



2023 GBCA Offshore

June 3-4, 2023

Organizing Authority: Galveston Bay Cruising Association  
Clear Lake Shores, TX USA

## SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

### 1 RULES

- 1.1 The event is governed by the *rules* as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing (2021-2024) (Rules,RRS)*.
- 1.2 The notation “[DP]” in a rule in these Sailing Instructions means that the penalty for a breach of a rule may, at the discretion of the protest committee, be less than disqualification.
- 1.3 From sunset to sunrise, Part 2 of the Rules shall not apply and be replaced by Part B, The Steering and Sailing Rules, of the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (COLREGS).
- 1.4 These Sailing Instructions are to accompany the Notice of Race dated May 11, 2023. In the event of a discrepancy between these SIs and the NOR, these SIs shall prevail.

### 2 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1 Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted before 08:00 on the day it will take effect, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 20:00 on the day before it will take effect.

### 3 COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS

- 3.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the Regatta Network event Notice Board; <https://www.regattanetwork.com/event/26496>
- 3.2 **[DP]All competitors shall check-in with Race Committee (281-705-3712) via text message prior to their start. Please include vessel name and number of persons on board.**
- 3.3 **Boats are encouraged to monitor VHF radio channel 13, “Bridge to Bridge”, while transiting the Galveston channel to remain aware of potential commercial traffic.**
- 3.4 [DP] While racing, except in an emergency, a boat shall not make voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice or data communication that is not available to all boats.
- 3.5 The use of a tracking program (like RaceQs or Yellowbrick) may be used for post-race evaluation only.

## 4 CODE OF CONDUCT

- 4.1 [DP] Competitors and support persons shall comply with reasonable requests from race officials.
- 4.2 [DP] Competitors and support persons shall handle any equipment provided by the organizing authority with care, seamanship, in accordance with any instructions for its use and without interfering with its functionality.

## 5 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 5.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed via the Regatta Network event Notice Board; <https://www.regattanetwork.com/event/26496>
- 5.2 In the event of signals made ashore, the Race Committee **may** also notify participants via SMS text message to the number provided at registration.

## 6 SCHEDULE OF RACES

### 6.1 Schedule

Date	Time	Event
Thursday, June 1 <sup>st</sup>	19:00est,	Competitors briefing, in-person at the GBCA clubhouse.
Saturday, June 2 <sup>nd</sup>	11:00	First Warning signal
Sunday, June 3 <sup>th</sup>	16:00	Time limit expires
Saturday, June 17 <sup>th</sup>	19:00 est.	Awards presentation at Rum Race #1 social.

## 7 CLASS FLAGS

### 7.1 The class flags are as follows:

ORC Spin	Purple
Non-Spin	Green
Multi-Hull	Red

## 8 RACING AREA

- 8.1 SI Addendum #1 shows the location of the racing area.

## 9 COURSES

- 9.1 The diagram(s) in SI Addendum #2 show(s) the course(s), including the approximate bearings, the order in which marks are to be passed, approximate distance, and the side on which each mark is to be left.

## 10 MARKS

10.1 The following fixed marks may be used:

- HSC 11 - 29° 20.530N 94° 44.470W
- HSC 5A - 29° 19.639N 94° 41.272W
- Arena 102-1 - 29° 07.877N 94° 32.679W
- "Platform"- 29° 07.915N 94° 3.403W
- TABS B - 28° 58.938N 94° 53.943W
- HI-179A - 29° 10.800N 94° 31.267W

## 11 OBSTRUCTIONS

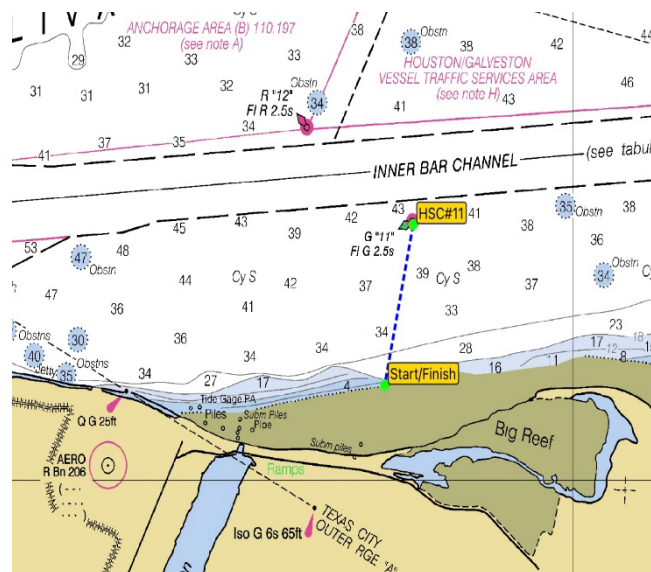
11.1 Any commercial traffic encountered while transiting the Galveston Channel shall be treated as an obstruction. At no time does a vessel racing have right of way over commercial traffic. Any disruption of commercial traffic will be subject to disqualification without a hearing and Board review of participation in future GBCA events. This changes RRS 60.1 & 60.2.

## 12 THE START

12.1 The race will use an autonomous start with no Race Committee on station, with all classes starting together. There will be no starting sequence, **all boats will start at 11:00am using GPS time.** This changes RRS 26.

12.2 The starting line will be a virtual line segment consisting of the following two segments:

1. The starboard end of the line at - **29° 20.197N 94° 44.554W**
2. The port end of the line – HSC #11



- 12.2 A boat that does not start within 10 minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start without a hearing. This changes RRS A5.1 and A5.2.

### **13 THE FINISH**

- 13.1 The virtual finishing line is between the port end virtual mark ashore - **29° 20.197N 94° 44.554W** and starboard end HSC #11 as a finishing mark. Refer to graphic in Section 12.2 for a visual reference.
- 13.2 All boats will be responsible for capturing their own finish time. Race committee will not be on station. Report results at: **racing.gbca.org**
- 13.3 It is recommended each competitor take a photo of their GPS showing finish location and GPS time. In the event that there is any controversy around finishing times, the Race Committee will request photo documentation.

### **14 PENALTY SYSTEM**

- 14.1 The first two sentences of RRS 44.1 are changed to:  
A boat may take a One-Turn Penalty when she may have broken one or more rules of Part 2 or Rule 31 in an incident while racing. However, when she may have broken one or more rules of Part 2 while in the zone around a mark other than a starting mark, her penalty shall be a Two-Turns Penalty.
- 14.2 Alternatively, a boat may accept a Scoring Penalty as described in RRS 44.3. The Scoring Penalty shall be 20% of the boats entered unless the incident occurred within the zone of any mark, in which case the scoring penalty shall be 40% of the boats entered.

### **15 HEARING REQUESTS**

- 15.1 The protest time limit is one hour after the protesting boat is *Finished*.
- 15.2 Any boats planning on filing a hearing request shall notify the Race Committee via cell phone prior to leaving the finish area.
- 15.3 Paper hearing request forms are available from the GBCA clubhouse, however electronic filings using the US Sailing app are preferred by the protest committee. Please forward all filings to [may.chris.w@gmail.com](mailto:may.chris.w@gmail.com).
- 15.4 The protest committee will endeavour to post the notice of protests and the hearing schedule within 30 minutes after the time limit for racing expires. Notices and schedules will be posted using the Regatta Network official notice board at:  
<https://www.regattanetwork.com/event/26496>
- 15.5 Notices of protests by the race committee, or protest committee will be posted to inform boats under RRS 61.1(b).
- 15.6 Breaches of Sailing Instructions 3.2, 3.3, 16.3, and 18 will not be grounds for a protest or request for redress by a boat. This changes RRS 60.1(a)
- 15.7 RRS 62.2(a) and 66.2(a) do not apply.

15.8 The US Sailing prescription to RRS 63.2 does not apply.

## **16 SCORING**

16.1 One race is required to be completed to constitute a regatta.

16.2 A boat's regatta score is the total of her race scores without exclusion. This changes RRS A2.1.

16.3 ORC boats will be scored Time on Time using the appropriate Triple Number data per each boat's certificate. The appropriate Triple Number (All-purpose, Windward/Leeward, Predom. Upwind, Predom. Downwind) will be determined at the Race Committee's discretion by observance of the prevailing conditions over the course of the race.

16.4 PHRF and Cruising Club Handicap classes will be scored using Time on Time with the following conversion formula:  $TCF=650/(550+x)$ , where x equals PHRF or Cruising Club Handicap.

## **17 SAFETY REGULATIONS**

17.1 [DP]All competitors shall check-in with Race Committee (281-705-3712) via text message prior to their start. Please include vessel name and number of persons on board.

17.2 All boats shall have a mechanical propulsion system that is quickly available, with sufficient fuel, and capable of providing range under power of at least 75 miles.

17.3 All boats shall have an operative VHF/FM transceiver with Channels 9,16,13,68,71, and 72.

17.4 [DP] A boat that retires from a race shall notify the race committee at the first reasonable opportunity by VHF or cell phone.

17.5 Contacts for Race Committee: Scott Tuma – 281-705-3712, or Chris May 713-591-8115

## **18 TRASH DISPOSAL**

18.1 Trash shall be properly disposed of when a vessel returns to shore.

## **19 PRIZES**

19.1 Prizes will be given for 1<sup>st</sup> through 3<sup>rd</sup> places in each class based on number of entries as follows:

- 3 entries – 1<sup>st</sup> Place
- 6 entries – 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place
- 9+ entries – 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place, etc.

19.2 The GBCA Offshore is the second of three events of the **Texas Offshore Racing Circuit (TORC)**. The results of the GBCA Offshore count twice in the calculation of the overall series results.

- The winner of the ORC Spinnaker class shall be awarded the **Marion Hayes Memorial** perpetual trophy.
- **Texas Navy Trophy.** Boats sailing in the ORC Spinnaker Class will be eligible to compete for the TORC championship trophy, the Texas Navy trophy, if they have entered all three TORC regattas in the same class.
- **S. Rhodes Fisher Trophy.** Boats sailing in the PHRF Non-Spinnaker class will be eligible for the S. Rhodes Fisher Trophy, if they have entered all three TORC regattas in the same class.

## 20 RISK STATEMENT

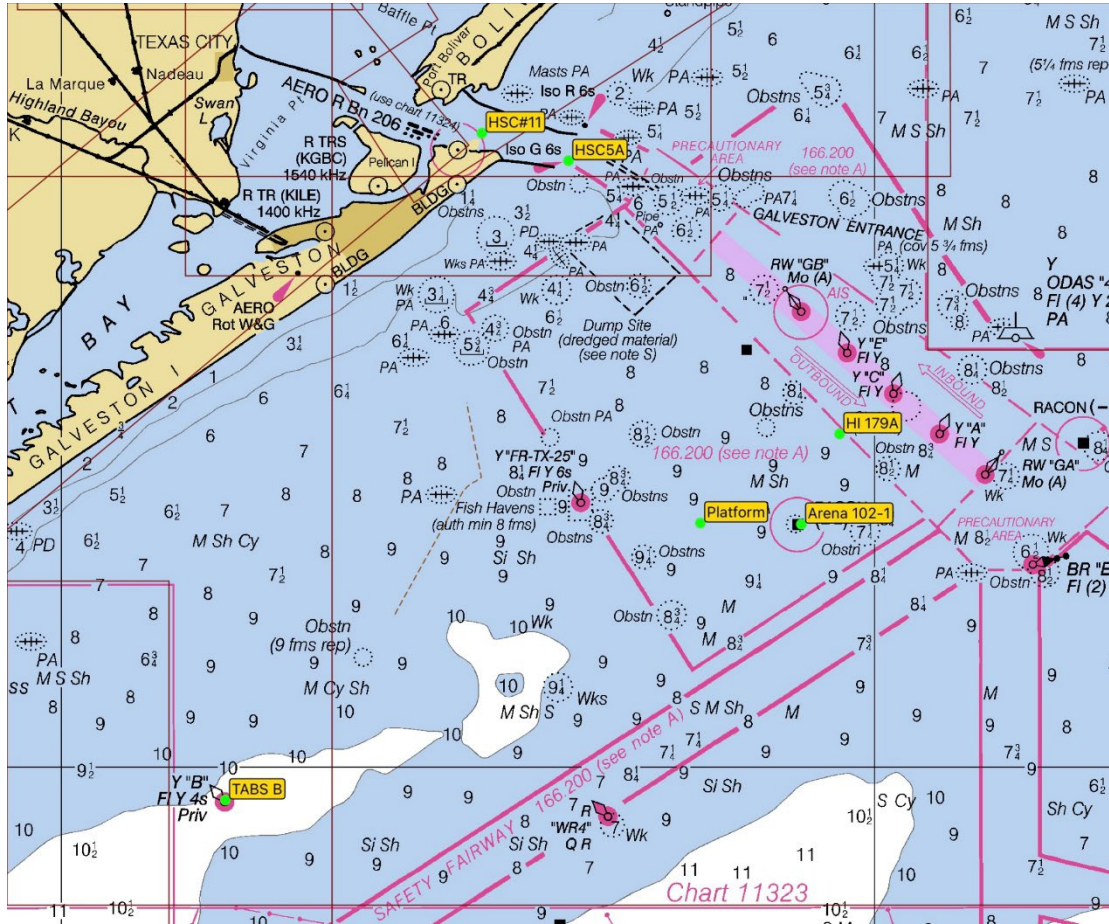
- 20.1 RRS 3 states: 'The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue to race is hers alone.' By participating in this event each competitor agrees and acknowledges that sailing is a potentially dangerous activity with inherent risks. These risks include strong winds and rough seas, sudden changes in weather, failure of equipment, boat handling errors, poor seamanship by other boats, loss of balance on an unstable platform and fatigue resulting in increased risk of injury. **Inherent in the sport of sailing is the risk of permanent, catastrophic injury or death by drowning, trauma, hypothermia or other causes.**

## 21 INSURANCE

- 21.1 Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of \$300,000 per incident or the equivalent.

# SI ADDENDUM #1

## Race Area



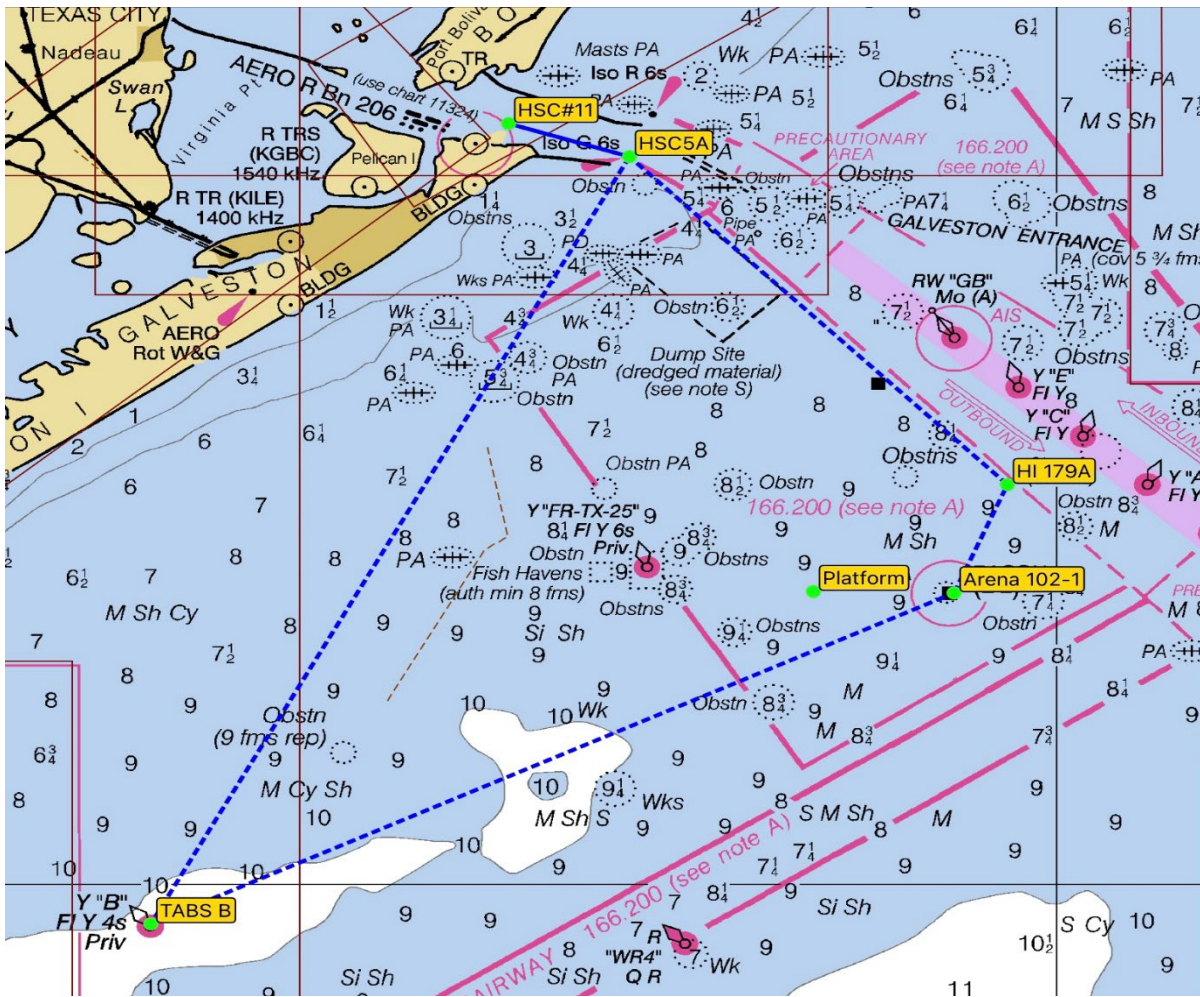


## SI Addendum #2

### Courses

#### Course 1 – ORC Spin, Multihull

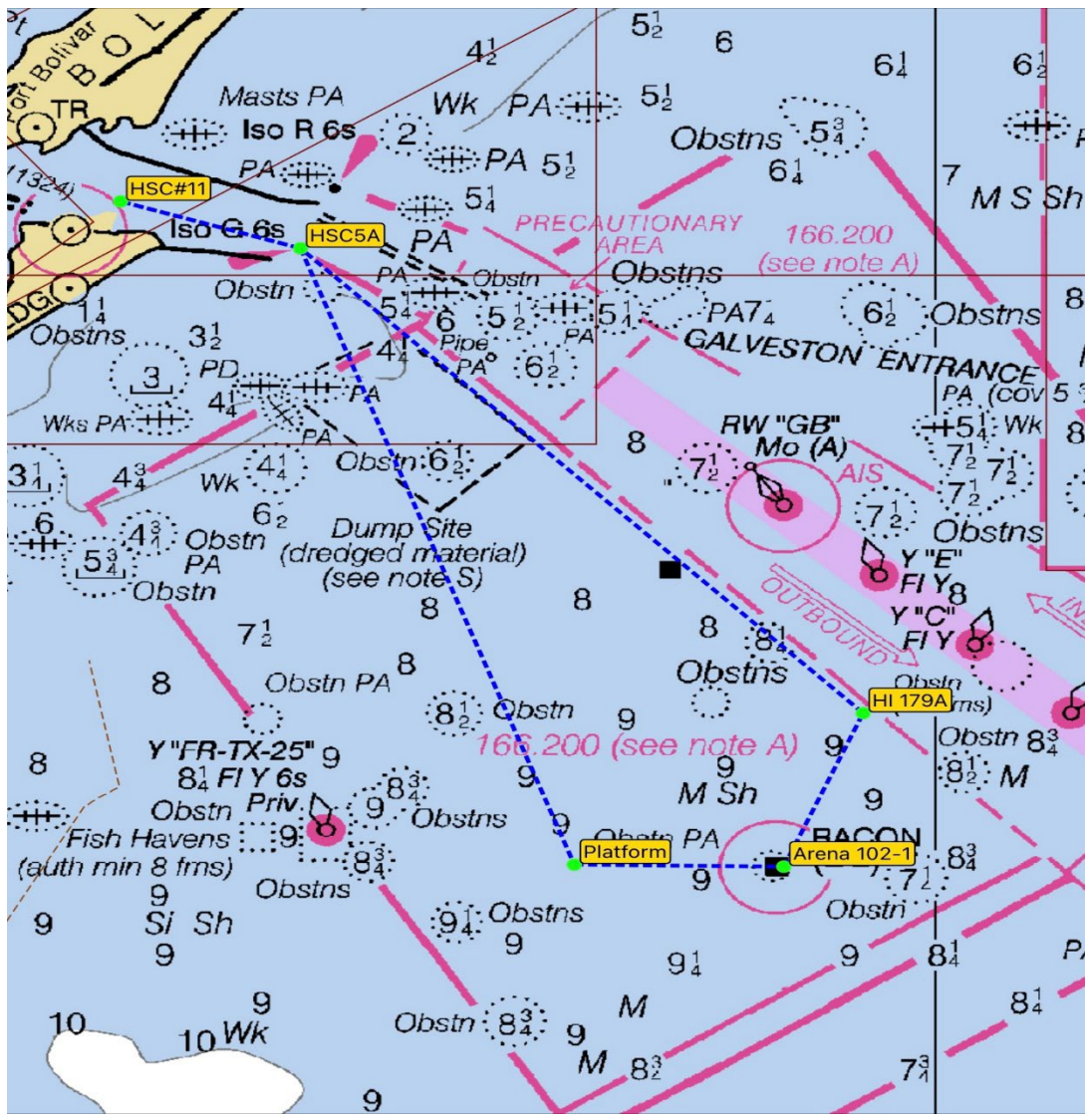
<u>Mark</u>	<u>Est. Bearing</u>	<u>Distance</u>	<u>Leave Mark to:</u>
<b>Start/Finish</b>			
<b>HSC 5A</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>2.93nm</b>	<b>Starboard</b>
<b>TABS B</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>23.47nm</b>	<b>Port</b>
<b>Arena 102-1</b>	<b>064</b>	<b>20.63nm</b>	<b>Port</b>
<b>HI179A</b>	<b>023</b>	<b>3.17nm</b>	<b>Port</b>
<b>HSC 5A</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>12.42nm</b>	<b>Port</b>
<b>Start/Finish</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>2.93nm</b>	
	<b>Total Dist</b>	<b>65.55nm</b>	





**Course 2 – PHRF-NS**

<b>Mark</b>	<b>Est. Bearing</b>	<b>Distance</b>	<b>Leave Mark to:</b>
Start/Finish			
HSC 5A	108	2.93nm	Starboard
Platform	160	12.47nm	Port
Arena 102-1	091	3.25nm	Port
HI-179A	023	3.17nm	Port
HSC 5A	315	12.42nm	Port
Finish	288	2.93nm	
	<b>Total Dist</b>	<b>37.17nm</b>	



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