

**The Conundrum II**  
**Galveston Bay Texas**  
**March 21, 2009**  
**Galveston Bay Cruising Association and SOS-TEX**  
1500 Marina Bay Dr. Suite 1592 • Building #59B • Clear Lake Shores, TX

## Preliminary Sailing Instructions

### 1. RULES

The Race will be governed by The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) 2009-2012 including US SAILING Prescriptions, Section 6 of the SOS-TEX bylaws attached, PHRF of Galveston Bay, the Notice of Race and these Sailing Instructions.

Autopilot and/or wind-powered self-steering gear are allowed while racing. This modifies RRS 52.

The following RRS are modified herein:

Sailing Instruction 5.2 modifies RRS 62.1(a)  
Sailing Instruction 9.4 modifies RRS 29.2  
Sailing Instruction 12 modifies RRS 61  
Sailing Instruction 14 modifies RRS 35

### 2. NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

Notices to Competitors will be posted at: <http://www.regattanetwork.com/clubs/gbca.html> Notices regarding Protests will also be posted on the door of the GBCA office. Questions regarding these Sailing Instructions may be filed in e-mail form to [kevinb@uescontrols.com](mailto:kevinb@uescontrols.com) Answers will be posted to the notice board address above.

### 3. CHANGES TO THE SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Any change to the sailing instructions or notice of race will be posted before 0700 on the day it will take effect, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 2000 on the day before it will take effect.

### 4. WARNING SIGNAL

The warning signal for the first start will not be before 1000 hours.

### 5. RADIO COMMUNICATION

5.1 Radio communication will be conducted on VHF channel 68.

5.2 In addition to signaling Individual Recalls in accordance with RRS 29.1, as a courtesy, the Race Committee will attempt to broadcast the names or sail numbers of boats that have started early. Failure to make such a broadcast, failure of a boat to receive that broadcast, a boat's order in that broadcast, or the promptness of that broadcast will not be grounds for redress. This modifies RRS 62.1(a).

### 6. SIGNAL BOAT

The Race Committee Signal Boat will be "Tramp", a white trawler approximately 38 feet in length.

### 7. CHECK-IN PROCEDURE

All yachts intending to race shall check in with the Race Committee on VHF Channel 68 prior to their warning signal.

## 8. START/FINISH GATE

The Start/Finish Line will be approximately 0.6nm south of Clear Lake channel marker 1, between an Orange Flag displayed from the Signal Boat and the course side of a nearby Orange Mark. The Start/Finish will be used as a Gate during the race.

## 9. THE START

9.1 The starting line will be between the staff displaying an orange flag on the Signal Boat on the starboard end and the course side edge of the port-end Orange Mark.

9.2 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.

9.3 A boat that has not started within 10 minutes after her starting signal shall be scored as Did Not Start (DNS).

9.4 Any class subjected to a General Recall will start after the last scheduled start. This modifies RRS 29.2

9.5 Class Flags and starting order shall be

**All Non-Spinnaker - Purple**

**All Spinnaker - Pink**

## 10. THE COURSE

After starting:

Sail to any of the three Marks listed below as E, H and J. Round Mark to Port.

Sail back to and through the Gate from the direction of the last mark.

Sail to either of the two remaining Marks not yet rounded. Round Mark to Port.

Sail back to and through the Gate from the direction of the last mark.

Sail to the one remaining Mark not yet rounded. Round Mark to Port.

Sail back to finish.

When sailing through the Gate, boats shall round either the Signal Boat to port or the Orange Mark to starboard. After the start, the Gate will be squared to the approximate bearing to H-Mark.

Boats shall not enter the Houston Ship Channel. The Houston Ship Channel is designated as an Obstruction.

The Official Course Length is 22.5 nautical miles. A chart showing the relative position of the marks will be available from a link on the official notice board. This chart is schematic in nature and is not to be used for navigation.

Approximate location of Start/Finish Gate and Marks:

<b>Start/Finish Gate</b>	- N29 32.567	W94 59.545
<b>E-Mark</b> (HSC Range Tower)	- N29 35.787	W94 56.935
<b>H-Mark</b> (Platform)	- N29 33.255	W94 56.542
<b>J-Mark</b> (Platform)	- N29 31.353	W94 54.424

## 11. THE FINISH

The Finish Line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the Signal Boat on the port end and the course side edge of the starboard Orange Mark.

## 12. PROTESTS

Protests shall be communicated to the Race Committee before leaving the race area and must be filed in writing within 2 hours of finishing. This modifies RRS 61. Protests shall be filed at the GBCA office.

### **13. WITHDRAWING PROCEDURES**

The Race Committee places high priority on accounting for every yacht participating in a race. It is imperative that any yacht withdrawing from a race makes its best and most persistent efforts to notify other parties of such withdrawal at the earliest opportunity. Withdrawing yachts should make every effort to contact the Race Committee and/or other nearby yachts to communicate the withdrawal via VHF channel 68. Proper reporting of a withdrawal should include; yacht name, sail number and skipper's name.

### **14. TIME LIMIT**

Racing will be concluded as of 1700 hours Saturday, March 21. Yachts not finished after this time will be scored as Did Not Finish (DNF). This modifies RRS 35.

### **15. SCORING**

The Race Committee will score the race using the performance handicapping racing formula, time on distance, for each yacht, as determined by the Race Committee.

### **16. AWARDS PRESENTATION**

Post-race party and awards presentation will be held at the GBCA office Saturday, March 21 after racing.

## Excerpt of SOS-TEX Bylaws:

### Section 6.

All boats must comply with the U.S. Coast Guard's requirements for recreational vessels and have the following minimum equipment. NOTE: \*\* indicates items that are not mandatory for races whose entire course is within Galveston Bay.

- a. Lifelines or safety lines leading from both sides of the cockpit forward and well secured at each end.\*\*
- b. Fire extinguisher meeting U.S. Coast Guard requirements.
- c. Manual bilge pump of at least 10 gallons per minute capacity.
- d. Anchor with suitable rode.
- e. Seacocks and soft wooden plugs to close all through hull openings.\*\*
- f. Navigation lights.
- g. Compass.
- h. Charts and piloting tools.
- i. Lead line or echo sounder.\*\*
- j. Foghorn.
- k. Radar reflector.\*\*
- l. Waterproof flashlight.
- m. First aid kit.
- n. At least two gallons of fresh water.\*\*
- o. Life jacket with whistle and strobe light attached, for each crewmember. Mandatory that all single-handed sailors wear life jacket at all times while racing.
- p. Safety harness with tether for each crewmember. All crewmembers should be tethered to boat or jack lines while above deck. Mandatory use of harness and tether sunset to sunrise when offshore.
- q. VHF radio (refer to additional sailing instructions for each race for the specific channel needed).
- r. Three red parachute flares or orange smoke flares, and three red handheld flares.\*\*
- s. An alternate means of propulsion\*\*
- t. Other equipment requirements of NOR of sponsoring yacht club.