

## 2025 J/24 North American Championship

Organized by The Houston Yacht Club,  
The International J/24 Class Association & U.S. J/24 Class Association

May 27<sup>th</sup> through May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025  
Shoreacres, TX, USA

[www.houstonyachtclub.com/group/pages/j/24-north-american-championship](http://www.houstonyachtclub.com/group/pages/j/24-north-american-championship)

### Sailing Instructions, as Amended 5/28/2025

POSTED May 25, 2025

The notation [NP] in a rule of the Notice of Race (NoR) or these Sailing Instructions (SI) means that a boat may not protest another boat or request redress for breaking that rule. This changes **RRS 60.1**.

#### 1. Rules

- 1.1 The event will be governed by the *rules* as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS).
- 1.2 The Regatta Regulations of the IJCA (IJCA RR) shall apply.
- 1.3 The US Sailing prescriptions that will apply are written out in Addendum A.
- 1.4 Failure of an Atlas 2 or the RaceSense system shall not be grounds for opening a hearing considering redress. This changes **RRS 61.1(a)**. See Addendum F for more information on Vakaros RaceSense.
- 1.5 [NP][DP] Bow numbers will be assigned to each boat and used as identification for the boat during the event. Bow numbers shall be applied by team from the organizing committee and shall remain affixed until after a boat hauls out at the end of the event.
- 1.6 If there is a conflict between languages, the English text will take precedence.
- 1.7 **RRS 60.2(a)(1)** is changed so that the red flag displayed by a protesting boat shall have a hoist of not less than 150mm and a fly of not less than 200mm.
- 1.8 RRS Appendix T, Arbitration, will apply to this event as modified in SI 14.1.
- 1.9 RRS Appendix P will apply as modified in SI 14.4.
- 1.10 The International Jury (Jury) may impose penalties less than disqualification (DPI), for violations of the racing rules other than those of Part 1 and Part 2. For violations of class rules a DPI penalty shall be a minimum of 5% as calculated in RRS 44.3.
- 1.11 Class rules changes as permitted by the IJCA Class Rules (CR), Section H:
  - (a) CR C.2.1(b) is replaced with CR H.4.3 that allows limited, declared crew substitution.
  - (b) CR C.10.2 is replaced by CR H.2 that allows a spare spinnaker with restrictions.
- 1.12 In accordance with RRS G3, a boat chartered or loaned for this event may carry national letters or a sail number in contravention of the class rules.

#### 2. NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

- 2.1 The online, official notice board is located at [https://www.regattanetwork.com/event/28673#\\_newsroom](https://www.regattanetwork.com/event/28673#_newsroom). The onshore, unofficial notice board is located in the breezeway adjacent to the HYC Office. Failure to post notices on the unofficial noticeboard will not be grounds for redress.
- 2.2 Any questions regarding these SIs shall be submitted, in writing, to the Principle Race Officer (PRO). The questions, and any answers, will be in writing and posted on the official notice board as soon as possible.

### 3. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Any change to the SI will be posted before 0900 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. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

4.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed on the Houston Yacht Club (HYC) flagpole.

4.2 When flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 60 minutes' in the race signal AP. This changes **Race Signals AP**.

### 5. SCHEDULE OF RACES

5.1

Day	Date	Time	Event/Activity
Tuesday	27 May	0900 - 1700 1700	Registration/Crew Weigh-in/Inspection Local Weather Briefing
Wednesday	28 May	0900 - 1700 1130 1400 1700 1800	Registration/Crew Weigh-in/Inspection Mandatory Vakaros RaceSense Information/Training Session Practice Race All Boats afloat as specified in NoR 17. Opening Ceremony / Social Hour / Weather Briefing
Thursday	29 May	0830 - 0900 0900 1130 After Racing	Crew Weigh-in Competitors & Weather Briefing Warning for the First Race of the day Post-race social activities and daily awards
Friday	30 May	0830 - 0900 0900 1130 After Racing	Crew Weigh-in* Competitors & Weather Briefing Warning for the First Race of the day Post-race social activities and daily awards
Saturday	31 May	0830 - 0900 0900 1130 1500 1800	Crew Weigh-in* Competitors & Weather Briefing Warning for the First Race of the day No races shall be Started after this time Banquette Closing Awards Ceremony

\*These scheduled crew weigh-ins are only for Technical Committee approved replacements or crews specified per NoR 1.10(a).

5.2 Eight (8) races are scheduled over three (3) consecutive days.

5.3 Three (3) races are scheduled per day. One extra race per day may be sailed provided that the event does not become more than one race ahead of schedule and the change is made according to the provisions of the SIs.

5.4 No Warning Signal will be made after 1500 hrs. on the last day of racing.

### 6. CLASS FLAG

The J/24 Class Flag (blue insignia on a **light blue** background) shall be used in accordance with RRS 26.

### 7. RACING AREAS

The location of the racing area is shown in **NoR ADDENDUM, RACE AREA**

## 8. COURSES

- 8.1 Courses will be windward/leeward as described in Addendum B.
- 8.3 No later than the warning signal, the Race Committee (RC) signal vessel will display the course to be sailed, the approximate compass bearing and the distance of the first leg. The RC will also broadcast this information on VHF channel 72. Failure to broadcast or to receive this information shall not constitute grounds for redress. This changes **RRS 61.4(b)(1)**.
- 8.4 An offset mark (designated Mark 1a) will be used in conjunction with Mark 1. The offset mark will be placed 10-15 boat lengths, at a right angle to port of Mark 1.
- 8.5 Mark 2 will be a gate consisting of two marks (marks 2P/2S). If the gate is not present, Mark 2 shall be rounded to port. Except when there is a change of course, the gate will be positioned to windward of the starting line at a distance at the discretion of the RC. The gate may be laid after the starting signal.
- 8.6 Except for a change of course, the finish for Course 5 will be between Mark 1 and staff displaying orange flag on nearby RC vessel.
- 8.7 No 5-leg course will be shortened to less than four legs in length, and no 4-leg course will be shortened to less than three legs in length. For purpose of this SI only, the distance between Mark 1 and Mark 1a will not be regarded as a leg of the course. This changes **RRS 33**.

## 9. MARKS

Marks 1, 1a, 2s, 2p, start and finish will be:

Mark	Original	New Marks per SI 12.1
1	Yellow Tetrahedron	Orange Tetrahedron
1a (offset)	Round Floating Object	Round Floating Object
2s and 2p (Gate)	Yellow Tetrahedron	Yellow Tetrahedron
Start	Between staffs displaying orange flag on RC Boats.	
Finish	(Course 4) Staff displaying orange flag on RC boat and red ball (Course 5) Between Mark 1 and staff displaying orange flag on RC boat	

## 10. AREAS THAT ARE OBSTRUCTIONS

The Houston Shipping Channel, to the east of the racing area, and the Bayport Shipping Channel, to the south of the racing area, as indicated in **ADDENDUM, RACE AREA** of the **NoR**, are obstructions.

## 11. START

- 11.1 All races will be started in accordance with **Appendix F.4**.
- 11.2 The starting line will be between staffs displaying orange flags on the RC Pin vessel and the RC Signal vessel.
- 11.3 The RC may broadcast starting information and countdowns on **VHF channel 72**. Failure to make or receive such broadcasts will not be grounds for redress. This changes **RRS 61.4(b)**.
- 11.4 [NP] A boat starting later than 6 minutes after her starting signal shall be scored Did Not Start (DNS) without a hearing. This changes **RRS 35, 60.5(b), A4 and A5**.

## 12. CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

- 12.1 To change the next leg of the course, the RC will lay a new mark (or move the finishing line) and remove the original mark as soon as practicable. When in a subsequent change a new mark is replaced, it will be replaced by an original mark.
- 12.2 The RC may tweak the course during a race to maintain course configuration, granted no boat is already on that leg, of no more than 0.1nm or 10-degrees without signaling a course change. This changes **RRS 33**

### 13. THE FINISH

- 13.1 Course 4 - The finish line will be between a staff displaying orange flag on RC Signal vessel and **orange ball**. This changes **Race Signals**.
- 13.2 Course 5 - The finish line will be between Mark 1 and staff displaying orange flag on the nearby RC vessel. This changes **Race Signals**.

### 14. PENALTY SYSTEM

- 14.1 RRS Appendix T will apply, as modified below:
  - 14.1.1 A boat may accept a post-race scoring penalty of 30% only until the end of the protest time limit by completing a penalty acceptance form available at the protest desk. This changes **RRS Appendix T.1.(a) and T.1.(b)**.
  - 14.1.2 A boat accepting a post-race scoring penalty after an arbitration hearing shall be penalized 40%. This changes **RRS Appendix T.1.(b)**.
- 14.2 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."
- 14.3 Except if the course is shortened to finish at the windward mark, penalties while in the zone of the windward mark or on the offset leg may be delayed and taken as soon as possible on the downwind leg. This changes **RRS 44.2**
- 14.4 RRS Appendix P applies, as modified below:
  - 14.4.1 Per RRS P1.1, Members of the Jury may serve as observers and act in accordance with RRS P1.2.
  - 14.4.2 **RRS P1.2** is changed to read that the hail will be either the boat's sail number or the bow number.
  - 14.4.3 **RRS P2.1** is changed to read that the first and subsequent penalties shall be a "one-turn penalty."
  - 14.4.4 RRS P2.2, P2.3 shall not apply.

### 15. TIME LIMITS AND TARGET TIMES

- 15.1 The target time for each race is 60 to 70 minutes. Failure to meet the target time will not be grounds for redress. This changes **RRS 61.4(b)**.
- 15.2 Boats failing to finish within 15 minutes after the first boat sails the course and finishes will be scored Time Limit Expired (TLE) without a hearing. A TLE score shall be two (2) more points than the number of boats that have finished within the time limit. This changes **RRS 35, 60.5(b), A4, A5 and A10**. The RC will lower the orange line flag with a long sound when the finishing window is closed.

### 16. PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

- 16.1 Protests shall be filed **in writing at the protest desk in downstairs lobby at HYC**. Requests for protests, redress and scoring inquiries, or reopening, shall be filed within the appropriate time limit. This changes **RRS 60.3(b), 61.2(a), 61.2(b), and 63.7(b)**.
- 16.2 The protest time limit is **30 minutes** after the RC Signal vessel docks. The same time limit applies to protests by the RC, TC and Jury about incidents they observe in the racing area and to requests for redress. This changes **RRS 60.3(b), 61.2(a) and 61.2(b)**.
- 16.3 Notices will be posted no later than **15 minutes** after the protest time limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties. Parties are responsible for notifying their witnesses. Hearings will be held in the upper level of the HYC Clubhouse.
- 16.4 Prior to the end of the protest time limit, a list of penalties being assigned by the RC or Jury (including RRS 42 violations under Appendix P). The deadline for requests for redress based on these assigned penalties will be either 30 minutes after posting, or the posted protest time limit, whichever is later.
- 16.5 Notices of protests by the RC, TC or Jury will be posted to inform boats under RRS 60.2(a)(2), 60.2(b)(3), and 60.2(d).
- 16.6 Decisions of the Jury will be final as provided in RRS 70.3.

## 17. SCORING

- 17.1 Three (3) races are required to be completed to constitute a championship.
- 17.2 When five (5) or more races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores, excluding her worst score.

## 18. SAFETY REGULATIONS

- 18.1 [NP][DP] A boat that retires from a race or does not intend to compete in a race or returns to the racing area shall notify the RC as soon as possible.
- 18.2 [NP] Before the warning signal of the first race each day, each boat shall sail on starboard tack past the stern of the RC Signal vessel, displaying code flag L hail her bow number and be acknowledged by the RC.
- 18.3 Boats failing to comply with SI 18.1 or 18.2 will receive a 20% penalty (as calculated per RRS 44.3(c)) without a hearing. This changes **RRS 35, 61.4(b), A 4 and A 5.1**.

## 19. REPLACEMENT OF CREW OR EQUIPMENT

- 19.1 Crew replacements are limited to those allowed by NoR 1.10(a) and CR J.4.3 and the request must be in writing. The TC may approve a crew substitution during the event in cases of illness or emergency.
- 19.2 Even if replacement/substitution is allowed, the number of crew shall not change during the event.
- 19.3 Substitution of damaged or lost equipment will not be allowed unless authorized by the TC. Requests for substitution shall be made, in writing, to the TC at the first reasonable opportunity, which may be after racing. Substitution of spinnaker poles or rudders with spares that have been measured and carry event limitation marks for this event may be done without notification.

## 20. EQUIPMENT OR MEASUREMENT CHECKS

- 20.1 On the water, a boat can be instructed by a member of the RC to proceed immediately to a designated area for inspection by the TC.
- 20.2 Ashore, equipment may be inspected or measured at times specified in the CR, the NOR, and at any time by a member of the TC.

## 21. EVENT ADVERTISING

[NP][DP] Boats shall display event advertising that is supplied by the Organizing Authority. Such advertising shall be installed according to the instructions supplied with them and shall remain in place for the duration of the event.

## 22. OFFICIAL VESSELS

Official vessels shall be marked as follows:

Vessel	Flag
Race Committee	Blue and white Race Committee flag
Jury	Code flag J



## 23. SUPPORT VESSELS

- 23.1 [NP][DP] Support vessels shall register during scheduled registration, declaring to which boat or boats they are attached. They may be required to clearly display an identification flag supplied by the Organizing Authority.
- 23.2 [NP][DP] Support vessels and support persons shall remain no less than 150m from the racecourse from the warning signal until all boats have finished or retired or the RC has signaled a postponement, general recall or abandonment.
- 23.3 [NP][DP] Support boat drivers shall have valid third-party liability insurance in the same amount as is required of each participating boat and provide proof of that insurance at registration.

## 24. TRASH HANDLING

- [NP][DP] Competitors shall follow RRS 47 at all times.

## 25. AFLOAT AND HAUL-OUT RESTRICTIONS

- [NP][DP] all boats shall be afloat, with rudders mounted, by 1700 on May 28, 2025, and shall not be hauled out during the event except with, and according to, the terms of prior written permission of the TC.

## 26. DIVING EQUIPMENT, PLASTIC POOLS AND OTHER PROHIBITED ACTIONS

- 26.1 [DP] Underwater breathing apparatus and plastic pools or their equivalent shall not be used from the time the boat is afloat until the end of the event. The hull may be cleaned at any time by swimming or keelhauling using ropes, cloth or other equipment designed for that use.
- 26.2 [DP] Careening, by any means, for the purpose of cleaning or inspecting the hull, is prohibited during the event.
- 26.3 [DP] The use of dehumidifiers or electric fans are prohibited at all times after the time limit described in SI 25.

## 27. RADIO COMMUNICATION

- 27.1 [DP] 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. This shall apply from the time she leaves her mooring for the first race of the day until racing for the day is complete.
- 27.2 The RC will use **VHF channel 72** to communicate to the fleet, including the location of the starting area, countdown to the start, OCS bow or sail numbers, general recalls and postponements. Failure to make broadcasts or failure to hear broadcasts shall not constitute grounds for granting redress. This changes **RRS 61.4**.

## 28. PRIZES

- 28.1 Prizes will be awarded as stated in NoR 19.

## 29. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

- 29.1 Competitors participate in the event 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.
- 29.2 All competitors shall be required to sign a Competitor Liability Waiver form to be provided in the registration package.

### 30 FURTHER INFORMATION

Event Chair	Tim Johnson	(972) 832-5494	Tim.johnson.hyc@outlook.com
PRO	Mark Foster	(361) 816-9801	Mfoster1053@gmail.com
Chief Judge	Robert Stewart	(705) 341-5351	rjs.can.ij@gmail.com
Event Technical Committee Chair	Marcus Rogers	(401) 255-6324	windmonkey2720@gmail.com
Harbor Manager	Philip Meeker	(936) 581-4581	(281) 471-1255

## ADDENDUM A – US Sailing PRESCRIPTIONS

### US Sailing Prescriptions that apply

Only US Sailing Prescriptions to Preamble to Part 5, RRS 61.4 RRS 65.1, 76.1 and 88.2 will apply and are stated in full below.

#### Add to RRS 61.4:

US Sailing prescribes that no fees shall be charged for protests or requests for redress.

#### Add to RRS 65.1:

US Sailing prescribes that

(a) A boat that retires from a race or accepts a penalty does not, by that action alone, admit liability for monetary damages.

(b) A protest committee shall find facts and make decisions only in compliance with the rules. No protest committee or US Sailing appeal authority shall adjudicate any claim for monetary damages. Such a claim is subject to the jurisdiction of the courts

(c) A basic purpose of the rules is to prevent contact between boats. By participating in an event governed by the rules, a boat agrees that responsibility for monetary damages arising from any breach of the rules shall be based on fault as determined by application of the rules, and that she shall not be governed by the legal doctrine of 'assumption of risk' for monetary damages resulting from contact with other boats.

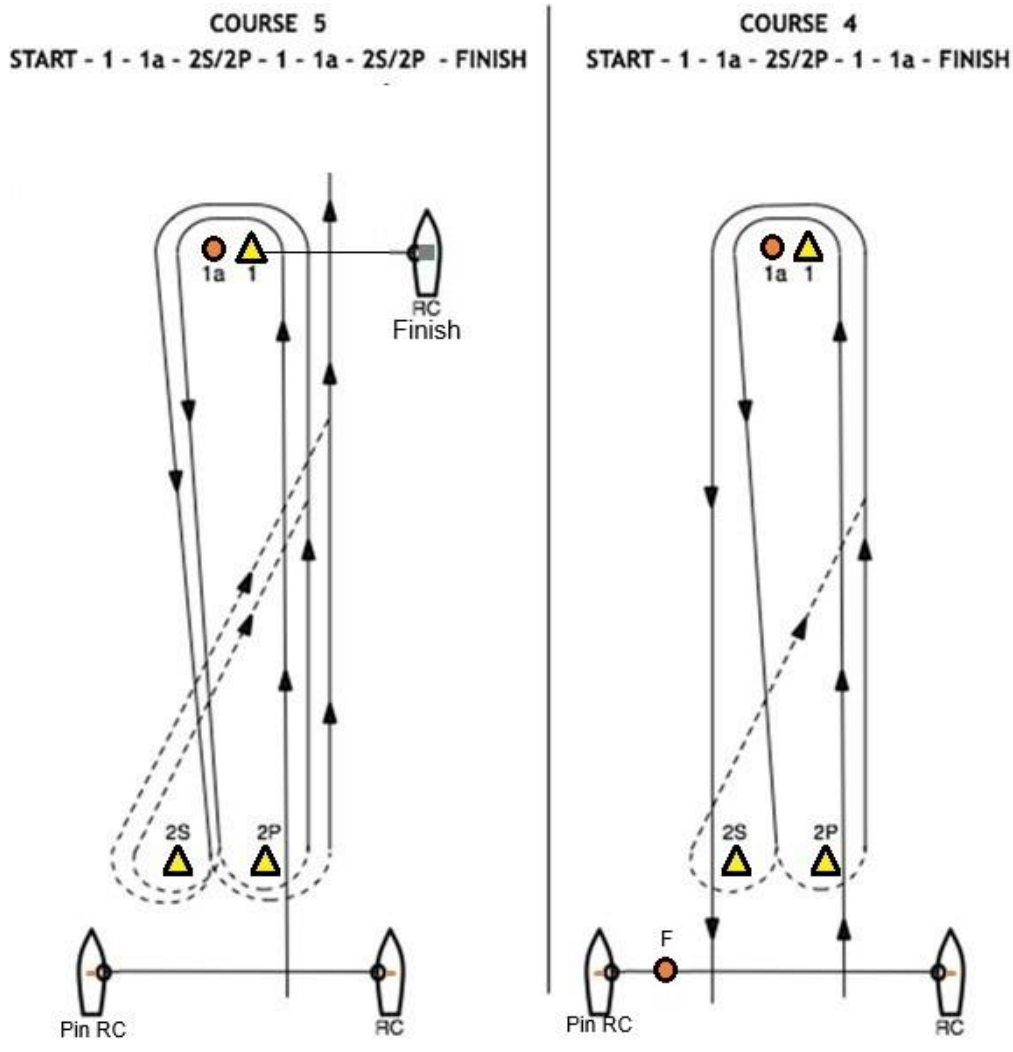
#### Add to RRS 76.1:

US Sailing prescribes that an organizing authority or race committee shall not reject or cancel the entry of a boat or exclude a competitor eligible under the notice of race and sailing instructions for an arbitrary or capricious reason or for reason of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, or age. However, an organizing authority or race committee may exclude a competitor who is a citizen of, or holds a World Sailing ID as an MNA member of, a country listed on the US Sailing website under 'Exclusion' at [ussailing.org/rules](http://ussailing.org/rules).

#### Add to RRS 88.2:

US Sailing prescribes that the notice of race or sailing instructions may change or delete any prescriptions except:  
this prescription,  
Appendix R,  
the prescription to the preamble to Part 5, and  
the prescriptions to rules 65.1, 70.3(b) and 76.1.

## ADDENDUM B - Course Diagrams



NOTE: If the gate (mark 2p and mark 2s) is not present, mark 2 will be set in place of marks 2p and 2s, and shall be rounded to port. 2S/2P in the rounding sequence for the courses is replaced by 2.



## **Appendix F**

### **RaceSense RRS changes**

#### **[NP] Rules and Instructions for Using the Vakaros and RaceSense System**

F.1 Each boat shall have a working Vakaros Atlas 2 or Edge unit configured for RaceSense at check-in. Boats without a configured Atlas 2 or Edge unit may have one provided by the OA, for applicable fees. This shall be mounted as required by the class, at all times, while racing.

F.2 The Vakaros RaceSense system will be used by the Race Committee (RC) and the relevant information will be available to all boats.

F.2 Instructions for using the electronic Atlas 2 or Edge unit will be posted on the Official Notice Board.

F.3 Competitors shall take all reasonable measures to keep the Atlas 2 or Edge units safe and operational and promptly notify Vakaros staff on the water or ashore of any device issues.

F.4 RRS 26 is changed. The countdown to the start on the Atlas2 or Edge units from RaceSense will be the official time. Signal flags will be used for information purposes only.

F.5 The RC visual identification of boats infringing RRS 29 and 30 is replaced with electronic identification through the Vakaros RaceSense system, modifying RRS 29.1, 30.1, 30.2, 30.3, and 30.4. In the event a start needs to be recalled, for fairness or safety reasons, the RC will display code flag N with three sounds and the race will be abandoned.

F.6 Any failure of the Atlas 2 or Edge unit, RaceSense system, or communication systems will not constitute grounds to request redress by a boat, or the Protest Committee. This changes RRS 41(c), 61.1(a), 61.1(c).

F.7 If the RC vessel displays code flag O with one sound signal before the warning signal of a race, F.4 and F.5, inclusive, will not apply to that race.

F.8 If the RC vessel displays code flag R with one sound signal before the warning signal of a race, Competitors shall restart their Vakaros Atlas or Edge unit by switching it off, waiting 90 seconds and then switching it back on to reconnect to the RaceSense network. Code flag R will remain displayed for a minimum of 2 minutes and will be removed with the next warning signal.

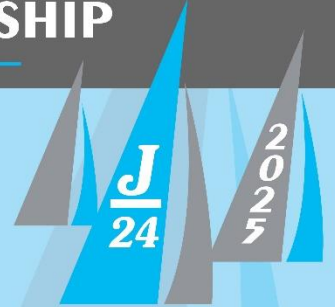
F.9 If firmware updates to Atlas 2 or Edge units are required between scheduled race days, a notice will be sent to all boats via email and/or WhatsApp.

**F.10 Please refer to RRS 56.3 for tracking devices, which is in effect for this event.**

## 2025 J/24 NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP HOUSTON YACHT CLUB



**PORT HOUSTON**  
THE INTERNATIONAL PORT OF TEXAS™



Ed Peine

Admiral June Shaw

Denise and Tom Robinson