



# MIAMI STAR WINTER SERIES

Coral Reef Yacht Club, Miami, Florida

December 2025 to February 2026

## SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

*The notation [NP] in a rule in the SIs means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that Rule. This changes RRS 60.1.*

### 1 RULES

- 1.1. Each Regatta in the Series will be governed for the entire series by the *Rules* as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing* (RRS).
- 1.2. The Vakaros Race Sense System will be used by the Race Committee (RC) making relevant information available to all boats. This changes RRS 41.(c). See Appendix A for rules and details.
- 1.3. If there is conflict between languages the English text will take precedence.
- 1.4. It shall be each competitor's sole responsibility to properly affix and maintain the bow numbers if assigned and provided at registration/check-in. See Attachment 2. [NP] [DP]
- 1.5. Applicable US Sailing Prescriptions are stated in full on the Official Notice Board.
- 1.6. STCR 35.5 changes RRS 44.1 to indicate that the penalty is a One Turn penalty per RRS 44.2.
- 1.7. Appendix T1 will be in effect. Appendix T1(b) is changed so that the post-race penalty shall be 20%, or 50 % of the difference between the boat's finishing position in the race and the score for DNF, whichever is less, if the number of racing yachts is greater than 15. A penalty acceptance form will be located on the [YachtScoring](#) regatta web page and may be submitted at the CRYC protest desk.
- 1.8. STCR 31.2.6 is modified to allow VHF radios to be carried on all boats for the sole purpose to monitor actions of the Race Committee (RC) and to transmit only in the event of an emergency or retirement on a specific channel designated in the SI.
- 1.9. [NP] STCR 26 is modified to allow the use of Vakaros RaceSense as identified in Addendum 1.

### 2 CHANGES IN SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Any changes to the SIs will be posted before 0900 hours on the day they are to take effect, except that any changes in the schedule of races will be posted by 2000 hours on the day before it will take effect.

### 3 COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS

- 3.1. Notices will be posted on the official regatta notice board on line at [YachtScoring.com](#). A copy may be posted in the north breezeway of the Coral Reef Yacht Club. Failure to post a notice at CRYC will not be grounds for redress.
- 3.2. On the water, the Race Committee intends to monitor and communicate with competitors on VHF radio channel 71.
- 3.3. In the event of an individual recall, bow numbers or sail numbers or identification of a yacht or yachts which are identified as OCS, UFD, or BFD may be announced on VHF 71. Failure of a yacht to see or hear her recall notification, and the timing and order of such hails or the length of time it takes to make a notification on the VHF radio will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 60.1(b). Information gathered on any other VHF or RC communication shall not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 62.1(a).

### 4 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 4.1. Signals made ashore shall be displayed from the CRYC flag staff.
- 4.2. When Flag AP is displayed ashore, 1 minute is replaced with "not less than 60 minutes" after AP is lowered. This changes Race Signals.

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## 5 SCHEDULE

- 5.1. Registration/Check-In on the day before the first day of each event between 1300 - 1600 hours.
- 5.2. A competitor's meeting will be conducted on the first day of each event at 0930 hours, CRYC rules permitting. The RC may provide a short briefing each subsequent day.
- 5.3. Race schedule:
  - Commodore's Cup – December 6-7, 2025. (up to 5 races)
  - Levin Memorial – January 16-17, 2026. (up to 5 races)
  - Schoonmaker Cup – January 16-18, 2026. (includes Levin Memorial, up to 7 races)
  - Walker Cup – Thursday and Friday, February 19-20, 2026. (up to 5 races)
  - Star Mid-Winters – Thursday - Sunday February 19-22, 2026. (includes Walker Cup, up to 10 races).
- 5.4. The scheduled time of the warning signal for the first race of the Commodores Cup, Levin Cup, Schoonmaker Cup, Walker Cup, and Midwinters each day is **1130** hours and **1100** hours each Sunday. For all events, no initial warning will be made after 1500 on Sunday.
- 5.5. For the Commodores Cup, Levin Cup, and Walker Cup, up to five races each are scheduled.
- 5.6. For the Schoonmaker Cup and the Star Mid-Winters there will be up to 10 races scheduled, including Levin and Walker Cup racing respectively. At the Race Committee's discretion, 3 (three) races may be sailed in any one day, but not to get more than one race ahead of schedule.
- 5.7. When more than one race is scheduled on the same day, the warning signal for each succeeding race will be made as soon as is practical.

- 6 CLASS FLAG** The Class flag will be a white flag with the Star Class insignia, or Flag S. This changes Race Signals.

- 7 RACING AREA** The racing area will be on Biscayne Bay one to three miles south of the entrance to Dinner Key Channel.

## 8 COURSES

- 8.1. Courses "3", "4", "6", or "7", STCR 34.3, Format C, STCR 34.3.9, may be used. Courses marked with a "V" after Course Numbers will include the Vertical Offset at Mark 1 (see Attachment 1).
- 8.2. The diagram in the 2025 Star Log is for Course 6 (STCR 34.3.7) is changed to delete the second pass of Mark 3 (immediately prior to the Finish).
- 8.3. No later than the warning signal the RC signal vessel will display the appropriate course number, bearing and distance to the first mark from the signal vessel by placard to indicate the course to be sailed.
- 8.4. In accordance with STCR 34.3.1, no course will be shortened under RRS 32. Courses may be adjusted under RRS 33(b).

## 9 MARKS

- 9.1. Marks of the course shall be orange inflatable marks.
- 9.2. Marks for the start shall be a RC vessel displaying an orange flag at the starboard end and a yellow inflatable mark or a staff displaying an orange flag on a RC vessel at the port end.
- 9.3. Marks for the finish shall be a RC vessel displaying a blue flag at the starboard end and a yellow inflatable mark or staff displaying a blue flag on a RC vessel at the port end.

## 10 THE START

- 10.1. The race committee may sound a series of short horn sounds to alert competitors at approximately one minute prior to the warning signal.
- 10.2. The starting line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the RC signal vessel at the starboard end and a nearby mark or staff displaying an orange flag on the RC mark vessel on the port end.
- 10.3. RRS A4.2 is changed so that a boat not starting within 10 minutes after her starting signal will be scored DNS without a hearing.

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10.4.[DP] A RC vessel may display an "X" flag, positioned near Mark 1 to notify boats that have been OCS or disqualified in accordance with RRS 30.3 or RRS 30.4 and will display their bow number(s). Any boat so notified that she has been disqualified shall leave the race course immediately.

**11 CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE:** To change the next leg of the course, the RC will move the original mark (or the finish line) to the new position.

**12 THE FINISH:** The finishing line will be between a staff displaying a blue flag on a RC vessel and a nearby yellow inflatable mark or staff displaying a blue flag on the RC vessel at the port end. The RC vessel may be fitted with a "stand-off" buoy, which will be considered part of the vessel.

**13 PENALTY SYSTEM:** See SI section 1.

**14 TIME LIMIT:** The time limit will be as described in STCR 34.3.7 Format C. RRS 35, A4, and A5 are changed to provide that boats not finishing within 30 minutes after the first boat to finish will be scored TLE in accordance with STCR 34.6.3 without a hearing.

**15 HEARING REQUESTS**

- 15.1. Protest / Hearing Request and Acceptance of Post-Race Penalty forms are available at the front desk of CRYC and shall be submitted at the front desk. This changes 60.3(b)
- 15.2. The protest time limit shall be one (1) hour after the docking time of the RC finish vessel. The docking time will be posted on the official notice board. Protests shall be filed within the appropriate time limit. This changes RRS 61.3.
- 15.3. Notices will be posted on the breezeway Notice Board no later than 15 minutes after the protest time limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses. Hearings will be held in the protest room and competitors involved should report to the 2nd floor deck on SE side of the CRYC Boathouse.
- 15.4. After a hearing, the penalty for breaking rules other than those of Part 2 RRS28 and 31, that do not specify a penalty may be less than DSQ at the discretion of the protest committee.
- 15.5. RRS 61.2(b)(1) is changed to delete "or two hours after the incident, whichever is later" and RRS 63.7(b) is changed to shorten the time for requesting reopening from 24 hours to two (2) hours. On the last scheduled day of racing, a redress request shall be submitted no later than 30 minutes after the relevant information or decision is posted. This changes 61.2(b)(2).
- 15.6. Within the protest time limit, the RC shall post the bow numbers or sail numbers of all of the boats that are disqualified or penalized under RRS 29, RRS 30, SI 10.4, and /or SI 17.1.

**16 SCORING:**

- 16.1. For each of the Two-day regattas (Commodore's, Levin, and Walker Cups), One Race constitutes a Regatta. For the Schoonmaker Cup and Midwinters, three (3) races constitute a Regatta. The Low Point Scoring System, RRS A, will apply, modified so that each regatta's score will be the total of her races scored (no discard).
- 16.2. Appendix A5.3 will be in effect for the regattas.
- 16.3. For the Winter Series –
  - a. Skippers entered in any individual regatta will be scored for the entire series. Those that do not compete in any individual regatta will be scored DNC based on the number of entrants for that event.
  - b. The Low Point Scoring System, RRS A, will apply as amended herein.
  - c. Two (2) Two-day regattas OR the Midwinter Championship will constitute the Series.
  - d. If all three Two-day events are completed, a boat may discard her worst of those scores.
  - e. Points shall be determined from the finishing place at each regatta.
  - f. The sum of a boat's Two-day regatta scores, in accordance with 16.3(d) above, plus the Schoonmaker Cup and Midwinter regatta scores, will determine her place in the Star Winter Series.
  - g. RRS A8 will be amended such that for the Winter Series ties will first be broken using the Mid-Winter regatta result if sailed, then using the Schoonmaker Cup result, and then, if a tie still exists, by RRS A8, with the word "race" in A8.2 replaced by "regatta".

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**17 SAFETY REGULATIONS(NP):**

- 17.1. Prior to the warning signal of their first race of each day, each boat shall sail past the stern of the RC signal vessel **on starboard tack** and hail her bow or sail number until acknowledged by the RC.
- 17.2. RRS A5.1 is changed to provide that a boat failing to check in prior to the warning signal of their first race of each day will be scored (DNS) in that race without a hearing.
- 17.3. A boat that retires from a race shall notify the RC, the protest committee or the receptionist at Coral Reef Yacht Club as soon as possible.
- 17.4. A boat requiring assistance shall signal by waving extended arms.

**18 EVENT ADVERTISING (NP):** Boats may be required to display event advertising on the forward part of the hull.

**19 TRASH DISPOSAL (NP):** Trash may be put aboard support and RC vessels.

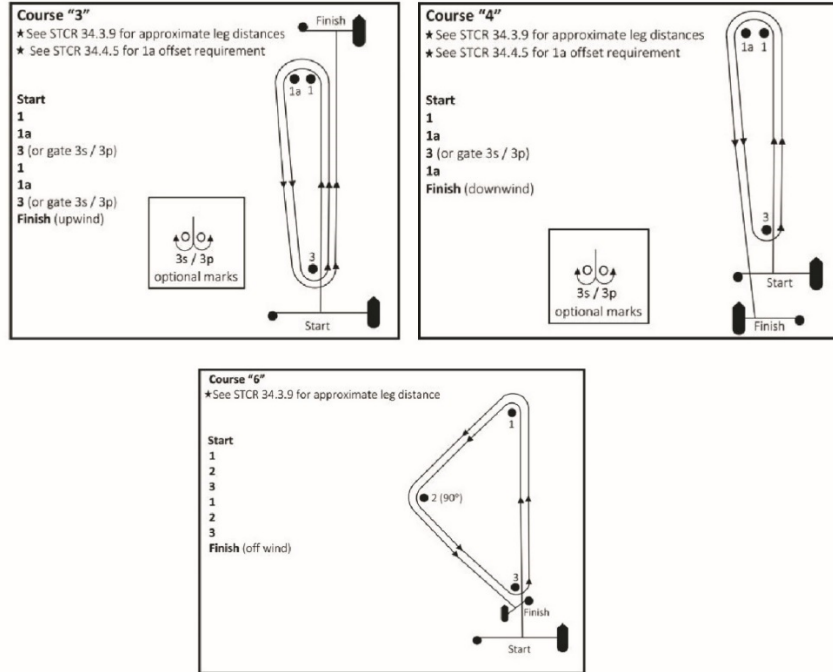
**20 TEAM AND PRIVATE SUPPORT VESSELS (NP):**

- 20.1. Support persons, coach vessels, and private spectator vessels are expected to render assistance to a boat in danger when requested by the boat, or at the request of the RC or protest committee. All such vessels shall monitor channel 71 during the race. [DP]
- 20.2. Team leaders, coaches and other support persons shall stay 100 meters outside areas where boats are racing from the time of the warning signal until all boats have finished racing. [DP]
- 20.3. The penalty for breaking SI 20.1 or 20.2 will be at the discretion of the protest committee (i.e. [DP]) up to and including disqualification of all boats associated with the team or other support persons. This changes RRS 64.5.
- 20.4. A yacht shall receive no outside assistance from support or coach boats while racing. Towing to and from the race course area is permitted.

**21 RISK STATEMENT AND DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY:**

- 21.1. Competitors participate in the series entirely at their own risk. 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.**
- 21.2. The Organizing Authority, the RC, the ISCYRA, and the sponsors will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after the regatta. A Liability Waiver will be posted on the event website and may be signed electronically. Skippers, crews and Support Persons must sign this Waiver In order to participate in the event.

## Attachment 2 to Sailing Instructions - COURSES



### Vertical Offset

"O"



Mark 1



Mark 1A



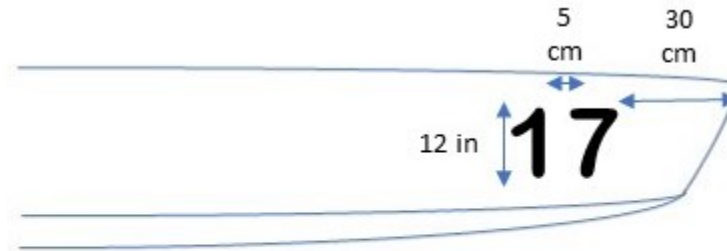
Mark 3/Gate

This language is inserted in the course description:

The R/C will lay Mark 1A between 50 - 100 meters to leeward of Mark 1, and Offset Mark "O" at a 90° angle to the wind from Mark 1A at approximately the same distance. Boats shall pass in order Marks 1A, 1, "O", and then 1A all to port before proceeding to the next Mark, per STCR 34.2. In the event of a change of course, all Marks can be moved to maintain the configuration of the course; Mark 1, Mark 1A, and/or "O" can be pulled entirely; or replaced by a mark boat. This changes STCR 34.3, Courses.

## ATTACHMENT 2

### Bow Numbers



*Note: Not to Scale*

## SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

### ADDENDUM 1 – Vakaros RaceSense

#### RaceSense RRS changes

#### **[NP]Rules and Instructions for Using the Vakaros and RaceSense System**

RS.1 Each boat shall have a working Vakaros Atlas 2 or Atlas Edge configured for RaceSense at check-in. Boats without a configured Atlas 2 or Atlas Edge may have one provided by the OA, for applicable fees. This shall be mounted as required by the OA or class at all times while racing.

RS.2 Competitors shall

- a) calibrate their Atlas 2 or Atlas Edge before registration/check-in. It is the responsibility of the competitor to ensure their device remains in proper calibration throughout the event.
- b) Turn the Atlas 2 or Atlas Edge off after sailing each day. Battery life is approx. 100 hours

RS.3 The Vakaros RaceSense system will be used by the Race Committee (RC) and the relevant information will be available to all boats.

RS.4 Instructions for using the electronic Atlas 2 can be found here [Atlas 2 User Guide](#) or Atlas Edge can be found here [Atlas Edge User Guide](#)

RS.5 Competitors shall take all reasonable measures to keep the Atlas 2 or Atlas Edge safe and operational and promptly notify Vakaros staff on the water or ashore of any device issues.

RS.6 The countdown to the start on the Atlas 2 or Atlas Edge from RaceSense will be the official time. Signal flags will only be used for information purposes. This changes RRS 26.

RS.7 The visual identification of boats infringing RRS 29 and 30 by the RC is replaced with electronic identification through the Vakaros RaceSense system, modifying RRS 29.1, 30.1, 30.2, 30.3, and 30.4.

RS.8 Any alleged failure of the Atlas 2 or Atlas Edge, RaceSense system, or communication systems will not constitute grounds to request redress by a boat or the Protest Committee. This changes RRS 61.1(a), 61.1(c).

RS.9 If the RC vessel displays flag Oscar (Old School) with a long sound signal before the warning signal of a race, RS.6 and RS.7 inclusive will not apply to that race.

RS.10 If the RC vessel displays flag Romeo (Re-Boot) with a long sound signal before the warning signal of a race, Competitors shall restart their Vakaros Atlas or Atlas Edge unit by switching it off, waiting 10 seconds and then switching it back on to reconnect to the RaceSense network. Flag R will remain displayed for a minimum of 2 minutes and will be removed with the next warning signal.

RS.11 If firmware updates to Atlas 2 or Atlas Edge devices are required between scheduled race days, notice will be sent to all boats via email and/or SMS and or the Regatta What's App Group.