

## **New WaterTribe Beach Access and Launch Rules at Fort DeSoto**

In an effort to be consistent in all parks under their jurisdiction, Pinellas County has advised WaterTribe that we may no longer utilize the Ft. DeSoto beach road to unload Classes 4-6 vessels onto the beach. Because of this, new rules have been developed for placing vessels on the beach on our Friday check-in day and for launching on launch day.

### **Friday Check-In and Inspection Day**

1. Challengers in Classes 1, 2 or 3 must transport their boats and gear from the parking lot to the beach by hand. A boat cart may be used but must be pulled by hand. No type of power vehicle may be used.
2. Challengers in Classes 4 or 5 may transport their boats from the parking lot using a cart pulled by hand. Or, if that is not possible due to weight or size of the vessel, may launch from the Park boat ramp or other area ramp of your choice. For those sailing to the beach on Friday:
  - a) A motor may be used and should be removed prior to maneuvering the boat onto the beach.
  - b) Arrive at the beach no later than 1:00pm
  - b) Place your boat on the beach from the water. You may receive as much help as you need to position your boat. Winches are not permitted. Volunteers will be available to direct you.
3. For all Challengers on Check-in/Inspection Day
  - a) Place your boat on the beach no later than 1:00 pm
  - b) Check-in at Pavillion 14 for pre-inspection and forms processing and, if required, have your boat/gear inspections completed by 2:30pm
  - c) Attend the mandatory Captain's Meeting in Pavillion 14 at 3:00pm

### **Saturday Launch**

1. 7:00am: The Park opens (there is no access prior to 7:00am)
2. 8:00am: Roll Call for ALL Challengers on the beach.
3. 8:30am: Boats on the beach will launch

## **Saturday Boat Ramp Launch**

Those in Classes 4 or 5 **who have successfully launched from East Beach in one or more previous Florida events** may launch the same boat from the boat ramp on Saturday **following Roll Call** at the beach.

- a) Those launching from the boat ramp will not qualify for a record.
- b) Park Boat Ramp rules must be followed including waiting your turn along with other boat ramp users. There will be no special ramps assigned to WaterTribe.
- c) You must hit an OK and have tracking enabled just before you set sail from the boat ramp area. This will begin your event timer.

## **Class 6 Challengers**

Class 6 Challengers must follow the rules for their base class. For example, a Class 3 boat will be placed on the beach from the parking lot. A Class 4 boat may sail from the boat ramp to the beach on Friday or launch from the boat ramp on launch day if the Challenger has launched from the East Beach in one or more previous Florida events.

## **Why is launching from the boat ramp on Saturday restricted to challengers and their boats who have launched successfully from the beach in one or more previous Florida events?**

This is because WaterTribe events are for “Small Boats.” What is the definition of a small boat? That is very tricky. It could be length, beam, displacement, or any number of factors. Rather than pick numbers out of a hat, it was decided that launching from above the high-water mark **with no assistance** would be a good determination of a small boat. First time challengers need to pass that rule. The good news is that you can sail to the beach on Friday, **and** you can get lots of help getting your boat onto the beach. Then on Saturday you can launch from the beach unassisted and prove you are in a small boat 😊