



# 2026 J24 Fleet 55 Boat of the Year Series

Organized by the Florida Yacht Club



## Sailing Instructions

### 1. RULES

- 1.1. The series will be governed by the rules as defined in the *Racing Rules of Sailing, 2025-2028* (RRS) and the 2026 International J/24 Class Association Class(IJCA) Rules.
- 1.2. RRS 60.4(a)(2) is changed as follows: "(2) if it is from a boat that alleges a breach of a rule of Part 2 or rule 31 **and** is from a boat that was not involved in, and did not see the incident, or".
- 1.3. The last sentence in RRS Appendix U5 is replaced with "This changes rule **61.2.**"

### 2. ENTRIES

- 2.1. The Series will be open to all J24 Fleet 55 Sailboats as defined by the IJCA. Competitors must meet all ownership and class membership requirements.

### 1. NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

- 1.1. Notices to competitors will be posted to the Fleet 55 Skippers WhatsApp group - This is the official noticeboard.

### 2. CHANGES TO THE SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 1.1. Changes to the Sailing Instructions will be posted to the Fleet 55 Skippers WhatsApp group.

### 2. COMMUNICATION

- 1.1. All competitors must have a working VHF radio aboard and shall monitor VHF Channel 71 while afloat.

### 2. SCHEDULE OF RACES

- 2.1. The 2026 J24 Fleet 55 Boat of the Year Series will consist of the following events:
  - 2.1.1. Summer Points Races  
6 points nights are to be held.  
Points nights will be the last Wednesday of each month, aside from September in which the last points night will be September 16.  
If a points night is canceled, it will be rescheduled to the subsequent Wednesday and will continue to be rescheduled to the next Wednesday until it is able to commence.
  - 2.1.2. Summer Participation Races  
17 participation nights are scheduled.  
1<sup>st</sup> night to be April 22, last night to be September 16
  - 2.1.3. Boat of the Year Races

BOTY #1 - September 26

BOTY #2 - October 10

BOTY #3 - November 14

If a BOTY race is canceled, it will not be rescheduled

2.1.4. 2026 Midwinter Championship

March 13-15

2.1.5. King's Day Regatta

November 20-22

### **3. VAKAROS RACESENSE SYSTEM**

3.1. The Race Committee will use the Vakaros RaceSense System which is further detailed in Addendum RS.

3.2. Each boat will be required to have a registered Vakaros Race Computer to be scored

### **4. CLASS FLAG**

4.1. The J/24 Class Flag will be used.

4.2. If any other fleet participates in a race, either their class flag or any other flag communicated by the Race Committee will be used.

### **5. RACING AREA**

5.1. The St. Johns River East of the Florida Yacht Club.

### **1. COURSES AND MARKS**

1.1. The course to be sailed is described in Appendix A.

1.2. A gate will be placed at the discretion of the race committee.

1.3. Weather Mark: Tetrahedron

1.4. Offset: Ball

1.5. Gate: Ball

1.6. Pin: Orange Cylinder

### **2. STARTS**

2.1. Prior to the first warning signal of the first race, boats will sail astern of the race committee boat on starboard tack or check in on channel 71 to be recorded [DP].

2.2. The Wednesday night races will begin promptly at 1830.

2.3. There will be an attention signal approximately 1 minute before the warning signal.

2.4. An automatic starting system will be used for Wednesday Night Races.

2.5. A delay to the start for late boats is at the discretion of the race committee.

### **3. CHANGE OF COURSE**

- 3.1. After the starting signal, the race committee may change the position of any mark within 20 degrees either side to maintain course configuration, provided that no boat is on that leg of the course. No signals are required. (Changes RRS 33)

### **4. FINISH**

- 4.1. The Finish Line will be between the blue flag on the Committee Boat and the Start/Finish Pin.

### **5. PENALTY SYSTEM**

- 5.1. Penalties will be taken on the course as described by the J/24 Class Association's current rules.
- 5.2. Any boat that does not appropriately take their penalty will be assessed a 0 score for the race in which they were the offender.

### **6. TIME LIMIT**

- 6.1. Boats not finishing within 15 minutes after the first boat finishes, will be scored TLE.

### **7. PROTESTS AND HEARINGS**

- 7.1. The Race Committee shall be notified on the water of a protest.
- 7.2. Protests will be filed in accordance with the RRS before 1830 the following day
- 7.3. Forms are available at:  
<https://www.ussailing.org/resource-library/us-sailing-hearing-request-form/>
- 7.4. A protest committee will be formed soon after a protest has been filed.

### **8. SCORING**

- 8.1. See Addendum B.

### **9. ENVIRONMENTAL & SAFETY**

- 9.1. Competitors shall not discharge trash into the water. Any competitor who throws trash into the water is subject to disqualification. Such disqualification will be posted on the official noticeboard and any competitor so disqualified may request a hearing [DP].
- 9.2. A boat retiring from a race shall notify a RC vessel before leaving the racing area [DP].
- 9.3. Support, spectator, and coach boats shall stay well clear of the course while any race is in progress unless they are rendering assistance to any vessel in danger. If a competitor receives such assistance they shall retire.
- 9.4. No wake is permitted within 500 yards of the racecourse while boats are racing. Violation of any part of this section may result in a penalty being assessed to the competitor(s) associated with the vessel violating this instruction [DP].
- 9.5. If lightning is reported within 10 miles of the racecourse, sailing will be suspended.

## Addendum A - Course

W1: S/F - 1-1a-S/F

W2: S/F-1-1a-4S/4P-1-1a-S/F



## **Addendum B - Scoring**

### **a. Points Races**

- i. Boats will be scored per race in a points high system based on the number of boats that participate in each race. (1<sup>st</sup> place = the number of boats in the fleet; 2<sup>nd</sup> place = # of boats in fleet -1; 3<sup>rd</sup> place = # of boats in fleet -2; etc.)
- ii. Participation in a race is defined by the number of boats that launch and sail to the racecourse with intentions to race. (Example: 8 fleet boats set up to start a race and 2 of the 8 boats are scored OCS for said race. The two OCS boats will be scored as 0 points and the remaining boats will be scored as 8 boats participated in said race.)

### **b. Participation Races**

- i. Boats will receive 1 point for each race they start.
- ii. The top 3 boats of the night (total score for all races) will receive extra points as follows:
  - 1st Place: 4 Points
  - 2nd Place: 3 Points
  - 3rd Place: 2 Points

### **c. Boat of the Year Races**

- i. The Best 75% of a boat's races in the BOTY series will be scored. (eg. if 12 BOTY Races are completed, only the best 9 races for each boat will be scored.)
- ii. Boats will be scored per race in a points high system based on the number of boats that participated in each race. (1<sup>st</sup> place = the number of boats in the fleet; 2<sup>nd</sup> place = # of boats in fleet -1; 3<sup>rd</sup> place = # of boats in fleet -2; etc.)
- iii. Participation in a race is defined by the number of boats that launch and sail to the racecourse with intentions to race. (Example: 8 fleet boats set up to start a race and 2 of the 8 boats are scored OCS for said race. The two OCS boats will be scored as 0 points and the remaining boats will be scored as 8 boats participated in said race.)

### **d. King's Day Regatta & 2026 Midwinter Championship**

- i. Fleet 55 boats participating in each Regatta will be scored based on their relative position to other boats in Fleet 55.
- ii. Boats will be scored per race in a points high system based on the number of Fleet 55 boats that participate in each race. (1<sup>st</sup> place = the number of boats in the fleet; 2<sup>nd</sup> place = # of boats in fleet -1; 3<sup>rd</sup> place = # of boats in fleet -2; etc.)
- iii. Participation in a race is defined by the number of boats that launch and sail to the racecourse with intentions to race. (Example: 8 fleet boats set up to start a race and 2 of the 8 boats are scored OCS for said race. The two OCS boats will be scored as 0 points and the remaining boats will be scored as 8 boats participated in said race.)

e. Bonus Points

- i. Accumulated by participating in non-Fleet 55 sanctioned regattas
- ii. Regattas eligible for bonus points include, but are not limited to:
  - Regattas part of the Florida State Championship Series
  - Any regatta posted on the J/24 official class website
  - PHRF races associated with the First Coast Sailing Association (FCSA)
- iii. Bonus points will be quantified by the following:
  - Out of town regattas will accumulate 1 point per day in which the regatta is held.
  - FCSA regattas/races posted on the [www.sailjax.com](http://www.sailjax.com) 2026 schedule will accrue 2 bonus points for each event in which they participate.
- iv. The organizing authority will decide whether an event outside of the above criteria will be considered eligible for bonus points.
- v. A maximum of 10 bonus points may be accrued in the 2026 calendar year.
- vi. It is the traveling boat's responsibility to notify the Fleet Captain of any bonus points accrued.

f. Final Scoring

- i. At the end of the season, the total points will be added up and the boat with the most points wins.

## ADDENDUM RS - RaceSense RRS changes

### 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 on the aft side of the mast, above any existing instruments and below the boom 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. <https://youtu.be/CA68kFUbPgl?si=2wRoIExFD7Y0f3>

b) turn their Atlas 2 or Atlas Edge on and keep it on until after sailing each day.

c) turn their Atlas 2 or Atlas Edge off after sailing each day. Battery life is approximately 100 hours.

d) ensure their device Firmware and GPS are updated to the most recent versions:

Firmware: <https://youtu.be/qgelN4KS3f0?si=mcZpd5HvVegHH7xO>

GPS: <https://youtu.be/b0nkHbljDc?si=1qZANR5MdqmhHMAk>

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 their Atlas 2 or Atlas Edge safe and operational and promptly notify Vakaros staff or RC 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. RRS 26 starting 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, no VHF hail will be made, flag X will not be displayed and no sound will be made 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) and RRS 61.1(c).

RS.9 If the RC vessel displays flag Oscar 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 with a long sound signal before the warning signal of a race, Competitors shall restart their Vakaros Atlas 2 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 two (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, a notice will be sent to all boats via email and/or SMS and posted on the Official Notice Board.