



**2021 GBCA Women's Regatta
July 20, 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 (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 Each boat competing shall be helmed by a female while *Racing*.

2 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1 Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted before 0800 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.
- 2.2 Changes to a sailing instruction may be made on the water by contacting the specific class(s) affected by VHF notifying of the change.

3 COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS

- 3.1 3.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the [Regatta Network event Notice Board](#)
- 3.2 On the water, the race committee intends to monitor and communicate with competitors on VHF radio channel 69.
- 3.3 The following communications *may* be made by the race committee on VHF.
 - Race Course to be sailed
 - Windward mark bearing and distance
 - General Race Committee intentions
- 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 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](#)
- 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
Saturday, July 22	1000	Competitors briefing, in-person at the GBCA clubhouse.
Saturday, July 22	1300	Warning signal
Saturday, July 22	Approx. 2 hours after RC docks	Social and awards at the GBCA clubhouse

- 6.2 To alert boats that a race or sequence of races will begin soon, the orange starting line flag will be displayed with one sound at least five minutes before a warning signal is made.

7 CLASS FLAGS

- 7.1 The class flags and first start sequence for first races are as follows:

Club Handicap	Purple
PHRF Non-Spin	Light Blue
PHRF Spin	Yellow

8 RACING AREA

- 8.1 Racing area shall be restricted between the Houston Ship Channel and the shorelines of Bayshore, San Leon, Kemah, and Seabrook.

9 COURSES

9.1 The diagrams in SI Addendum #1 show the courses and the side on which each mark is to be left. Angles between marks and distances are approximate and noted as schematic only.

9.1.1 **Course 1** shall Start > Mark 1 > Mark 2 > Mark 1 > Finish

9.1.2 **Course 2** shall be Start > H > F > Mark 2 > H > Finish

9.1.3 **Course 3** shall be Start > Mark 1 > H > Mark 2 > Mark 1 > Finish

10 MARKS

10.1 Start/Finish Mark is an orange tetrahedron.

10.2 The following fixed marks may be used:

- GBCA "H" - 29° 33.255'N 94° 56.542'W

- GBCA "F" - 29° 34.670'N 94° 56.508'W

- Mark 1 - GBCA yellow tetrahedron

- Mark 2 - GBCA yellow tetrahedron

10.3 Race Committee may adjust a mark up to 10 degrees to maintain a fair racecourse without signalling a course change. This modifies RRS 33.

11 OBSTRUCTIONS

11.1 The following area is designated as an obstruction: The Houston Ship Channel. Reference is made to NOAA Electronic Navigational Chart US5TX54M, Upper Galveston Bay-Houston Ship Channel-Dollar Pt. to Atkinson (1/29/2021).

12 THE START

12.1 Races will be started using RRS 26 with the warning signal made 5 minutes before the starting signal.

12.2 The starting line is between a staff displaying an orange flag on the signal vessel at the starboard end and the course side of the port-end starting mark.

12.3 Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall avoid the starting area during the starting sequence for other races.

12.4 If any part of a boat's hull is on the course side of the starting line at her starting signal and she is identified, the race committee may attempt to hail her sail number. Failure to hail her number, failure of her to hear such a hail, or the order in which boats are hailed will not be grounds for a request for redress. This changes RRS 62.1(a).

12.5 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.

- 12.6 The first race of the day will follow the start order as stated in 7.1. The start order for subsequent races may be different. Race Committee will attempt to notify competitors of the of the next class starting over VHF radio.

13 THE FINISH

- 13.1 The finishing line is between a staff displaying an orange flag on the RC signal vessel and the course side of the orange start/finish mark. This changes Race Signals.
- 13.2 Race Committee may shorten a class by displaying a S Flag over a class flag. If there is no class flag, all classes are shortened. This modifies RRS 32.1.
- 13.3 If the race committee is absent when a boat finishes, she shall report her finishing time, and her position in relation to nearby boats, to the race committee at the first reasonable opportunity. Finish times shall be texted to 281.705.3712 giving sail number and GPS finish time.

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 If a competitor accepts a scoring penalty per RRS 44.3, they shall notify the Race Committee upon their finish of that race.
- 14.3 RRS Appendix T, Arbitration will apply.

15 HEARING REQUESTS

- 15.1 The protest time limit is 60 minutes after the respective committee boat signals with one sound crossing under the Seabrook-Kemah bridge. These times will be posted on the official notice board.
- 15.2 Paper hearing request forms are available from the GBCA clubhouse, however electronic filings using the US Sailing app (red pencil icon on RRS app) are preferred by the protest committee. Please forward all filings to RaceCommitteeTX@gmail.com.
- 15.3 The protest committee will endeavour to post the notice of protests and the hearing schedule within 30 minutes after the close of the deadline for filing protests. Notices and schedules will be posted using the [Regatta Network official notice board](#).
- 15.4. Notices of protests by the race committee, or protest committee will be posted to inform boats under RRS 61.1(b).
- 15.5 Breaches of Sailing Instructions 6.2, 24, 25, 26, and 27 will not be grounds

for a protest or request for redress by a boat. This changes RRS 60.1(a)

15.6 RRS 62.2(a) and 66.2(a) do not apply.

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

17 SAFETY REGULATIONS

17.1 Prior to the first warning signal, each boat is required to check in by passing the stern of the respective race committee vessel on starboard tack or via respective VHF channel.

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

17.3 Contacts for Race Committee: **Scott Tuma 281.705.3712**

18 OFFICIAL VESSELS

18.1 Official vessels will be identified with either the traditional race committee flag (red, fouled anchor on a blue field with red letters "R" and "C"), or GBCA burgee.

18.2 It is requested that any support vessels check in with Race Committee to be used in case of an emergency.

19 TRASH DISPOSAL

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

20 PRIZES

20.1 Prizes are anticipated to be given one prize for every three entries in each class as follows:

- 3 entries – 1st Place
- 6 entries – 1st, 2nd Place
- 9+ entries – 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place

20.2 This event is a qualifying event in the 2023 Galveston Bay Women's Championship Series.

21 RISK STATEMENT

21.1 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.**

22 INSURANCE

22.1 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 Courses

Course 1



Course 2



Course 3



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