

# Houston Yacht Club Women's Sailing Weekend

September 12 and 13, 2020

Organizing Authority: Houston Yacht Club  
Shoreacres, Texas

## SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Catherine Spiller Regatta  
Fairfax Moody Regatta

### 1. RULES

This event will be governed by the *Rules* as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing.

### 2. ENTRIES

- 2.1 Competitors may enter the Regatta by registering on-line at <http://www.regattanetwork.com/>.
- 2.2 Entrants must meet all ownership, class membership and yacht measurement requirements, and must have completed registration and paid all fees with the regatta organizing authority before becoming official competitors.
- 2.3 Competitors in PHRF classes must have a current PHRFGB certificate.

### 3. NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

Notices to Competitors will be posted on the official Race Information Notice Board located in the breezeway adjacent to the offices of the Houston Yacht Club.

### 4. CHANGES IN SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Any change to these sailing instructions shall be posted before 0900 hours on the day it will take effect. Any change to the Schedule of Races will be posted by 2000 hours on the day before it will take effect.

### 5. IDENTIFICATION

Each boat shall comply with the requirements of Appendix G and her class rules with respect to class insignia and numbers unless the Principal Race Officer for the line involved grants an exception before her start. This modifies RRS 77.

### 6. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 6.1 All signals made ashore shall be displayed from the signal staff on the lawn of the Houston Yacht Club.
- 6.2 Signal Flag "AP" (Answering Pennant) with two sound signals (one when lowered) means "The race is postponed". The warning signal will be made not less than 45 minutes after the "AP" is lowered.

### 7. SCHEDULE OF RACES

**Saturday, Sept. 12<sup>th</sup> – Catherine Spiller Regatta Distance Course**

10:00 am Warning Signal for first race

- One additional race if time permits

After racing Trophies awarded to winning skippers at the Beachcomber

## **Sunday, Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> – Fairfax Moody Regatta Distance Course**

10:00 am      Warning Signal for first race

- One additional race if time permits

After racing      Trophies awarded to winning skippers at the Beachcomber

### **8. CHECK-IN**

Prior to the warning signal for the first race on each day, every boat shall check-in and be recognized by the Race Committee (R/C) Signal Boat displaying the code Flag "L" by passing close astern on starboard tack and hailing her sail number.

### **9. RACE AREA**

9.1 The Distance Course layout is shown in Appendix D:

Mark #1, is the "The Judges Stand" located at approximately 29°37.367'N, 94°59.726'W.

Mark #2, is the "High Range" located at approximately 29°37.790'N, 94°58.214'W.

Mark #3, a large yellow tetrahedron located at approximately 29°39.833'N, 94°58.919'W vicinity of Morgans Point.

Mark #4, a large yellow tetrahedron located at approximately 29°38.839'N, 95°00.114'W vicinity of Sylvan Beach.

9.2 Boats shall not enter any Ship Channel. Ship Channels are designated as obstructions.

### **10. COURSE**

**The Distance Course is a six leg course.** Leg 1 will be from the start/finish line to one of the four corners of the quadrilateral. Legs 2,3,4,5 will be the four sides of the quadrilateral. Leg 6 will be the return to the start/finish line. All marks shall be left to port.

### **11. THE START**

11.1 Rule 26 starts:

**1<sup>ST</sup> Start** will be the Non-Spinnaker Class with BLUE class flag.

**2<sup>ND</sup> Start** will be the Spinnaker Class with YELLOW class flag.

11.2 The starting line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag from the signal boat on the starboard end and a mark or floating shape at the port end.

11.3 Boats whose preparatory signal has not been made shall keep clear of the starting area and of all boats whose preparatory signal has been made.

11.4 A boat shall start no later than 10 minutes after her assigned starting time.

11.5 The Race Committee may elect to trail a line (not to exceed 30') attached to a floating object, behind the Race Committee boat. The floating object and its line shall be considered to be part of the Race Committee boat and hitting the floating object or running over the line shall be treated as hitting the Race Committee boat.

### **12. RECALLS**

RC intends to hail the sail numbers of OCS boats after her starting time. As a courtesy, the RC may use VHF radios or a loud-hailer to hail over-early starters. The failure of any boat to hear the hail, an untimely hail of OCS boats, failure to hail any boats, and the order of the boats in the hail shall not be grounds for granting redress. This changes rules RRS 41 and RRS 62.1

### 13. THE FINISH

The Finish Line will be between a staff displaying orange flag on the race committee boat on the port end and a mark or floating shape on the starboard end.

### 14. TIME LIMIT

The time limit is **210 minutes**. Boats failing to finish within **40** minutes (the finishing window) after the first boat in its class sails the course and finishes will be scored Time Limit Expired (TLE). The points awarded for boats scored TLE will be the whole number (rounding 0.5 upward) equal to the number of boats starting the race minus 50% of the number of boats scored TLE. This changes RRS 35, A4, A5 and A11.

### 15. PENALTIES AND PROTESTS

15.1 RRS Appendix V applies. RRS 44.1 is changed to use a One-Turn Penalty in accordance with Appendix V1. Alternatively, a boat may take a Post-Race Penalty in accordance with Appendix V2.

15.2 Protest Procedure:

- (a) Parties are encouraged to take appropriate turns or post race penalties.
- (b) If a protest is desired, intent to protest shall be signaled in accordance with RRS 61.1. The protesting boat shall also notify the Race Committee at the first reasonable opportunity and be acknowledged before leaving the finish area. This changes RRS 61.1.
- (c) Protests and any requests for redress shall be written on forms available at the office of the Houston Yacht Club and delivered there within sixty (60) minutes following the arrival in the harbor of the Race Committee boat for the racing line involved. This time will be posted on the "HYC Race Information" official notice board located at the entrance to the breezeway adjacent to the offices of the Houston Yacht Club. All parties shall provide their e-mail address and telephone number and the name, telephone number, and e-mail address of any witnesses on the protest form submitted. Non-members of Houston Yacht Club must obtain a protest form from a Houston Yacht Club member outside the clubhouse and return the protest form to a Houston Yacht Club member to be delivered to the office of the Houston Yacht Club within the protest time limit. It is the responsibility of the Non-member to ensure the protest form is time-stamped within the protest time limit stated in these SI's.
- (d) Protest hearings and redress hearings, if any go that far, will be conducted remotely online with the video conferencing app ZOOM and will be scheduled after the regatta between the parties and the Chief Judge. All parties and witnesses shall have a working computer with web cam and audio capability, and also have access to ZOOM. The ZOOM app can be downloaded at no cost at: <https://zoom.us>. Parties and witnesses to a hearing will receive an invitation via email with a date and time to join a ZOOM hearing. The invitation will have a hyperlink to click on that will take the recipient to the hearing at the designated time.
- (e) Parties are responsible to make certain that any witnesses they intend to call also have access to ZOOM and a computer with access to the Internet and video and audio capability. Audio participation alone by a party or a witness will not be allowed. Parties and witnesses must be in separate, distinct, locations with separate ZOOM access.
- (f) Coaching from third parties, collaboration, or use of outside materials to help coach parties during the hearing are not allowed. Such use may result in a discipline less than disqualification.

- (g) Parties will be provided copies of the protest form prior to the hearing in a PDF file. Parties are responsible for obtaining their own copies of the Racing Rules of Sailing, the Notice of Race, and the Sailing Instructions.
- (h) It will be the responsibility of each party to clearly explain and display their view of the incident to the protest committee, as we will not have the ability to place and move model boats around on a table for all to see. We suggest the following range of options for how you may present your case: (i) Model boats, or paper cutouts, and a camera to display the incident to the Protest Committee, or (ii) Detailed drawings or a white board or other artwork of the incident.
- (i) Competitors and witnesses are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the RRS and with these SI's. Parties and witnesses shall not communicate during a hearing. No hearing may be recorded. Loud and abusive behavior will not be tolerated. Violations of these principles are subject to discipline under RRS 69.
- (j) The decision of the Protest Committee will be sent via e-mail to the parties after the protest hearing.
- (k) A competitor who decides to take a 30% post race Scoring Penalty under RRS Appendix V2 or who has filed a protest or a request for redress may request such post race Scoring Penalty or such withdrawal of the protest or request for redress at any time before the start of their Zoom protest hearing by sending such request to the Chief Judge, Yolanda Cortes Mares, by email at ymares@earthlink.net. The decision of the Protest Committee to permit the withdrawal of the protest or to permit the withdrawal of the request for redress will be sent via e-mail to the parties as soon as practicable.

## 16. SCORING

The Low-Point Scoring system of Appendix A shall apply. One race shall be completed to constitute an event. No scores will be excluded. This changes Rule A2.

## 17. SAFETY

- 17.1 Any boat that has checked in, and then withdraws before finishing the race, shall notify the Race Committee on the water, or, if that is not possible, the Houston Yacht Club office by telephone: **281-471-1255**, or **VHF Channel 68**. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in disqualification from the event.
- 17.2 Boats shall not discharge trash into the water. The penalty for violating RRS 55 will be a 20% Scoring Penalty.
- 17.3 **DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY:** Competitors participate in the regatta entirely at their own risk. See *Rule 4, Decision to Race*. The organizing Authority will not accept liability for material damage, personal injury or death sustained in connection with or prior to or after the regatta.

## 18. RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

- 18.1 A yacht shall neither make radio transmissions while racing, nor receive special radio communications not available to all yachts. This does not apply to situations that threaten safety of life and/or property.
- 18.2 The Race Committee will attempt to monitor **VHF channel 68**.

## 19. PRIZES

Prizes will be awarded in accordance with the NOR.

# Appendix "D"

#3 -- Yellow Tet

#4 -- Yellow Tet

#2 -- High Range

#1 -- HYC Judges Stand

