



Official Notice and Conditions of Race

January 19 – 23, 2009 Key West, Florida USA

Acura Key West 2009, presented by Nautica is an international regatta that will provide both individual and team competition. This event will be organized and conducted by Premiere Racing, Inc., which will have the authority to reject or rescind the entry of

any boat before the start of the first race. The fleet will be divided into divisions and classes at the discretion of the Race Committee. Part 1 of this Notice deals with general administrative information and Part 2 with the Rules and Conditions of Race Week.

Part 1—General Administrative Information

1 EVENT MANAGEMENT

Address all correspondence pertaining to the regatta to:

Premiere Racing, Inc.

Post Office Box 1067

67 B Front Street

Marblehead, MA 01945 USA

Tel: 781-639-9545

Fax: 781-639-9171

Email: KWInfo@Premiere-Racing.com

Web: Premiere-Racing.com

Event Director & Race Chairman: Peter S. Craig

2 RACE WEEK WEB SITE

Periodic updates and the very latest information on the regatta can be found on the event web pages found at Premiere Racing's web site: www.Premiere-Racing.com

3 ACURA RACE HEADQUARTERS

Race Week Headquarters will be located at the Caroline Street lot adjacent to the Reception Tent located in the Historic Seaport at the Key West Bight.

4 SLIPS/DOCKING

Key West and Stock Island have multiple, viable options for mooring. Boat owners are responsible for arranging their own dock space and arrangements should be made as early as possible. Many private marinas do not accept early reservations; however, this does not reflect on availability in the fall and early winter.

Historic Seaport Marina

Tel: 305-296-3838

Fax: 305-293-8369

Email: keywestbightmarina@keywestcity.com

Official Site with Headquarters, Reception Tent, Jury Rooms and Media Center. Located in the "Key West Bight", this city-owned facility features slips, dock space and rafting. Application available on the event web site.

Additional Marinas

Information regarding additional Key West and Stock Island marinas and boat launching options can be found on page 7 and on the event web site.

Truman Waterfront Property

Managed by Premiere Racing during the event with crane operations and other services (mast stepping, launch-haul, turn key services) to be provided by S&S Mobile Marinas.

Dock Space (Inner Seawall) / Float Space (Melges 24) / Ramp Launch and Dry Sailing / Trailer-Container Storage

Premiere Racing

Tel: 781-639-9545

Fax: 781-639-9171

Email: KWInfo@Premiere-Racing.com

Large basin with no draft constraints and is not a private marina with standard marina amenities.

Facility is available from January 2 – 26, 2009. Advance registration is required. Space to tie up along inside seawall — no individual slips or floating docks. Large ramp for launching, hauling and dry sailing. Trailer storage available. Application available on the event web site.

Mobile Marina

Crane Launch-Haul / Mast Step

S&S Mobile Marinas

Toll free: 877-263-7670

Tel: 410-263-7670

Fax: 410-263-6099

Email: info@mobile-marinas.com

Web: Mobile-Marinas.com

5 ACCOMMODATIONS

For information regarding crew accommodations contact The Accommodation Center. The Accommodation Center is a no-fee service, working in cooperation with the race week organizers to provide accommodations for competitors, sponsors and spectators. Open Monday – Friday, 9:00am – 6:00pm EST and Saturday 9:00am – 5:00pm EST.

Toll free: 877-546-5824

Office: 305-296-4887

Fax: 305-294-7356

Email: info@accommodationskeywest.com

Web: AccommodationsKeyWest.com

Premiere Racing would like to acknowledge and thank the Key West Inns and Hotels featured on page 9 that support race week. Please patronize those that support Race Week and visit the event web site for additional information on these establishments.

6 CAR RENTAL

Budget Rent A Car

The official car rental supplier for Acura Key West 2009

Reservations: call toll free 1-800-772-3773 or

online at Budget.com

For the best rates, refer to the event website for the special discount code.

7 EVENT NAME

Any commercial or editorial reference to this event must use the regatta's official name – *Acura Key West 2009, presented by Nautica*. Any commercial video of the event, including web site productions, must be licensed by Premiere Racing.

8 TELEVISION AND PHOTOGRAPHERS' RIGHTS

Competitors and crew members give absolute right and permission to use their name, voice, image, likeness, biographical material as well as representation of their boats in any media world-wide (being television, print, video footage, and internet media) for purposes of press information, reporting, promoting, disseminating information or advertising.

9 WIRING INSTRUCTIONS

Contact Premiere Racing for wiring instructions.

Part 2—Rules and Conditions

1 MANAGEMENT

Premiere Racing is the Organizing Authority for Acura Key West 2009, presented by Nautica, the 22nd annual race week at Key West.

2 RULES

2.1 The regatta will be governed by the current *rules* as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing for 2009-2012 (RRS), the 2008 IRC Rules Parts 1, 2 and 3, the PHRF Rules and Regulations as adopted and amended by the Key West PHRF Consortium, and the 2009 Key West Safety Requirements (to be posted on the event web site on or about August 1, 2008).

2.2 The prescriptions of US SAILING will not apply except its prescriptions to rules 68 (Damages), 76.1, (Exclusion of Boats or Competitors), and Appendix F (Procedures for Appeals and Requests), and its prescription at rule 76.3 (Exclusion of Boats or Competitors), which are included in their entirety on the event web site as an appendix to the Sailing Instructions and will be posted on the official notice board.

3 OTHER RULES & REQUIREMENTS

3.1 All boats shall carry an operating VHF radio.

3.2 All boats shall be sailed by at least 4 persons except the Melges 24, J/80, and Corsair 28R classes, which shall be sailed by at least 3 persons.

3.3 Melges 24 and Corsair 28R skippers and crews shall wear Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs) at all times while racing.

3.4 Crew weigh-ins are required for the Farr 40, J/105, J/109, J/80, Melges 24, Melges 32, M30, and Swan 42 classes and other One Design classes whose rules specify crew weigh-ins.

3.5 IRC crew weight and limitations (IRC Rule 27.4.3): For IRC classes, the maximum total number of crew shall not exceed the Crew Number printed on the boat's IRC certificate.

3.6 The Key West PHRF Rules and Regulations, which include PHRF crew weight limitations, are posted on the event web site (www.Premiere-Racing.com). Premiere Racing's Key West PHRF Consortium will assign PHRF handicaps for this event. The PHRF Consortium will be comprised of approximately 8 members from different PHRF regions across the country. Any questions pertaining to PHRF issues should be referred to Premiere Racing and not to the individual members of the Consortium.

3.7 Acura Key West 2009 will host the 2009 PHRF National Championship. Information and requirements specific to the National Championship will be posted on the event web site (www.Premiere-Racing.com).

4 ADVERTISING

4.1 Those One Design classes that have chosen to race under Category A will sail under Category A for this regatta. Those One Design classes that have chosen to race under Category C and those boats sailing under the handicap rules (PHRF & IRC), will sail under Category C. Boats that intend to display advertising in accordance with Category C must so indicate on their entry form and pay the advertising fee for this category (equal to the entry fee). Class or boat manufacturer names and logos on sails and hulls will not be considered Category C advertising and no additional fee will be required. Competitors are requested to respect the brand exclusivity of the Official Sponsors of this event. Their participation enhances the event for all competitors.

4.2 All boats shall display the event bow stickers on their bow while racing.

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5 ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

5.1 Acura Key West 2009 is open to the first 300 One Design, PHRF, and IRC monohull boats, 24-85 feet LOA between hull perpendiculars, and Corsair 28R multihull one designs that submit a completed entry.

5.2 Acura Key West 2009 is open to those boats whose Owner or Skipper is a current member of their National Authority (US SAILING for U.S. entries; to join call 1-800-877-2451).

5.3 The entry deadline is 1700, December 12, 2008. A completed entry form, a signed waiver form and the entry fee must be received by Premiere Racing by December 12, 2008 to avoid the late fee of \$200. No entries will be accepted after December 29, 2008 without an additional surcharge. Entry acknowledgment will be sent to the first 300 valid entrants shortly after entry receipt.

5.4 The following one design classes are invited to participate: Corsair 28R, Farr 40, J/105, J/109, J/120, J/80, Melges 24, Melges 32, M30, RC44, Swan 42, T-10 and TP52. At the discretion of the Race Chairman, additional one design classes and groups of boats wishing to race level will be provided a separate class start or scored as a separate sub-class within their class based on the number of entries and the event classes that are established.

5.5 PHRF entries must have a PHRF handicap of 175 or less. Entrants who competed in Acura Key West 2007 and/or Acura Key West 2008 and whose boats will be in the identical configuration do not need to submit the full handicap application again or the application fee. They must instead submit the renewal application and all current PHRF handicap certificates. All other PHRF entrants must submit a completed PHRF handicap application, all current PHRF handicap certificates, and US\$60 (check payable to Premiere Racing, Inc.) prior to the December 12, 2008 entry deadline. After that date a late fee of US\$100 must accompany the PHRF application. Current local certificate(s) are required of all PHRF entries for measurement verification only. Assigned handicaps may differ from local handicaps and from the Acura Key West 2007 or 2008 handicap in the case of a renewal application. A Key West PHRF certificate will be sent to entrants after the PHRF Consortium has assigned a handicap. PHRF entrants should not wait for their Key West handicap certificate before submitting their entry.

5.6 IRC entries must have a minimum TCC of 0.970. Competitors wishing to race under IRC must submit a copy of their 2008 valid "Endorsed" IRC rating certificate with their completed entry form prior to the December 12, 2008 deadline. IRC rating applications for US flagged boats can be obtained through US SAILING (401-683-0800 or IRC@ussailing.org). Boats from other nations should consult their rating office or contact www.rorcrating.com.

5.7 International Team Competition

5.7.1 Acura Key West 2009 will feature an International Team Competition. The competition will be based upon cumulative scoring of national/regional teams composed of three boats competing in three separate classes, provided there are sufficient entries in each class. The participating classes may be selected from the Farr 40, Melges 32 and Melges 24 classes. Based upon final entries, the participating classes may be changed at the discretion of the Race Chairman. Each country/region may enter as many as three teams of boats. Teams may be nominated from geographically recognized regions such as Europe or the Pacific Rim when there are not sufficient boats from a single country represented to constitute a three-boat team. Team nominations should be received in writing no later than December 12, 2008. Team applications are available by contacting Premiere Racing or on the event web site.

5.7.2 If a three boat team cannot be created from one country or region, two of the three boats on each team may hail from or be chartered by representatives from the country or region represented. At least 30% of the crew members from those two boats should be nationals or legal residents of that country or region.

5.8 Each owner, skipper and individual participating crew member shall execute a waiver of liability and media release / crew waiver. This form will be available on the event web site and on site at Acura Race Headquarters.

6 FEES

6.1 The entry application shall be accompanied by an entry fee. The entry fee, based on LOA, is delineated below. An administrative fee of US\$100 will be applied to any cancellations.

24'	\$725
25' – 29'	\$775
30' – 34'	\$850
35' – 39'	\$950
40' – 44'	\$1,150
45' – 49'	\$1,300
50' – 54'	\$1,600
55' +	\$1,900

A boat's LOA is to be rounded to the lower whole number (i.e. 29.01' = 29' and 29.99' = 29') for the purpose of determining entry fees.

6.2 A Race Week Access Card will be required for each person participating in any of the event's shoreside activities. The card provides access to the race week reception tent and Industry Partner exhibit area for six evenings. Shoreside activities will include trophy presentations, beverages, raffle prizes, Sponsor and Partner demonstrations, panel discussions, snacks, race video, music and local Key West entertainment. Access Cards, which are optional, are US\$60 in advance and US\$65 on-site (price includes sales tax).

7 PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, January 16

1300-1800 One Design Crew Weigh-In / Bow Stickers & Numbers Available for Pre-Registration Pick Up

Saturday, January 17

0900-1800 One Design Crew Weigh-In / Bow Stickers & Numbers Available for Pre-Registration Pick Up

Sunday, January 18

0800-0900 Filing of PHRF Handicap Appeals
 0900-1200 PHRF Rating Appeal Hearings
 0900-1800 One Design Crew Weigh-In
 0900-1700 Registration
 1600-1700 Presentation / Panel Discussion
 1700-1730 Skippers' Meeting
 1800-2000 Welcoming Reception



Monday-Friday, January 19 – 23

0900 Harbor Start
 1030-1630 Racing
 1700-1800 Shoreside Activities and Briefings
 1800-2000 Prize Giving and Evening Party

8 MEASUREMENT, APPEALS AND CLASSES

8.1 The preliminary scratch sheet will be available on or before December 30, 2008 on the event web site.

8.2 PHRF

8.2.1 Best efforts will be made to have the preliminary PHRF class breaks with the PHRF handicap for each entry posted on the event web site by December 30, 2008. Additionally, they will be posted on-site at Acura Race Headquarters no later than 1800 on

Saturday, January 17, 2009.

8.2.2 PHRF Class Breaks: In an effort to provide 'like racing' under PHRF, boat displacement, sail area to displacement, and other factors will be considered when determining class breaks. Rating adjustments of up to 3 seconds per mile may be assigned to boats after class splits are determined.

8.2.3 Premiere Racing will appoint a Special PHRF Handicapping Appeals Committee. Those owners who wish to appeal their handicap or the handicap of a competitor must pay an administrative fee of US\$150 for each handicap they are appealing and submit their appeal in writing to Premiere Racing no later than Tuesday January 6, 2009. Checks should be payable to Premiere Racing, Inc. If the appeal is denied, this fee will be donated to race week's official charity - Shake-A-Leg Miami. If the appeal is upheld the fee will be returned to the appellant. Appeals should be filed only if there is new and relevant information that the Consortium was unaware of at the time the handicap was assigned. Any questions pertaining to PHRF handicaps should be referred to Premiere Racing and not to the individual members of the PHRF Consortium.

8.2.4 No appeals will be accepted on-site except those dealing with administrative or certificate errors. On-site appeals must be submitted at Acura Race Headquarters between 0800-0900 Sunday, January 18, 2009. Both appellant and owner/representative of the boat whose rating is being appealed (if applicable) must be at Race Headquarters at 0900 for the appeal hearing. The appellant is responsible for notifying the owner of the boat whose rating is being appealed (if applicable). Appeal forms are available by contacting Premiere Racing.

8.3 IRC

8.3.1 The IRC Rating Authority has directed that the 2008 IRC Rules shall apply and that the validity of the 2008 IRC certificates is extended for the purpose of the Acura Key West 2009.

8.3.2 Owners must provide an "Endorsed" IRC rating certificate. To insure receipt of an endorsed certificate by the December 12 deadline, US flagged boats are to submit a fully completed, measurer verified IRC application to IRC@ussailing.org prior to November 14, 2008. Boats from other nations should consult their IRC Rule Authority as shown on www.rorcrating.com.

8.3.3 Rating changes must be submitted to US SAILING (or for non-U.S. boats to their appropriate IRC Rule Authority) prior to 1700 (EST) Friday January 9, 2009. Requests submitted to a Rule Authority after 1700 (EST) Monday January 5 will be subject to Expedited Processing fees. Acceptance of changes submitted after that date require the approval of the RORC Rating Office. Except in the case of Rating Office error, or (at the discretion of the RORC Rating Office) other errors which increase TCC, no IRC rating change will be accepted after January 15, 2009.

8.3.4 For the 'IRC Big Boat Class' (or Classes) only, IRC Rules 26.1.5 (d) and (e) are replaced. For reference purposes, the minimum TCC in 2008 for the Big Boat Class was 1.277 (2009 TCC to be determined following the entry deadline, December 12, 2008).

IRC Rule 26.1.5 (d) is replaced with: During the regatta, the sails carried (including mainsails) may vary from day to day but shall remain the same for each individual race day, including multiple race days and cases of damage to sails.

9 SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

The Sailing Instructions will be available on or about January 2, 2009 on the event web site and at Race Headquarters beginning on Saturday, January 17, 2009.

10 RACING AREAS

It is anticipated that there will be four separate racing areas, one for each Division. As entries and class splits are not known in advance, it is not possible to assign definitive racing areas in advance for all PHRF, IRC and One Design boats. The preliminary class assignments listed below are based on past entries and are subject to change. The most likely rendezvous locations for each Division follow:

Division 1

Farr 40, Melges 32, M30:

West of the Main Ship Channel and west of Division 2, approximately 3.8NM West/Southwest of buoy G"9"

Division 2

TP52, RC 44, Swan 42, IRC, J/120, Larger PHRF classes:

West of the Main Ship Channel, approximately 1.5NM South/Southwest of buoy G"9"

Division 3

Melges 24, J/105, J/80:

East of the Main Ship Channel, approximately 2.2NM Southeast of buoy G"9"

Division 4

Corsair 28R, J/109, T-10, Smaller PHRF classes:

South of Stock Island, approximately 4.2NM East of buoy G"9"

11 SCORING

11.1 Ten races are scheduled of which three must be completed to constitute a series. A maximum of three races may be held on any race day.

11.2 Except for the Farr 40, M30 and J/105 classes, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score subject to rule 90.3(b) if at least seven races are completed. For the Farr 40, M30 and J/105 classes, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores. No scores will be excluded.

11.3 PHRF Scoring

11.3.1 PHRF Classes will be scored using the handicaps provided by the Key West PHRF Consortium with the actual course distances used.

11.3.2 For the PHRF National Championship, PHRF Classes will be scored utilizing a combined objective and subjective criteria (posted on the event web site).

11.4 The IRC Classes will be scored using the IRC Time Correction Factor using time on time scoring.

12 DECISIONS OF THE JURY

12.1 When an international jury is constituted in accordance with rules 70.5, 91(b) and Appendix N its decisions are final.

12.2 Decisions of a national jury are subject to appeal.

13 ARBITRATION

For protests involving an alleged breach of the rules of Part 2 of the RRS, a short arbitration hearing will be held prior to a protest hearing. This modifies Part 5 Section B of the RRS.

14 RESPONSIBILITY

14.1 The safety of a boat and its crew is the sole and inescapable responsibility of the Skipper who must ensure that the boat is fully sound, thoroughly seaworthy and manned by an experienced and physically capable crew. Neither the establishment of regulations or inspection of a boat in any way limits or reduces the complete and unlimited responsibility of the Skipper.

14.2 It is the sole and inescapable responsibility of each boat to decide whether or not to start or continue in any race.

14.3 Premiere Racing and participating Sponsors and Industry Partners of Acura Key West 2009 do not accept responsibility for loss of

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PHRF Weight Limits

For all PHRF entries, boats will be rated within the following Base Crew Weight Limitations. Crew weigh-ins are not required for PHRF entries, but PHRF Crew Weight Limitations may be subject to protest. Boats shall sail with the same crew in all races, unless crew change is approved by the Race Chairman. Any request for changes in crew or crew numbers must be submitted to the Race Office in writing prior to the race in which the change is to take place. In addition, boats may carry up to two additional crewmembers above their designated crew weight limitation provided they accept a handicap 'adjustment' as prescribed below. Entrants intending to carry additional crewmembers must so indicate on their PHRF handicap application. The PHRF handicap will be adjusted accordingly and the adjusted handicap will stand for the series.

Up to LOA (ft)	Base Weight Limit (lbs)	Approximate Crew Number
25.00	900	5
27.00	1,080	6
30.00	1,260	7
32.00	1,440	8
34.00	1,620	9
37.00	1,800	10
40.00	1,980	11
43.00	2,160	12
45.00	2,340	13
50.00	2,520	14
53+	Additional 180 pounds (approximately 1 crew) for each 3 feet of LOA over 50 feet	

A boat's LOA is to be rounded to the nearest foot. For example, a 25.49 foot boat is rounded to 25 feet LOA and is allowed a base crew weight of 900 pounds. A 25.5 foot boat is rounded to 26 feet LOA and is allowed a base crew weight of 1,080 pounds.

Rating adjustment for each additional 180 pounds or part thereof (based on rounded length as described above):

24.00-36.00'	3 sec/mile
37.00-49.00'	2 sec/mile
50.00+	1 sec/mile

(No more than 360 extra pounds of crew weight (approximately 2 additional crew) may be carried)

life or injury to participants or others, or for the loss or damage to any vessel in any way or from any cause during or related to this event.

15 PRIZES

15.1 Regatta class awards will be presented to first, second and third place boats each day.

15.2 Overall series awards based on the cumulative scores for the event will be awarded to first, second and third place boats in each class after the final race.

15.3 For classes with fewer than 8 entries, daily and series awards for first and second place boats will be awarded.

15.4 Specialty Trophies: The Paul Washburn Sportsmanship award will be presented at the Skippers' Meeting. A Boat of the Day award will be presented for each day's top performer. The first place team participating in the International Team competition will be recognized with the International Team Trophy. The PHRF National Championship Trophy will be awarded to the week's top PHRF performer. The Acura Boat of the Week Trophy will be awarded to the Overall Winner of Race Week.

16 AMENDMENTS TO THIS NOTICE

Premiere Racing reserves the right to amend this notice. Any amendments of this notice made prior to January 9, 2009 will be posted on the event web site. All amendments will be posted on the Official Notice Board and copies will be available at Race Headquarters.