



2023 QUANTUM OFFSHORE REGATTA

“The Reach Down the Beach”

May 12 (Friday), May 13 (Saturday) 2023

NOTICE OF RACE

The Houston Yacht Club is the Organizing Authority (OA) for The Quantum Offshore Regatta and the positioning event known as The Reach Down the Beach (aimed at getting boats to the Freeport starting area). The Quantum Offshore Regatta is one of the three events comprising the Texas Offshore Racing Circuit (TORC) and counts for points toward the Texas Navy Cup (spinnaker) and S Rhoads Fisher Cup (non-spinnaker).

DESCRIPTION:

- **Event 1: The Reach Down the Beach**, Friday May 12 will be a timed event featuring a “window” start from Galveston to Freeport for spinnaker, and non-spinnaker classes. This event is NOT a requirement for the regatta (it will be scored separately). It is merely for “positioning” competitors (i.e. an event to get race boats to the starting line in Freeport). Competitors are welcome to deliver their boat to Freeport in any way and at any time they choose.



- **Event 2: The official QUANTUM OFFSHORE REGATTA (QOR)**, Saturday May 13 features a Rule 26 start (with the notable exception of the so-called Bimini’s & Barbecue class (B & B class)) off the Freeport jetties



and a race back to Galveston. **(HOWEVER – in the event of heavy chop (which damages stationary motor yachts), we will default to a beach-capture window start and follow our normal courses).** The B & B class is non-spinnaker and will be HYC Club Handicap, featuring a window start (see section 1Lii below). The QOR is also known as “the

Freeport Race”; the Carroll Blanchard trophy is awarded to the winner in the spinnaker fleet. The winner in the spinnaker fleet also receives TORC points towards the Texas Navy Cup. The winner in the PHRF non-spinnaker fleet is receives TORC points towards the S Rhoads Fisher perpetual trophy.

1. RULES: Racing will be governed by:

- The current Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS), except as may be modified herein and/or by the Sailing Instructions. If there is one-design racing and there is a conflict between Class Rules and the RRS, Class Rules shall apply.
- Boats equipped and rated with power winches may use same. This modifies RRS 51.
- Boats sailing Single or Double-handed may use autopilots. This modifies RRS 51. Use of autopilots is permitted when more than 500 yards from the start line and up to 500 yards from the finish line. This changes Rule 52.
- RRS 41 is hereby modified to allow all entrants to communicate hazards amongst themselves by VHF Radio.
- Between the hours of sunset and sunrise, the rules of Part 2 are replaced with the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (IRPCAS).
- The US SAILING Prescriptions to the RRS will apply.
- The current PHRF Regulations as administered by the PHRF Galveston Bay.
- The current US Sailing Safety Equipment Requirements (USSER) for COASTAL events. These requirements are available at <https://www.ussailing.org/competition/offshore/safety-information/ser-world-sailing-special-regulations/>. A copy of these requirements should be kept aboard while racing. In the event of a conflict between these requirements and applicable class rules, the class rules shall apply.
- The current IMS Rule (measurement), ORC Rating Systems (ratings) rules and regulations. (www.orc.org/rules), the rules of PHRF Galveston Bay, and TOMA regulations.





2023 QUANTUM OFFSHORE REGATTA

“The Reach Down the Beach”

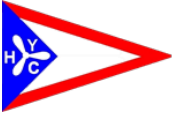
May 12 (Friday), May 13 (Saturday) 2023

- j. Each boat shall carry an operating VHF radio capable of transmitting and receiving on Channels 13, 14, 16, 68, 72 and a cell phone, the number of which shall be on file with the Race Committee (via your registration).
- k. The Friday event will feature a starting window. Times will be captured, and results calculated by the Race Committee. This changes Rule 26.
- l. The Saturday race:
 - i. If there are fewer than 3 entrants in the ORC Spinnaker class by midnight ~~April 29~~ May 10th, the class will default to PHRF Galveston Bay spinnaker.
 - ii. The B & B Class in the Saturday race (i.e. race between Freeport and Galveston) will feature a window start. In this style of start, competitors in the B & B Class start within a time window defined in the Sailing Instructions. The exact start time will be of the Skipper’s choosing inside that window. The Race Committee will capture the individual start times of each boat. The Race Committee will capture the finish times of each boat and apply the HYC Club Handicap to calculate finish positions. This changes RRS 26.
- m. Appendix T1 will apply.
- n. Appendix T1.b is modified to read: “A Post-Race Penalty is a 20% Scoring Penalty calculated as stated in rule 44.3(c) if taken before the protest time limit expires. Otherwise, a Post-Race Penalty is a 30% Scoring Penalty calculated as stated in rule 44.3(c). However, rule 44.1(a) applies.”
- o. US SAILING Prescription to the RRS Appendix V Rules V1 and V2 will apply.
- p. US SAILING Prescription to the RRS Appendix V Rule V2 is modified to read: “After a race, a boat that may have broken one or more rules of Part 2 or rule 31 in an incident while racing may take a Post-Race Penalty for that incident. A boat takes the penalty by delivering a written notice to the race office that identifies the race number and when and where the incident occurred. The penalty shall be a 20% Scoring Penalty, calculated as stated in rule 44.3(c) if taken before the protest time limit expires. Otherwise a 30% Scoring Penalty shall apply, calculated as stated in rule 44.3(c). However, rules 44.1(a) and (b) apply, and the penalty shall not be taken after a protest hearing involving the incident has begun.



2. ELIGIBILITY AND REGISTRATION

- a. The Race is open to sailing yachts whose overall length is at least 28 feet. Each yacht shall conform to the US Sailing Safety Equipment Requirements governing Offshore Racing for Monohulls & Multihulls.
 - i. Both races are designated “Coastal” events.
 - ii. Any competitor who wishes to enter a yacht measuring less than 28 feet may do so on approval from the race committee. A written statement of qualifications covering the skipper’s experience, the crew’s experience, the level of boat preparation / condition and any relevant training / certifications will be required for review by the committee.



2023 QUANTUM OFFSHORE REGATTA

“The Reach Down the Beach”

May 12 (Friday), May 13 (Saturday) 2023

- b. It is strongly recommended that each crew consist of at least four members including, as a minimum, a navigator and a watch captain who have each successfully participated (i.e., completed the designated course) in at least 3 offshore races while performing their duties as navigator or watch captain.
- c. Double-handed entries: In a MOB situation each person must be capable of retrieving the other single-handed.
- d. Single, and double-handed entries are urged to employ full harness, tethers and jack lines regardless of weather conditions.
- e. It is strongly recommended that at least one crew have attended an offshore safety at sea seminar presented by a recognized boating organization within the last three years.
- f. A minimum of two yachts will constitute a class.
 - i. A class of fewer than the required number of entries will be regarded as having failed to form and may be assigned to another class, or an entry fee refund may be requested.
- g. Potential classes will be:
 - i. Friday Event: Spinnaker class, non-spinnaker class.
 - ii. Saturday Race: ORC Club Spinnaker (or PHRF Spinnaker depending on registration numbers), PHRF non-spinnaker, Bimini’s ‘n Barbecue’s non-spinnaker HYC Club Handicap Class, any OD class. TOMA Multihull.
 - iii. If there are sufficient entries for a one-design class not listed on the RegattaNetwork registration form, the race committee will create that class in RegattaNetwork upon request.
 - iv. For the Saturday Race, any one-design class will be given a start separate from the handicap classes and have separate trophy categories.
- h. Boats may enter at www.regattanetwork.com using the on-line entry form.
- i. The first 5 boats to enter will receive a FREE race package from our sponsor Weather Routing Inc. (WRI)

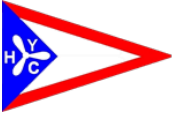
3. FEES

- a. The entry fee is \$85.
- b. Entries after registration has closed may be accepted upon special request to the Race Committee.

4. SCHEDULE

BOLDFACE = Added in V 2

Wednesday	10 May	1200	Regatta entry deadline. No entry fee refunds after this point
Wednesday	10 May	1200	ORC Club spinnaker division defaults to the PHRF handicap if fewer than three boats are registered.
Thursday	11 May	0900	Deadline for emailing final Sailing Instructions to registered competitors
Thursday	11 May	1330	Zoom weather briefing from our weather forecast provider Weather Routing Inc. Registrants will receive a link by email. Others please contact the RC for a link.
Friday	12 May	0800	Starting Window on the East beach opens. The window will be open for three four hours.
Friday	12 May	1200	Starting window on the East Beach closes
Friday	12 May	1200	Race Committee monitors finishes from Thunder Road in Surfside Beach, Texas
Friday	12 May	1800	Finish line closes. Race Committee heads for the party.
Saturday	13 May	0800	No warning signal before this time. Rule 26 start for all fleets other than the B&B fleet. Race to Galveston Green 11
Sunday	14 May	0800	Race ends. Time limit expires.
Sunday	14 May	1000	Protest deadline



2023 QUANTUM OFFSHORE REGATTA

“The Reach Down the Beach”

May 12 (Friday), May 13 (Saturday) 2023

Sunday	14 May	1300	Mother’s Day brunch at HYC. HYC Offshore Regatta awards ceremony in the HYC bar.
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5. MEASUREMENT

- a. ALL yachts racing in the ORC Club Spinnaker class MUST have a current USSAILING ORC Club certificate. If fewer than three yachts register for the Spinnaker class (with ORC Club ratings) by the deadline stated in section 4, the class will default to a PHRF Spinnaker Class which requires current PHRF Galveston Bay rating certificates.
- b. ALL yachts racing in the PHRF non-spinnaker class MUST have a current PHRF Galveston Bay rating certificate.
- c. All multihull entries must be compliant with the TOMA rating system for that class.
- d. The HYC B & B class (Bimini’s and Barbecue pits... towin’ a dinghy) features a Club Handicap assigned by the Race Committee. Boats planning to race with lots of non-essential equipment are welcome to register in this class. The Race Committee does not mean to imply that bimini’s and barbecue pits are non-essential equipment. On entry, please leave the handicap field blank – the Race Committee will research your vessel and assign a handicap. The Race Committee reserves the right to refuse entries in this class and may reassign boats to the classes described in 5a and 5b.

6. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- a. Draft Sailing Instructions will be posted on the HYC web site.
- b. There will be no formal skipper’s meeting. Please engage the race committee with questions you may have (billvanrav@gmail.com, 832.428.0785). On request, the Race Committee is available to personally meet with competitors and their team to review details of the race.
- c. Final SI’s will be sent to registered competitors via email no later than the time listed in the “SCHEDULE” section above.

7. VENUE

- a. All races will be sailed offshore in the waters between Galveston and Freeport TX.

8. THE COURSES

- a. Will be detailed in the Sailing Instructions (SIs).
- b. Friday: Boats will sail between Galveston and Freeport
- c. Saturday: QOR Spinnaker boats will sail up to a 62nm course (depending on weather and wind conditions) finishing in Galveston. There will be 4 course options.
- d. Saturday: QOR PHRF non-spinnaker boats will sail up to a 50 nm course between Freeport and Galveston.
- e. Saturday: QOR Bimini’s & Barbecues Class Club Handicap boats will sail a course directly from Freeport to Galveston.
- f. Multihull entries will sail a course as agreed upon with the class.

9. SCORING:

- a. Appendix A of the RRS applies.

10. SCORING: The S Rhodes Fisher Series

- a. A single race is required to be completed to constitute a series.
- b. The series includes the LYC Heald Bank Regatta, The Quantum Offshore Regatta and the GBCA Texas Race Week (TRW). For scoring purposes, each race of the TRW will count as a separate race in the series.



2023 QUANTUM OFFSHORE REGATTA

“The Reach Down the Beach”

May 12 (Friday), May 13 (Saturday) 2023

- c. Competitors for the series award must participate in all three events listed in 10(b). Participation is defined as registering for the event.
- d. The series shall be scored as described in Appendix A, section A2.1 of the RRS.

11. BERTHING

- a. Thursday evening Galveston: The Galveston Yacht Basin (reservations: 409.765.3000) has slips available. The transient rate is **\$3** / foot, please bring a copy of your current insurance.
- b. Friday evening Freeport: The Fleet will be split between two marinas. The Bridge Harbor Marina, and Surfside Marina. The regatta party will be at Bridge Harbor.
 - i. Bridge Harbor Marina: Reservations may be made by contacting the harbormaster, Mingo Marquez (979-824-2776). Transient rates are \$1.50 per foot. Ice is \$2.25 for a 20-pound bag. The harbor is silted in – boats drawing more than 5.5 feet may have difficulty navigating the harbor.
 - ii. Surfside Marina: Contact Santos at santos@surfsidemarina.com, (979) 418-1768. They have 4 RV spots with full hookups.

12. PRIZES:

- a. Trophies will be awarded based on the number of registrants per class. The number of finish positions to be awarded will be determined based on registration numbers two weeks before the event to allow time for engraving.
- b. Spinnaker class boats in the QOR are eligible to win the Carroll Blanchard Cup (which can be seen in the HYC main trophy case) for the Freeport to Galveston Race.
 - i. Spinnaker class boats in the QOR are eligible to win points towards the Texas Navy Cup.
- c. Boats racing QOR PHRF non-spinnaker class are eligible to win points towards the S Rhoads Fisher Trophy.

13. REQUIRED CHARTS:

- a. This event requires charts that cover at least the upper Texas coast, Galveston Bay, Galveston Bay Entrance, and the Freeport Channel Entrance and Harbor.

14. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

- a. 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 or prior to, during, or after the regatta.

15. FURTHER INFORMATION

- a. The event chair will post an FAQ with very detailed information on the HYC Website as details evolve.
- b. For further information please contact the HYCOR Event Chairman at billvanrav@gmail.com

HOTEL INFORMATION

- Galveston: Thursday evening the race committee will be hosting an informal review of the Sailing Instructions 8 to 10 pm at the Rooftop bar (if it's raining – we'll be at the lobby bar) of the Tremont House (409.763.0300).
- Freeport: The official regatta hotels (located in Clute, TX) for the night of May 7th are:
 - The Holiday Inn Express (979.266.8746)
 - The Hampton Inn (979.265.3200).



2023 QUANTUM OFFSHORE REGATTA

“The Reach Down the Beach”

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- THE REGATTA WILL PROVIDE A FREE SHUTTLE BETWEEN THESE HOTELS AND THE MARINAS. The Schedule is Friday: Between 7:00 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Saturday: Between 5:45 and 7:15 a.m. The pick-up area is in front of the marina office and between the two hotels listed above.

DINING INFORMATION:

The official Regatta party (and awards ceremony for the Reach Down the Beach) and banquet will be at The Captain’s Table at Bridge Harbor Marina the evening of Friday May 12. The cost is (TBD) per plate payable directly to the restaurant by credit card/cash at his establishment. FOR PLANNING PURPOSES, we ask that you record the EXPECTED number of souls to feed on your RegattaNetwork registration. If you haven’t registered but are considering the event, please send us an email with your possible headcount. As the number shrinks and grows we ask that you send a simple email update to the Race Committee at billvanrav@gmail.com. The RC will keep the Captain’s Table apprised of the number of meals to plan. PLEASE COOPERATE WITH THIS REQUEST, and there will be plenty of food for all. The restaurant is inside Bridge Harbor Marina, by the pool. All are welcome to use the pool. **Sadly, the era of free rum has ended – all drinks must be purchased at the bar (these are the house rules).** We’ll start serving food at 7:00-ish, please see the FAQ (HYC website/news) for menu options and details.

SOCIAL EVENTS:

- Friday evening: **Official Regatta Party** ≈ 1700 hours at The Captain’s Table. We will award trophies for the Reach Down the Beach event, plus host an awesome evening of karaoke featuring DJ Anthony (whose day job is with Discount Bail Bonds). Remember, we provide free transport to the hotels from the marina...
- Saturday afternoon: **The FIFTH Annual HYC Rollicking Beach Party** on the East beach. The race committee volunteers will bring leftovers from Friday’s party and gather at the Galveston finish line (N29°20.054 W94°44.697). We’ll have music and **complementary cocktails**. Invite your friends and relatives to join us to watch you finish! They can bring VHF’s and GPS watches, listen to the race chatter on VHF 68, observe your finish time and greet you after your finish (channel 72 please). We expect the bulk of our boats to finish between 2:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Few things are more dramatic than seeing a loved one’s sail heave into view over the horizon after a trip offshore, invite them to participate in the event!
- Sunday a.m.: Sail washing and folding on the lawn. Very therapeutic...
- Sunday @ 13:00 – HYC Offshore Regatta awards ceremony in the HYC Bar.