

OFFICIAL RULES

The Florida Skiff Challenge Official Rules are established to maintain the integrity of the event and the safety of all. Failure to follow the Official Rules will result in disqualification of violating team and company. FINAL SCHEDULE WILL BE RELEASED TO TEAMS PRIOR TO EVENT. Times and locations subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances.

1. A \$5,000 non-refundable entry fee is required from each approved company.
2. Participating skiff must be 18-feet or smaller. LOAs greater than 18-feet are not permitted.
3. Fuel tank capacity is limited to a 22-gallon tank. This must be verified by a manufacturer's data stamp or label on the tank.
4. Participating skiff is limited to a 70-horsepower engine or smaller. Teams can run any engine in this class.
5. Each team must have all US Coast Guard-required safety items on board including VHF Radio, Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB), GPS Tracking Device, and Personal Locator Beacon (PLB).
6. Each team is responsible for ensuring their GPS tracker is powered on and working properly during the entire Challenge.
7. Teams may use additional navigational aids and safety equipment at their discretion.
8. Participating skiff is subject to inspection by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Administrator, Skiff Challenge representative, or other entity as deemed necessary by the Administrator. Official boat inspections will take place in Pensacola prior to Challenge start. Official inspection date and time will be announced to teams by April 1st.
9. Each team will consist of five (5) members. Teams may not consist of greater than or fewer than five (5) members.
 - a. Two (2) members (the "Captains") will be navigating in the skiff.
 - b. Three (3) members (the "Chase Crew") will be in a "chase vehicle" providing land-based support and assistance for fueling, supplies, and repairs.
 - c. Captains may not switch places with Chase Crew and vice versa.
10. Start time and location: The Challenge will start from the Flora-Bama Ole River Grill in Perdido Key (Pensacola) on Thursday, April 7, 2022.
 - a. All Chase Crew members must check-in at the start location between 5:00 to 5:30AM CDT. Chase Crews may depart any time after they check-in.
 - b. Boat Captains must stage on the beach behind Flora-Bama Ole River Grill by 6:00AM CDT.
 - c. Line-up will be signaled at 6:20AM CDT. Once all skiffs and captains are in the water and in position, the start of the Challenge will be announced and signaled by the Administrator's choice of device at 6:30AM CDT.

11. Captains are required to wear personal flotation devices (PFDs) and must wear the boat's engine cutoff switch when traveling on plane during the entirety of the Challenge.
12. Once the skiff enters the water, it cannot be removed for any reason. If repairs need to be made to the skiff, they must be done in the water, at a dock, or on a sandbar. If the skiff is loaded on a trailer or removed from the water, the team is disqualified.
13. If the skiff breaks down and is inoperable, teams may have a vessel tow them to a location where the Chase Crew can administer repairs, then proceed with the Challenge.
14. Captains must work with their Chase Crew to find appropriate fueling locations for their vessel. Fueling must always be done from land and not from another vessel.
15. Fuel must be provided by only the Chase Crew throughout the entire event with the exception of two "exemption zones." These zones will be marked on a map and provided to teams prior to the event. In the two exemption zones, skiffs will be allowed to re-fuel from any source on land with the assistance of other individual(s) that are not Chase Crew members. Once the skiff exits the exemption zone, the original rule applies, and fuel can only be provided by the Chase Crew from land once again.
16. Teams may not receive outside support from any other entity except their Chase Crew with the exception of towing and the exemption zones. Teams cannot trade or receive any items, supplies, or fuel, from another vessel to their vessel. All supplies must be received from Chase Crew on land.
17. Teams will pick their own routes. Captains are required to navigate the waters from the Flora-Bama Ole River Grill in Pensacola, around the Florida Peninsula, and up to the Fernandina Harbor Marina in Fernandina Beach.
 - a. Teams may take the route of their choice around the tip of the Florida Peninsula and through the Florida Keys. (No longer required to go around Key West)
 - b. Mandatory Media Stop: All five (5) team members are required to stop at the Key Largo Marriott for the mandatory media stop. The Captains must remain at the stop for a designated amount of time. An official timekeeper will notify the Captains once their designated time has passed and they may depart.
 - c. Chase Crews may conduct fueling and repairs during the required stop time and may leave once complete. Chase Crews are not required to stay at the stop for the duration of the required time.
 - d. Media Stop Time Limit: Required stop time starts at 120 minutes but can be reduced prior to April 1st through team fundraising. Final required stop times will be shared with teams by April 6th and monitored by an official timekeeper during the media stop.
18. Teams must comply with all local, state, and federal rules and regulations, including posted signs and markers.
19. The first skiff to reach the dock at the Fernandina Harbor Marina will be deemed the winner of the Challenge.
20. Any protests must be submitted to the Administrator within 30 minutes of race completion by the team with the objection. Must include documented video proof of accusation. All participants are subject to a polygraph.