

**2021 THISTLE MIDWINTERS EAST
NOTICE OF RACE
St. Petersburg Yacht Club
11 Central Ave.
St. Petersburg, FL 33701
February 22 - 27, 2021**

1. Rules

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

1.2 As allowed by RRS88.2, the US Sailing prescriptions to RRS60, 63.2 & 63.4 do not apply.

1.3 RRS63.7 shall be replaced by, “If there is a conflict between the Notice of Race (NOR) and the Sailing Instructions (SIs), the Sailing instructions shall apply.” This changes RRS 63.7.

2. Eligibility & Entry

2.1 The event is open to all competitors who meet the Thistle Class Association eligibility requirements.

2.2 Eligible boats may register by completing the entry form at www.yachtscoring.com and paying the required fees. No boat will be scored without completing all entry requirements.

2.3 Competitor check in will be held on Tuesday, February 23rd in the SPYC Regatta Room from 1300 - 1630. All competitors shall sign a waiver at check-in.

2.4 All competitors must agree to abide by the COVID restrictions in effect at the time of the event.

2.5 No boat’s entry will be final without a completed and signed online (YS) waiver from each participating crew member. If there is a crew member substitution, that crew member must complete and sign an online (YS) waiver. The skipper shall inform the OA &/or PRO of the same prior to the first warning of that day.

3. Fees

3.1 The entry fee is \$250 per boat, for boats registering on, or before, February 12, 2021. The entry fee from the February 13th until the close of registration on February 18th is \$300 per boat. The entry fee includes: four (4) days of racing, one (1) hosted keg party, three (3) Welcome Party tickets, three (3) Banquet tickets, regatta trophies & 7% FL Sales Tax. The deadline for entries will be February 18th. Entries after February 18, 2021 MAY BE accepted solely at the discretion of the OA with an explanation note of why, and pay an additional non-fundable late fee of \$50.

3.2 Boats that entered and withdraw in writing prior to February 18, 2021 will receive a refund of their entry fee less an Administrative fee of \$35. Boats withdrawing after February 18, 2021 will not receive a refund.

4. Schedule

Monday, February 22nd

St. Pete Sailing Center available for competitor arrival

Tuesday, February 23rd

10:00 - 16:00 Coach TCA & Training

1300-1630 Registration & Competitor Check - SPYC Regatta Room

1800-2030 Welcome Party SPYC Waterfront Room and Tiki Deck

Wednesday, February 24th

1000 Warning 1st Race MWE

Thursday, February 25th

1000 Warning 1st Race of the day

Pier Party (location t/b/d)

Friday, February 26th

1000 Warning 1st Race of the day

1800-2200 Banquet - SPYC Ballroom

Saturday, February 27th

1000 Warning 1st Race of the day

There will be no warning signal after 1430

1600 (approx) Awards Ceremony SP Sailing Center

5. Sailing Instructions will be available on line and at check in.

6. Venue

Boats will be launched from the SPYC Sailing Center on Demen's Landing, 250 2nd St. SE. The racing area will be on Tampa Bay, east of the St. Petersburg Pier.

7. Courses

The courses may be Windward - Leeward, or Windward - Leeward Triangles.

8. Scoring

8.1 The scoring system will be the low point scoring system of Appendix A, except that no score will be excluded.

8.2 Three races will constitute a regatta.

9. Prizes

Prizes will be awarded to skippers and crews playing first through fifth in the A fleet (A fleet includes skippers who have placed eighth or higher in a chevron event), and first through third in the B fleet. The following perpetual trophies will be awarded: Miami Sunshine Regatta Trophy (top finisher overall), Bruce Watters Trophy (top finisher from Florida), Ol' Thistling Tom Trophy (top skipper over 50 years old) and the Old Salt Trophy (top skipper 60 years, or older).

10. Communications

10.1 RRS 41 is changed to allow the use of hand held VHF radios, but only for receiving communications from the Race Committee, and in emergencies. Use of any other electronic communication devices , including cellular phones, is prohibited.

10.2 The following additional stipulations apply to the Thistle Class Association's Chief Measurer's Ruling 65 and 74: VHF radios may be utilized to monitor weather channels at any time. The Race Committee may communicate safety, or race related information on a designated channel. Competitors are encouraged to monitor the safety channel throughout the race when conditions warrant. Communications between competitors regarding any race information not related to safety is expressly prohibited.

10.3 Electronic, or electronic devices, shall not be used except as follows: digital electronic compasses are permitted provided that the devices do not have the

capacity to provided any information other than the digital compass heading: electronic starting timers and stop watches are permitted: position sensing devices are permitted provided that the information that is recorded, or output is not used onboard.

10.4 The Official Bulletin Board will be Yacht Scoring. All competitors shall have a way to access YS to receive posted communications.

10.5 The Race Committee may use RRS 90.2C to make changes to the NOR and/or SIs on the water.

11. Disclaimer of Liability and Personal Conduct

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

11.2 The Skipper/Owner of each boat participating in the Regatta shall be responsible for the behavior of each member of his crew both on the water and ashore. The failure of any of those persons to comply with all federal, state and local government regulations as well as the St. Petersburg Yacht Club policies with any reasonable request of the Organizing Authority, Race Officers, or their representatives may result in the disqualification of the boat and its exclusion from the regatta. This modifies RRS 76.

12. COVID-19 Policy

12.1 The SPYC COVID Safety Plan is based on the CDC and Florida state best practices and requirements. All participants and guests are required to read and adhere to the safety plan (available at spyc.org) while participating in this event. This includes hand washing, social distancing, use of face coverings, daily temperature screenings and other guidelines that maybe established to protect the health and safety of all participants.

13. Further Information

13.1 The further information contact John Deermount at jdeermount@gmail.com, or George Pennington at epennin09@earthlink.net.

13.2 For accommodations please visit the SPYC website at www.spyc.org - click "Regattas" and scroll to the bottom of the page to "Local Accommodations." A 15 room block has also been reserved at the Hampton Inn at a special rate. The room block is being held thru 1/22/21.

13.3 SPYC Guest Cards can be ordered in advance by Clicking on "Regattas" then "Guest Card" on the SPYC site - www.spyc.org. Fill out the information and your card will be available at registration. SPYC requests that this be done at least 48 hours before arrival.

13.4 Access to the SPYC Sailing Center will be available beginning Monday, February 22nd at 0900 hours. Any boats, vehicles, or trailers left in the SPSC for more than 24 hours after termination of the regatta may be towed at the owner's expense unless prior arrangements have been made with the SPSC Waterfront Director.

14. Final Determination

14.1 A final decision on the conduct of this event will be made by Jan. 7, 2021.