race

No races to start after 2:30

Awards

As soon as possible after racing (subject to any protest hearings)

7 CLASS FLAGS

7.1 The class flag shall be an RS Aero Class Flag

8 RACING AREA

8.1 The racing area is Mobile Bay, in front of the club house.

9 COURSES

9.1 There may be three (3) types of courses as defined in Addendum A, Course Diagrams. Multiple times around the course will be designated by a number following the T, W or L.

9.2 For L courses, the start line will be on the port side of the Signal Boat and the finish line will be on the starboard side of the Signal Boat.

9.3 The course being sailed and number of laps for the race will be displayed on the Starboard side of the Race Committee boat. It is the sailor's responsibility to verify the course and number of laps prior to the start of each race.

10 MARKS

10.1 Marks of the course will be orange , the change of course marks will be yellow. Start/Finish mark will be an orange ball.

11 CHECK-IN ON THE WATER

11.1 When the RC boat displays Code Flag L prior to the first Warning Signal each day, competitors shall sail past the stern of the RC boat, on starboard tack, and hail her sail number until acknowledged by the RC. Only the RC may protest alleged breaches of this Sailing Instruction. Should a boat breach this Sailing Instruction, the RC may apply a Scoring Penalty calculated as stated in Rule 44.3(c) without a hearing. This changes RRS 60.1 and 60.3.

12 THE START

12.1 Races will be started using RRS 26. The warning signal will be made 5 minutes before the starting signal.

12.2 As a courtesy, 1 minute before the warning signal of each race there will be a series of short repetitive sound signals to alert competitors that a starting sequence is about to begin.

- 12.3 The Preparatory Signal shall be made with either the P or Z flag.
- 12.4 The starting line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the RC boat and a nearby start/finish line mark of the course.
- 12.5 If any part of a boat's hull is on the course side (OCS) of the starting line at her starting signal and she is identified, the Race Committee will attempt to hail her sail number. Failure to hail her number, failure of her to hear such a hail, or the order in which boats are hailed will not be grounds for a redress for request. This changes RRS 62.1(a).
- 12.9 A boat not in the starting line area at the starting signal or that is in the starting line area but does not start within 5 minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start (DNS) without a hearing. This changes RRS A5.1 and A5.2.

13 CHANGES TO THE COURSE

- 13.1 To shorten the course, the Race Committee will display signal flag "S" from the RC boat along with two (2) horn blasts during the finishing leg of the current lap.
- 13.2 To maintain course configuration during a race, the Race Committee may make minor adjustments of the course, up to 10 degrees and .10nm, without signaling a change. This changes RRS 33.

14 THE FINISH

- 14.1 The finishing line shall be between a staff displaying a blue flag on the RC boat and a nearby start/finish line mark of the course.

While boats are finishing, Code Flag "A" displayed means "no more racing today". Upon finishing, boats shall immediately proceed to the dock.

While boats are finishing, Code Flag "H" displayed means "proceed to the dock" and shall normally signal a break or lunch. Upon finishing, boats shall proceed to the dock.

15 PENALTY SYSTEM

- 15.1 Appendix P, Special Procedures for Rule 42, will apply and is changed as follows:
- In P2.1, First Penalty, the word "First" is deleted.
 - P2.2 and P2.3 are deleted in their entirety.
- 15.2 The alternative penalties of RRS Appendices V1 will apply (two-turn penalty replaced with a one-turn penalty except in the zone around turning marks).

16 TIME LIMITS

- 16.1 The Finishing Window shall be 20 minutes and is defined as the time for boats to finish after the first boat of their class sails the course and finishes. Boats failing to finish within the Finishing Window, and not subsequently retiring, penalized, or given redress, will be scored Time Limit Expired (TLE) without a hearing. Boats scored TLE shall be scored points for the finishing place two more than the points scored by the last boat to finish within Finishing Window. This changes RRS 35, A4, A5 and A10.

17 HEARING REQUESTS

- 17.1 Appendix T (Arbitration) will be in effect

- 17.2 Protests and requests for redress shall be delivered to the Protest Committee within 30 minutes after the RC boat docks and blasts one (1) long horn after the last race of the day. Hearings will be held as soon as possible on the dock.
- 17.3 Hearing request forms are available in the ballroom, a table will be set up to distribute and receive Protest forms.

18 SCORING

- 18.1 The low point scoring system, RRS Appendix A2, shall apply.
- 18.2 One completed race is required to constitute a regatta.
- 18.3 When fewer than (5) five races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores.
- 18.4 When (5) five or more races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.
- 18.6 The Corrected Finish Times of each race for RS Aero and ILCA fleets shall be calculated using International RS Aero Class Association Time Correction numbers per Class Rule H2.1:
RS Aero 5 = 0.960 RS Aero 6 = 1.000 RS Aero 7 = 1.035 RS Aero 9 = 1.070
- 18.7 RS Aero Class Rule H3.2 shall be in effect: A competitor may use a rig size and sail which is smaller, but not larger, than stipulated when finalizing their registration on-site without disqualification. The competitor's scoring however shall always be calculated as that for the rig size which was stipulated at on-site registration.

19 SAFETY REGULATIONS

- 19.1 A boat that retires from a race shall notify the Race Committee at the first reasonable opportunity.
- 19.2 Safety Abandonment: In the event the RC boat pulls anchor to assist in a safety situation, the then current race shall be considered abandoned and signal flag "N" will be displayed on the RC boat along with three (3) horn blasts at the earliest opportunity after the safety situation is resolved.
- 19.3 Weather Abandonment: In the event severe weather is approaching and would make continuing the race potentially unsafe, the RC boat will display Code Flag N over H (code flag V need not be displayed) along with three (3) horn blasts. All boats shall immediately abandon the race and proceed to the Fairhope Yacht Club beach. Further information will be provided to competitors once RC boat has docked.
- 19.4 At all times while on the water, competitors shall wear personal flotation devices, except briefly while changing or adjusting clothing or personal equipment (code flag Y need not be displayed). This Changes RRS Rule 40.

20 REPLACEMENT OF CREW OR EQUIPMENT

- 20.1 Substitution of competitors after check-in is not allowed.
- 20.2 RS Aero Class Rule H.5.1 shall be in effect: The rudder stock, tiller, tiller extension, and hull appendages may be changed during a regatta, this is a change to RS Aero Class Rule C.6.2.

21 BOATS

- 21.1 Boats may be supplied by the Organizing Authority per SI 22 below.
- 21.2 All boats, supplied by the Organizing Authority, or the competitor, shall comply with the current International RS Aero Class Association's Class Rules.
- 21.3 Only the Optional Equipment as specified in RS Aero Class Rules C5.1 may be used at the competitor's choosing. RS Class Rules C5.2 and H5.3 are not in effect. Use of any equipment outside the scope of RS Aero Class Rule C5.1 shall be grounds for disqualification without a hearing of each race where such equipment is used.

22 BOATS SUPPLIED BY THE ORGANIZING AUTHORITY

- 22.1 Boats may be supplied for competitors, who shall not modify them or cause them to be modified in any way except as allowed by SI 21.2 and SI 21.3.
- 22.2 All equipment supplied with the boat for sailing purposes shall be in the boat while afloat.
- 22.3 The penalty for not complying with one of the above instructions is disqualification without hearing from all races sailed in which the instruction was broken.
- 22.4 Competitors shall report any damage or loss of equipment, however slight, to the organizing authority's representative immediately after securing the boat ashore. The penalty for breaking this instruction, unless the protest committee is satisfied that the competitor made a determined effort to comply, is disqualification without hearing from the race most recently sailed.

22 OFFICIAL VESSELS

- 22.1 Official vessels will be identified at the Skippers Meeting

23 RISK STATEMENT

- 23.1 RRS 3 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.**

ADDENDUM A – COURSE DIAGRAMS

	Course W Windward/Leeward, Leeward Finish	
	<i>Signal</i>	<i>Mark Rounding Order</i>
	W2	Start – 1* – 2 – 1* – Finish
	W3	Start – 1* – 2 – 1* – 2 – 1* – Finish
	W4	Start – 1* – 2 – 1* – 2 – 1* – 2 – 1* – Finish
<p>* - if an offset mark (1a) is present, sailors will leave the offset mark to port after rounding the windward mark (1)</p>		

	Course T Triangle, Windward Finish	
	<i>Signal</i>	<i>Mark Rounding Order</i>
	T	Start – 1 – 2 – 3 – Finish
	T2	Start – 1 – 2 – 3 – 1 – 2 – 3 – Finish
	T3	Start – 1 – 2 – 3 – 1 – 2 – 3 – 1 – 2 – 3 – Finish

	Course L (Leeward Gate/Finish) Windward, Leeward Gate – Windward - Finish	
	<i>Signal</i>	<i>Mark Rounding Order</i>
	L2	Start – 1* – 2s/2p – 1* – Finish
	L3	Start – 1* – 2s/2p – 1* – 2s/2p – 1* – Finish
	<p>* - if an offset mark (1a) is present, sailors will leave the offset mark to port after rounding the windward mark (1)</p>	

ADDENDUM B – EMERGENCY INFORMATION AND PLAN

Regatta Co-Chairs ----- Trin Ollinger (251) 583-3875
Randy Fitz-Wainwright (251) 377-8419

Regatta PRO ----- Clinton Edwards (228) 342-6582

Closest Urgent Care Center:

AlphaCare Urgent Care - 210
Greeno Rd, Fairhope, AL
36532

Saturday & Sunday open 8:00 am
to 8:00 pm
(251) 277-5300

Closest Hospital/Emergency

Room: Thomas Hospital -750 Murphy
Ave, Fairhope, AL 36532 (251) 928-2375

Medical Emergencies on the Water:

If required, casualty will be brought into the Harbor, and Race Committee should be notified immediately via Radio Channel 72 and/or phone (see above for numbers).

Severe life threatening injuries:

For example: head injury with loss of consciousness, severe bleeding, drowning, or if any doubt.

- Call 911
- Hail Race Committee via Radio Channel 72 and/or phone (see above for numbers).
- If it is safe to do so, transfer the victim(s) to the safety boat for transport - Proceed to dock for EMS ambulance pick-up

Severe non-life threatening injuries:

For example: severe cuts, broken bones, head injuries when the victim is still conscious, or if any doubt.

- Hail Race Committee via Radio Channel 72 and phone (see above for numbers).
- If it is safe to do so, transfer the victim(s) to the safety boat for transport
- Proceed to dock for first-aid
- As needed, call 911 and wait on dock for EMS ambulance pick-up

Weather Monitoring:

The Race Committee and Dock Staff monitor weather conditions for severe weather. In the event of approaching severe weather, Race Committee will communicate race abandonment (see Sailing Instruction 19.3) and all boats should immediately return to dock for further instruction.