

# THISTLE CLASS ASSOCIATION 2024 MIDWINTERS EAST CHAMPIONSHIP



**March 9 – March 13, 2024**  
**Fort Walton Yacht Club**  
**Fort Walton Beach, FL**

## NOTICE OF RACE

The organizing authorities for this event are the Thistle Class Association and Fort Walton Yacht Club.

### 1. RULES

- 1.1. The regatta is governed by the rules as defined in the *Racing Rules of Sailing* and the *Thistle Class Rules*.
- 1.2. As allowed by RRS88.2, the US Sailing prescriptions to RRS 63.1 and 63.2 do not apply.

### 2. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1. Sailing Instructions will be available at <https://yachtscoring.com/emenu.cfm?eid=16340> and the FWYC registration desk no later than Saturday 9 March, 2024 at 1700 hrs. To conduct a greener regatta, printed paper copies of the SI's will only be available upon request.

### 3. RADIO COMMUNICATION

- 3.1. The RC may transmit via VHF radio information concerning safety, OCS boats, and general information to assist in the management of the event. Except in an emergency, a boat that is racing shall not make or receive voice or data communication that is not available to all boats. VHF Channel will be available in the sailing instructions.

### 4. ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

- 4.1. Skippers must be an Active member of the Thistle Class Association (TCA), boats must have a valid measurement certificate on file with the TCA, and carry class required safety equipment. Skippers may race a borrowed or chartered Thistle as long as the boat is registered with the class.
- 4.2. Eligible boats must register by completing the entry form at <https://yachtscoring.com/emenu.cfm?eid=16340> and paying the required fees.

### 5. FEES

- 5.1. Registration Fee: \$300. After March 1<sup>st</sup> the registration fee will be \$350. No registration will be accepted after March 8<sup>th</sup>. Registration fee includes 3 tickets to the Tuesday dinner at FWYC.
- 5.2. Additional Tuesday dinner tickets are \$30 per person.

### 6. GREEN REGATTA

6.1. This regatta is a Sailors for the Sea "Clean Regatta." All competitors are encouraged to use non-single use water bottles and recycle all appropriate items. Competitors are reminded of rule 47 which states that competitors "shall not intentionally put trash in the water."

## 7. ADVERTISING

7.1. Boats may be required to display advertising which will be supplied by the Organizing Authority (OA).

## 8. SCHEDULE

Friday, Mar 8	1300 – 1700 Coach TCA and Tuning
Saturday, Mar 9	1000 - 1030 Coach TCA 1300 - 1630 Registration and Competitor Check in 1300 – 1600 Team Racing 1700 – 1730 Competitors Meeting 1730 – 1830 Welcome Social at Club
Sunday, Mar 10	0830 – 0900 Coach TCA 0900 - Competitors Briefing 1100 - Racing 1600 – 1700 Coach TCA Daily Recap 1800 – 2100 Party at The Gulf
Monday, Mar 11	0830 – 0900 Coach TCA 0900 - Competitors Briefing 1100 - Racing 1600 – 1700 Coach TCA Daily Recap
Tuesday, Mar 12	0830 – 0900 Coach TCA 0900 - Competitors Briefing 1100 – Racing 1600 – 1700 Coach TCA Daily Recap 1800 – 2100 Dinner at FWYC
Wednesday, Mar 13	0830 – 0900 Coach TCA 0900 - Competitors Briefing 1100 – Racing As soon as practicable after racing – Awards

8.1. On the last scheduled day of racing, no warning signal will be made after 1430.

## 9. MEASUREMENT

9.1. Each boat shall have a valid measurement certificate and be registered with the TCA.

9.2. Boats may be inspected at any time.

## 10. CLASS LEGAL COMPASS

10.1. Per Article XIII of the Thistle Class Specifications and Chief Measurer Rulings electronic compasses must have shift tracking disabled while racing. While racing is defined as from the time a boat leaves the dock to race until racing ends for the day or they are instructed to return to the dock by the RC. Please note that the exception for the Raymarine Micro compass issued for the 2023 Thistle Nationals expired on December 31st, 2023 and a Raymarine Micro compass will not be allowed unless shift tracking has been disabled.

## 11. VENUE

11.1. The Regatta will be held at:  
The Fort Walton Yacht Club  
180 Ferry Road NE  
Fort Walton Beach, FL

32548 Tel: 850-243-7102

11.2. Races will be sailed on Choctawhatchee Bay

11.3. Housing: Limited tent camping only in designated areas at FWYC, contact John Farris for availability (contact information below). Local hotel information is available at <https://www.thistleclass.com/events/2024-midwinters-east/>

## **12. THE COURSES**

12.1. The courses to be sailed will be windward-leeward or windward-leeward-triangle and will be described in the sailing instructions.

## **13. PENALTY SYSTEM**

13.1. A boat that takes a penalty or retires under RRS 44 shall sign the acknowledgement form posted in the vicinity of the clubhouse notice board within the protest time limit.

## **14. SCORING**

14.1. The series scores for boats will be the total of all their race scores, with no races excluded.

## **15. SUPPORT BOATS**

15.1. Support Boats shall be registered and marked with an OA supplied identifier.

## **16. DRY SAIL AREA**

16.1. Dry sail spaces will be assigned for all competitors and be available beginning Thursday March 7. For arrival before the 7th please contact the Regatta Chairman to make arrangements.

## **17. RISK STATEMENT**

17.1. 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.

## **18. INSURANCE**

18.1. Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third party liability insurance with a minimum value of \$100,000 USD. Competing teams must provide proof of insurance at registration on-site.

## **19. AWARDS**

19.1. Trophies will be awarded for first through fourth place. Perpetual MWE trophies may also be awarded.

19.2. Other awards will be made at the discretion of the Organizing Authority.

## **20. FURTHER INFORMATION**

20.1. For any questions or further information, please contact John D. Farris, Regatta Chairman at [FleetCaptain@FWYC.org](mailto:FleetCaptain@FWYC.org) or by calling 850-305-9653, Tommy Glenn at [tbglenn@gmail.com](mailto:tbglenn@gmail.com) or 256-508-4636.