



2024 HYC Mermaid Regatta August 24, 2024



The Houston Yacht Club
3620 Miramar Drive, Shoreacres, TX 77571
(281) 471-1255

NOTICE OF RACE

HYC invites all women sailors to an exclusive event for women. This event is a qualifier for *The Mermaid Perpetual Trophy* and for the *2024 Galveston Bay Women’s Championship Series*. Restrictions apply and are detailed in the references below.

The notation ‘[NP]’ in a rule means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule. This changes RRS 60.1(a).

1. RULES

- 1.1 The regatta shall be governed by the rules as defined in the *Racing Rules of Sailing*.
- 1.2 The *2024 Galveston Bay Women’s Championship Series, Notice of Series* applies.
- 1.3 A woman shall helm with an all-female crew.
- 1.4 Boats may race with one (1) male *Support Person* aboard. A “*Support Person*” is defined in the RRS DEFINITIONS and limited in this regatta to the owner of the boat to assure the safety of the boat.
 - a. A male *Support Person* is **not** allowed to coach or assist the team while racing except to intervene in the prevention of a collision that would otherwise cause damage to the boat and risk injury to the crew.
 - b. Boats racing with a male *Support Person* aboard are **ineligible** for *The Mermaid Perpetual Trophy* as defined in **NOR 15.2**.
- 1.5 When rule 20 applies, a boat may indicate her need for room to tack or her response by VHF on the channel identified in the Sailing Instructions.

2. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

The sailing instructions will be available on Regatta Network by 7:00 PM, Tuesday, August 20th, 2024.

3. COMMUNICATION

- 3.1 The official notice board is the “HYC Race Information” board located in the breezeway adjacent to the HYC Office.
- 3.2 [NP] All boats shall carry a VHF radio capable of communicating on US Coast Guard required channels. The official race channel shall be 68 and shall be restated in the Sailing Instructions.
- 3.3 [DP] While racing, except in an emergency, a boat shall not make voice or data communication that is not available to all boats.

4. ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

- 4.1 The regatta is open to all keel boats with a valid **2024 PHRF Galveston Bay Rating Certificate**. A valid **2024 PHRF-GB Rating Certificate** may be obtained at <https://www.phrfgb.org>.
- 4.2 Classes are defined as:

Class Name	Definition of Class
PHRF Spinnaker	Boats racing at their PHRF-GB “Spinnaker Rating”
PHRF Non-Spinnaker	Boats racing at their PHRF-GB “Spinnaker Rating”

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- 4.3 [DP] Each class requires a minimum of three (3) boats. A class of fewer than three (3) boats by the Late Entry Deadline will be regarded as failing to form and the boat(s) in that class may be assigned to another class at the discretion of the Principal Race Officer (PRO).
- 4.4 Boats may only enter the event by registering online at:
<https://www.regattanetwork.com/event/28531> .

5. FEES

- 5.1 \$ 100.00 Standard Registration Fee, (must be paid prior to Friday, August 16th, 5:00 pm).
- 5.2 \$ 25.00 Late Registration Fee, (applies after Friday, August 16th, 5:00 pm).
- 5.3 \$ -5.00 Discount for current US Sailing membership.

Paid entry in the Mermaid Regatta includes one shirt for the skipper and one buffet ticket for skippers and crew on Saturday evening. Additional shirts and buffet tickets are available for purchase.

6. QUALIFYING SERIES

The HYC Mermaid Regatta is a qualifier for the *2024 Galveston Bay Women's Championship*. For details go to www.gbca.org.

7. SCHEDULE

Friday, August 16, 2024

5:00 pm Regatta Entry Deadline / \$25.00 Late fee applies thereafter.

Friday, August 23, 2024

7:00 pm Late Entry Deadline / No entries accepted thereafter.

Saturday, August 24, 2024

9:30 - 11:15 am Registration Check-in.
11:15 am Competitor's Briefing - Beachcomber.
1:30 pm Warning Signal for first race, one additional race is planned.
After Racing Awards Ceremony
6:30 pm Salad Buffet - HYC Ballroom.

8. VENUE

Races will be held on Upper Galveston Bay in the recreational area North of the Bayport Shipping Channel and bounded by the Houston Shipping Channel to the East.

9. COURSES

- 9.1 Courses will be around designated marks with Rule 26 starts.
- 9.2 Courses will be designated in the Sailing Instructions and detailed at the Competitor's Briefing.

10. PENALTY SYSTEM

RRS Appendix V1 & V2 are in effect.

11. SCORING

- 11.1 The scoring system is in accordance with RRS Appendix A.
- 11.2 One (1) race is required to be completed to constitute a regatta.
- 11.3 All boats will be scored by PHRF TOD (Time On Distance).
- 11.4 No score will be excluded.
- 11.5 Rule A5.3 applies.

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12. BERTHING

- 12.1 Yachts entering this regatta may be docked free of charge at Houston Yacht Club.
- 12.2 Prior to arrival, **boat owners must contact the HYC Harbor Manager at (281) 471-1255**
 - a. Must provide an emergency contact number, and
 - b. Request slip availability.

13. RISK STATEMENT

Competitors participate in the regatta entirely at their own risk. See RRS 3, 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.

14. INSURANCE

[NP] Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum coverage of \$300,000.00 per incident or the equivalent.

15. PRIZES

- 15.1 Trophies shall be awarded to each class, based on class participation:
 - a. Five (5) or more boats: 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place trophies
 - b. Four (4) boats: 1st and 2nd place trophies.
 - c. Three (3) boats: 1st place trophy only.

- 15.2 *The Mermaid Perpetual Trophy*, may also be awarded to a boat and her team, provided:
 - a. She is the first-place boat in her class,
 - b. She has an all-women team, without a male *Support Person* aboard, and
 - c. She is a yacht of 30 feet or greater length.

For additional details, please see *The Mermaid Perpetual Trophy Deed of Gift - Rev. June 13, 2023*, included in the online documents.

16. CONTACT INFORMATION

Principal Race Officer	Juliane Graham juliane.graham@yahoo.com
Chief Judge	Yolanda Cortes Mares ymares@earthlink.net (254) 493-0875
Regatta Chairperson	Anne Lee annlan@comcast.net
HYC Harbor Manager	(281) 471-1255