



2020 HYC Mermaid Regatta

November 7, 2020

Organizing Authority:

The Houston Yacht Club

(29° 34 04'N 95 00 02' W)

3620 Miramar

Shoreacres, TX 77571

281-471-1255

NOTICE OF RACE - Revised October 6, 2020

1. RULES

- 1.1 The regatta will be governed by the *rules* as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing*.
- 1.2 Racing rule(s) will be changed as follows:
 - 1.2.1 Pursuit Fleet: competitors will use a staggered time start based on their PHRF Handicap. This modifies Rule 26. The changes will appear in full in the sailing instructions. The sailing instructions may also change other racing rules.
- 1.3 A woman shall helm each boat with an all female crew. A non-sailing male boat representative may be on board for safety purposes only and may not offer advice or provide any physical assistance during the race unless the boat or its crew are in danger. A male boat representative may provide verbal helming guidance to a visually impaired helmswoman classified ABSA B1, B2 or B3 Three-Person Format.

2. ELIGIBILITY AND REGISTRATION

- a. The regatta is open to Pursuit Spinnaker, Pursuit Non-Spinnaker, and HYC Club Handicap classes.
- b. Each class requires a minimum of 3 boats.
- c. A class of fewer than the required number of entries by the Registration Entry Deadline will be regarded as having failed to form and may be assigned to another class at the discretion of the Race Committee.
- d. Eligible boats may register at www.regattanetwork.com/event/20349.

3. FEES

- 3.1 Multiple Crew Class Entry Fee \$50.00
- 3.2 **Penalty for Late Registration, as of Wednesday, November 4, 1900 hrs. \$25.00**
- 3.3 US Sailing members receive a \$5.00 discount.
- 3.4 Any competitor may cancel and request a 90% refund of their entry fee provided notice is given in writing by e-mail to the PRO, Madonna Breen, on or before Wednesday, November 4, 1900 hrs. at mbreen77346@gmail.com.

4. SCHEDULE

4.1 The schedule is:

Friday, November 6, 2020

1900 hours Competitors' Briefing by Zoom video. A Zoom link will be sent by email to all registered competitors on or before November 6. There will not be an on-site Competitors' Briefing.

Saturday, November 7, 2020

1100 hours Registration Entry Deadline and Warning Signal for all classes.

After racing Awards Ceremony approximately two hours after the race committee boat enters the harbor. Dinner outdoors to be determined based on Harris County COVID-19 restrictions.

5. MEASUREMENTS

- 5.1 All boats racing PHRF (Pursuit) shall have a current PHRF Galveston Bay rating certificate. Boats without a valid PHRF certificate at the Registration Entry Deadline will be assigned a HYC Club Handicap Rating at the discretion of the Race Committee.
- 5.2 The Length Overall (LOA) for boats competing for the Perpetual Mermaid Trophy shall measure 30 feet or greater.

6. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 6.1 The Sailing Instructions, together with any amendments, will be posted on the Official Notice Board located on the Mermaid Regatta event website at www.regattanetwork.com/event/20349. Sailing Instructions will be available on or after November 5, 2020.
- 6.2 Questions regarding the Notice of Race or Sailing Instructions may be submitted in writing to the PRO, Madonna Breen, via email at mbreen77346@gmail.com or to the Chief Judge, June Shaw, via email at jyssails@gmail.com.

7. VENUE

- 7.1 All races will be sailed in that part of Galveston Bay bounded by the Bayport Ship Channel to the north, the San Leon shoreline to the south, the Houston Ship Channel to the East, and the La Porte/Seabrook shoreline to the west.

8. THE COURSES

- 8.1 The Pursuit Line will race around designated marks.
- 8.2 The course will be designated in the Sailing Instructions.

9. PENALTY SYSTEM

- 9.1 Appendix V will apply.

10. SCORING

- 10.1 A single race completed will constitute a series.
10.2 The low-point scoring system of RRS Appendix A will apply.
10.3 PHRF boats shall be scored using PHRF time-on-distance (TOD).

11. BERTHING

- 11.1 Racers are invited to leave their boats at HYC for the week before and the week after the regatta at no charge. HOWEVER, upon arrival all boat owners must notify HYC's Harbormaster at 713-396-6530 or 281-471-1255, complete any required registration forms, and include an emergency contact telephone number. Boats shall be kept in their assigned places while they are parked at HYC.

12. PRIZES

- 12.1 The Perpetual Mermaid Trophy plus second and third place trophies will be awarded at the Awards Ceremony following the race.
12.2 The Mermaid Regatta is one of the five scheduled Women's Regattas that qualifies for the Galveston Bay Women's Championship Series. Please see the information for the 2020 Galveston Bay Women's Championship Series posted on the HYC website at <http://www.houstonyachtclub.com/Racing/RaceSchedule>.

13. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

- 13.1 Competitors participate in the regatta entirely at their own risk. See Rule 4, Decision to Race. The Organizing Authority will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with, prior to, during, or after the regatta.

14. COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS

- 14.1 Competitors who develop COVID-19 symptoms or a fever while racing are required to immediately notify the PRO, Madonna Breen, in writing by e-mail at mbreen77346@gmail.com and to not participate in any activities on-shore.
14.2 Any guidelines by the Center for Disease Control (CDC), State of Texas, Harris County, or HYC "house" rules, in effect with respect to COVID-19 will be strictly followed. For everyone's health and safety, all persons must wear a face covering, must maintain a 6 ft. social distance from other persons, and cannot enter any HYC building if they are feeling sick. **Face coverings are required at all times while on-shore, except while consuming food or beverages, exercising outside, or while engaging in physical activity outside.**

- 14.3 Competitors are encouraged to bring hand sanitizer for use on shore and on the water, to have any open air briefings with maximum distance between teams, and to have all social activities outdoors.
- 14.4 All on-shore regatta events will be held outdoors.
- 14.5 Non-HYC members will not be permitted inside the HYC clubhouse or in the pool.
- 14.6 Due to COVID precautions, hotel rooms will not be available in the HYC clubhouse this year. If needed, competitors are encouraged to seek lodging in the nearby cities of La Porte and Seabrook.
- 14.7 Competitors are encouraged to self-screen before attending the event by referring to the latest Open Texas Checklist for Outdoor Events located at <https://open.texas.gov>.
- 14.8 The Organizing Authority reserves the right to postpone or cancel the Regatta due to changing COVID-19 Pandemic health-related issues.

15. FURTHER INFORMATION

- 15.1 For further information, please contact the HYC Office at 281-471-1255, Mermaid Regatta Chair, Babs Bukowski by e-mail at BabsBukowski@gmail.com, or the Principal Race Officer, Madonna Breen by e-mail at mbreen77346@gmail.com.