



Organizing Authority: The Houston Yacht Club

Shore Acres, Texas

The Gulf of America

**NOTICE OF RACE**  
**THE 2025 GULF OF AMERICA**  
**REACH DOWN THE BEACH AND QUANTUM CUP REGATTAS**

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Welcome to the first Gulf of America Reach Down the Beach Regatta! The Quantum Cup portion of this event will be the return race from Freeport. The winner of the spinnaker class in the Quantum Cup event will be awarded the Carroll Blanchard Cup perpetual trophy.

**(PLEASE CHECK FOR UPDATES TO THIS NOR - SOME OF THIS INFORMATION MAY CHANGE)**

This Regatta will count for points towards the 2025 TORC. The 2025 TORC is defined by competitor participation in three offshore events. These are:

- The 2025 Quantum Cup Regatta hosted by the Houston Yacht Club (May).
- The 2025 Texas Corinthian Yacht Club Offshore Regatta (TCYCOR) at a time and venue TBD.
- The Eagle Cliff Run hosted by the Galveston Yacht Club (November)

The winner of the 2025 TORC in the Spinnaker Class will be awarded the Commodore Edwin Moore Trophy. Edwin Ward Moore served as commander-in-chief of the Navy of the Republic of Texas. The trophy is sponsored by the Texas Navy Association and can be seen at the Houston Yacht Club.

The winner of the 2025 TORC in the non-Spinnaker Class will be awarded the S. Rhodes Fisher Trophy. Samuel Rhoads Fisher was secretary of the Navy of the Republic of Texas. The trophy is sponsored by and may be seen at the Houston Yacht Club.

**DESCRIPTION:**

- Event 1: The Gulf of America Reach Down the Beach, Friday May 09 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 10 features a Rule 26 start from a live Committee boat off the Freeport jetties. The QOR is also known as “the Freeport Race”; the HYC Carroll Blanchard trophy is awarded to the winner in the spinnaker fleet.
- Winners in both spinnaker and non-spinnaker classes are awarded points toward the 2025 TORC.
- In the unlikely event of losing our signal boat, we will default to an end-of-jetty window start following our normal courses as described in the sailing instructions.

**BE AWARE:** There will be a BIMINI'S 'N BARBECUES class: The B & B class is non-spinnaker only, for cruising boats sporting a bimini, with a mounted barbecue pit and towing a dinghy (optional). This class will be scored HYC Club Handicap and features a window start both ways (see section 1-14 below).

**1. RULES:** Racing will be governed by:

1. 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.
2. Boats equipped and rated with power winches may use same. This modifies RRS 51.
3. Boats sailing Single or Double-handed may use autopilots. This modifies RRS 51. Use of autopilots is only permitted when more than 500 yards from the start line and up to 500 yards from the finish line. Otherwise, the yacht must be steered manually. This changes Rule 52.
4. RRS 41 is hereby modified to allow all entrants to communicate hazards amongst themselves on the hailing channel VHF 16 and then on whichever channel they choose to meet.
5. Between the hours of sunset and sunrise, the rules of Part 2 are replaced with the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (IRPCAS).
6. The US SAILING Prescriptions to the RRS will apply.
7. The current PHRF Regulations as administered by the PHRF Galveston Bay.
8. The current US Sailing Safety Equipment Requirements (USSER) for COASTAL events. These requirements are available at [US Sailing SER](#). 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.
9. The current IMS Rule (measurement), ORC Rating Systems (ratings) rules and regulations. ([www.orc.org/rules](http://www.orc.org/rules)), the rules of PHRF Galveston Bay, and TOMA regulations.
10. 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).
11. The Friday event will feature a starting window. Times will be captured, and results calculated by the Race Committee. This changes Rule 26.
12. The Saturday race:
13. If there are fewer than 3 entrants in the ORC Spinnaker class by midnight May 8th, the class will default to PHRF Galveston Bay spinnaker.
14. 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.
15. 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**

1. 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.
2. Both races are designated “Coastal” events.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. Double-handed entries: In a MOB situation each person must be capable of retrieving the other single-handed.
  - i. Single, and double-handed entries are urged to employ full harness, tethers and jack lines regardless of weather conditions.
6. It is strongly recommended that at least one crew member attend an offshore safety at sea seminar presented by a recognized boating organization within the last three years.
7. A minimum of two yachts will constitute a class.
8. 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.
9. Potential classes will be:
  - i. Friday Event: Spinnaker class (ORC, or PHRF, or both depending on registrants), PHRF non-spinnaker class, Bimini’s ‘n Barbecue’s non-spinnaker HYC club handicap class, TOMA Multihull
  - 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 Regatta Network upon request.
  - iv. For the Saturday Race, any one-design class will - upon request - be given a start separate from the handicap classes and have separate trophy categories.
  - v. Boats may enter at [www.regattanetwork.com](http://www.regattanetwork.com) using the on-line entry form.

### **3. FEES**

1. The entry fee is \$125.
2. Entries after registration has closed may be accepted upon special request to the Race Committee.

### **4. SCHEDULE**

1. The schedule will be published in revision 2 to this NOR

### **5. MEASUREMENT**

1. 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.
2. ALL yachts racing in the PHRF non-spinnaker class MUST have a current PHRF Galveston Bay rating certificate.
3. All multihull entries must be compliant with the TOMA rating system for that class.
4. The HYC B & B class (Biminis' 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.
  - a. The Race Committee does not mean to imply that Bimini's and barbecue pits are non-essential equipment.
  - b. On entry, please leave the handicap field blank – the Race Committee will consult an informed resource of good moral character to research your vessel and assign a handicap.
  - c. The Race Committee reserves the right to refuse entries in this class and may reassign boats to the classes described in 5.1 and 5.2.

### **6. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS**

1. Draft Sailing Instructions will be posted on Regatta Network for your review and consideration well before any deadline to enroll.
2. 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.
3. Final SI's will be sent to registered competitors via email no later than the time listed in the "Section 4" above.

### **7. VENUE**

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

### **8. THE COURSES**

1. Will be detailed in the Sailing Instructions (SIs).
2. Friday: Boats will sail between Galveston and Freeport
3. 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.

4. Saturday: QOR PHRF non-spinnaker boats will sail up to a 50 nm course between Freeport and Galveston.
5. Saturday: QOR Bimini's & Barbecues Class Club Handicap boats will sail a course directly from Freeport to Galveston.
6. Multihull entries will sail a course as agreed upon with the class.

#### **9. SCORING:**

1. Appendix A of the RRS applies.

#### **10. SCORING: The S Rhodes Fisher Series**

1. A single race is required to be completed to constitute a series.
2. 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.
3. Competitors for the series award must participate in all three events listed in 10(b). Participation is defined as registering for the event.
4. The series shall be scored as described in Appendix A, section A2.1 of the RRS.

#### **11. BERTHING**

1. 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.
2. Friday evening, we will land at Surfside Marina. The regatta party will be at Dorado's Bar and Grill.
3. Surfside Marina: Contact Santos at [santos@surfside-marina.com](mailto:santos@surfside-marina.com), (979) 418-1768. They also have 4 RV spots with full hookups.

#### **12. PRIZES:**

1. 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.
2. The winner of the spinnaker class will be awarded the HYC Carrol Blanchard Cup.
3. For the Texas Ocean Racing Circuit - please see paragraph 2 above.

#### **13. REQUIRED CHARTS:**

1. 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**

1. 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**

1. The event chair will post a FAQ with very detailed information on Regatta Network as details evolve.
2. For further information please contact the Event Chairman at [billvanrav@gmail.com](mailto:billvanrav@gmail.com)

#### **16. HOTEL INFORMATION**

1. 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).
2. Surfside: The official regatta hotel is The Ocean Village Hotel 310 Ocean Ave Surfside Beach, TX 77541 281-940-2517
3. THE REGATTA WILL ARRANGE FOR RIDES BETWEEN THE HOTEL AND THE MARINA. 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 areas are in front of the marina office and in front of the hotel.

#### **17. DINING INFORMATION:**

1. The official Regatta party (and awards ceremony for the Reach Down the Beach) and banquet will be at Dorado's Bar and Grill (5-minute walk from the marina) the evening of Friday May 10.
2. The cost is (TBD) per plate payable directly to the restaurant by credit card/cash at their establishment.
3. FOR OUR PLANNING PURPOSES, we ask that you record the EXPECTED number of souls to feed on your Regatta Network registration.
4. If you haven't registered but are considering the event, please send us an email with your possible headcount.
5. As the number shrinks and grows, we ask that you send a simple email update to the Race Committee at [billvanrav@gmail.com](mailto:billvanrav@gmail.com).
6. PLEASE COOPERATE WITH THIS REQUEST, and there will be plenty of food for all.
7. The RC will keep the Dorado's apprised of the number of meals to plan.
8. The restaurant is walking distance from the Surfside Marina.
9. THERE WILL BE A LIMITED QUANTITY OF FREE RUM! First come, first served.
10. We'll start serving food at 7:00-ish, please see the FAQ (Regatta Network) for menu options and details.

#### **18. SOCIAL EVENTS:**

1. Friday evening: Official Regatta Party. 1700 hours at Dorado's. We will award trophies for the Reach Down the Beach event, plus host an awesome evening of karaoke featuring DJ TBD.
2. Sunday a.m.: Sail washing and folding on the lawn. Very therapeutic...
3. Sunday @ 13:00 – HYC Reach Down the Beach Regatta awards ceremony in the HYC Bar.