



## NOTICE OF RACE

Published February 15th, 2026

HMR 101 <sup>1</sup>	1:00 PM	Saturday, July 11, 2026
Early Registration Deadline	11:59 PM	Saturday, June 1, 2026
HMR Safety Day Seminar	8:00 AM	Saturday, Sept. 26, 2026
Registration Deadline	11:59 PM	Sunday, Sept. 20, 2026
<b>NO LATE ENTRIES will be accepted after Saturday, October 10, 2026</b>		
Skippers' Meeting	7:00 PM	Friday, Oct. 16, 2026
Race Start	2:00 PM	Thursday, Oct. 22, 2026

Location: Galveston, Texas to Port Aransas, Texas  
Organizing Authority: Bay Access Sailing Foundation®  
Hosted by Lakewood Yacht Club  
Contact: [HMR@LakewoodYachtClub.com](mailto:HMR@LakewoodYachtClub.com)

The notation '[NP]' in a rule means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule. This changes RRS 60.2(a).

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<sup>1</sup> HMR 101 is an optional seminar intended to introduce sailors to the regatta and provide a basic orientation about what to expect of the race.

## 1 RULES

- 1.1 The event is governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing* (“RRS”).
- 1.2
  - 1.2.1 The Safety Equipment Requirements for Coastal Races (“SER”) as published by US Sailing and as modified for this Regatta, available at [www.HarvestMoonRegatta.com](http://www.HarvestMoonRegatta.com), applies [NP].
  - 1.2.2 The rules of the Offshore Racing Congress Club Rule (“ORC Club”) apply to Monohulls competing in the ORC Fleet.
  - 1.2.3 The rules of the Performance Handicap Racing Fleet of Galveston Bay (“PHRF”) apply to Monohulls competing in the PHRF Non-Spinnaker and all Cruising Fleets.
  - 1.2.4 The rules of the Texas Offshore Multihull Association (“TOMA”) apply to Multihulls.
  - 1.2.5 If a Rally Cruising Class is formed, additional rules for that class will be posted on the HMR website.
- 1.3 RRS 61.4(b)4 is modified by deleting the words in parentheses so that a boat may request redress in the event of giving help in compliance with RRS 1.1, even if help is to herself or her crew.

RRS Appendix G is modified to allow cruising boats to carry a sign with a number assigned by the Race Committee in lieu of a number on her sail.

RRS 52 is modified to allow power-driven winches in Cruising Canvas and Multihull Classes.

RRS 40.2(a) is changed so that the phrase “while *racing* in that race” is replaced with “while *racing* in that race except when the competitor is completely below decks.” Rule 40.2(b) is changed so that the phrase “at all times while afloat that day” is replaced with “at all times while afloat during the race except when the competitor is completely below decks.”

No score will be excluded. This changes RRS Appendix A2.1.

### 1.4 Sail Construction Rules

#### **Sails allowed in “Cruising” Fleets:**

Sails constructed primarily for durability and general-purpose use. Woven polyester and cruising laminates are permitted. Molded membrane sails, string sails, and sails incorporating carbon, aramid, PBO, or similar high-modulus structural fibers are not permitted.

**Racing Sails:**

Any sail not meeting the above definition, including molded, tape-drive, or filament load-path sails.

- 1.5 Each boat shall conform to U.S. Sailing's Safety Equipment Requirements for Coastal Races, with exceptions and changes as listed on the on HarvestMoonRegatta.com under "Race Information."
- 1.6 The navigation rules of the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (IRPCAS) replaces RRS Part 2 from sunset until sunrise.

Competitors are reminded that, under the preamble of Part 2 to RRS, when a boat sailing under the rules meets a vessel that is not, the rules require that she comply with the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea ("IRPCAS") or government right-of-way rules.

**Interfering With Commercial Traffic:** If the Race Committee receives a confirmed report from a disinterested party that a boat interfered with commercial traffic in violation of the I.R.P.C.A.S. while transiting to the race area, while *racing*, or while transiting to her mooring after *finishing*, the Race Committee will protest that boat and seek disqualification. **ANY SKIPPER OF A BOAT SO DISQUALIFIED WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO ENTER ANY FUTURE HARVEST MOON REGATTA® or LAKEWOOD YACHT CLUB EVENT.**

- 1.7 The following US Sailing prescriptions do not apply: 63.1.
- 1.8 The following rules apply to the Cruising Fleets only:
  - a. Power-driven winches are permitted. This changes RRS 52.
  - b. Headsails, foresails, or oversized jibs, greater than the largest jib rated on the handicap certificate, shall not be used in the Non-Spinnaker Fleet.
  - c. Two headsails may not be carried at the same time, except that while changing headsails, the replacing sail may be set and trimmed before the replaced sail is lowered. For purposes of this rule, a staysail on a cutter rigged boat is not considered a headsail.
  - d. Pole lifts and down hauls may be used.
  - e. A whisker pole may be used to wing out a headsail, the luff of which must be attached to a headstay. A whisker pole or spinnaker pole may not be used to wing out an asymmetrical spinnaker.
  - f. Staysails shall not be used except on boats in the Cutter division to which the staysail is furled or hanked onto an inner forestay permanently attached at the mast.

- g. Boats in the Cruising divisions (both spinnaker and non-spinnaker) shall only use mainsails and headsails constructed to be for Cruising as opposed to Racing

1.9 CLEAN REGATTA PLEDGE: We pledge our commitment to clean waters and shores by participating in Sailors for the Sea's Clean Regattas program. We vow to fulfill, and encourage others to fulfill, the goals and requirements of Clean Regattas as set forth by Sailors for the Sea, and to work to protect and restore our waters for the use and enjoyment of current and future generations. *Clean Regattas is a program of Sailors for the Sea, a nonprofit organization that educates and empowers boaters to protect and restore our oceans and coastal waters.*

## **2 SAILING INSTRUCTIONS**

2.1 Sailing Instructions will be available online in advance of the Skippers' Meeting. A limited number of printed copies may be available on request at the Skippers' Meeting.

## **3 COMMUNICATION**

3.1 The Official Notice Board will be online and can be reached by [following this link](#), which also will be available on HarvestMoonRegatta.com

3.2 [DP] VHF radios will be required and will be used extensively. In addition, each boat will be required to carry a cell or satellite phone and shall provide necessary information and authority so the Race Committee can send text messages to the yacht during the event. The MMSI Number registered to the Boat will be required with registration information.

3.3 On the water, the race committee will make courtesy broadcasts to competitors on VHF radio. The channel will be stated in the SIs.

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 at no cost to all boats. In particular, but without limitation, this instruction prohibits customized weather forecasts or reports provided to a specific boat.

## **4 ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY**

4.1 The event is open to all sailboats of at least 27 feet length on deck. Classes may include ORC Spinnaker, PHRF Non-Spinnaker, Cruising Spinnaker and Cruising Non-Spinnaker, Multihulls and an unscored Rally Cruising Class.

4.2 Each boat shall provide the required handicap information no later than the entry deadline.

- 4.2.1 Each monohull boat entering the ORC Fleet shall provide a copy of her current 2026 ORC certificate.
- 4.2.2 Each monohull boat entering a PHRF handicapped fleet shall provide a copy of her current 2026 PHRF-GB certificate.

4.2.3 Each PHRF multihull boat shall provide a copy of her current 2026 Texas Offshore Multihull Association rating certificate. Contact: Michael Zotsky (832) 656-4123 or email: [michaelzotsky@gmail.com](mailto:michaelzotsky@gmail.com).

Rating certificates may be scanned and uploaded with your registration or may be sent to the attention of Harvest Moon Regatta® at [HMR@LakewoodYachtClub.com](mailto:HMR@LakewoodYachtClub.com).

4.3 Eligible boats may enter by completing the online entry form [available here](#) or by following the link to register at [www.HarvestMoonRegatta.com](http://www.HarvestMoonRegatta.com) and timely paying the required fees. Registration is not complete until payment is made.

4.4 The Race Committee shall have full authority and discretion to determine the suitability of any boat or competitor for entry, or for entry in any fleet, and may divide any fleet into divisions at its sole discretion.

Each boat must be properly documented with the U.S. Coast Guard or properly registered with a jurisdiction within the United States. Vessels registered with a jurisdiction outside the United States may enter with prior written approval of the Principal Race Officer.

4.5 Entry is not complete until the Organizing Authority receives a Waiver and Release of Liability from each skipper and crew member. Skippers' waivers are submitted during the entry process. Each crew member shall submit a waiver online no later than the Skippers' Meeting by following the [Complete Crew Waiver](#) link.

The Skipper must ensure that before the Skippers' Meeting (a) all crew members are listed in the boat's registration and (b) every crew member has executed a Waiver and Release of Liability. No crew member substitutions or additions will be permitted after the Skippers' Meeting. The skipper shall ensure that each crew member is listed on the on-line listing of waivers received.

To be considered an entry in the event, a boat shall complete all registration requirements and pay all fees.

4.6 Late entries will be accepted under the following conditions: After 11:59 pm CT September 20, 2026, registration fees will be increased by \$100; but no late entries will be permitted after October 10th, 2026. NOTE: After 11:59 pm CT September 20th, 2026, a \$100 late fee will be added to all entries that have not by that time paid the entry fee. After the late entry deadline.

4.7 **Early Registration Incentive.** Completed, paid entries received by the early registration deadline will receive the lowest available price, ensuring you don't pay more later as costs may increase.

4.8 If paying by credit card, please note that if a refund is later issued, a portion will be retained as processing fee. For boats withdrawing after the Skippers' Meeting, refunds will be made only for the prepaid City Marina Docking/Raft Fee.

## 5 FEES

5.1 The Entry Fee Prior to June 1, 2026 is \$355. After this date, the Entry Fee is \$395.00. The fee will be calculated in the registration process.

For boats docking or rafting at the Port Aransas City Marina, A Docking/Raft Fee based on overall length applies as follows:

City Marina Docking/Raft Fees:	
Up to 40 feet	\$96
40.1-50 feet	\$144
50.1-60 feet	\$177
Over 60 feet	\$292

5.2 US SAILING members receive a \$10.00 discount.

Boats making arrangements to dock at facilities other than City Marina do not need to prepay the City Marina Docking/Raft Fee but shall indicate their docking plans during the registration process and update their registration if those plans change.

5.3 Any boat that cancels their entry and requests a refund after 11:59 pm CT September 20, 2026 will be subject to a \$100 cancellation fee. Withdrawing before this date will incur no additional fees.

## **6 CREW LIMITATIONS**

6.1 The following crew limitations apply.

6.1.1 Monohulls shall have a minimum crew of four capable sailors.

6.1.2 Multihulls shall have a minimum crew of three experienced and capable sailors.

## **7 ADVERTISING**

7.1 As a courtesy to our valued sponsors, no advertising may be displayed in the Port Aransas marinas without prior written permission of the Race Committee. Generic class flags or manufacturer's flags, not personalized with a particular boat's name or logo dominant, are considered advertising and shall not be displayed. This rule applies from the time a boat checks in to race until the boat leaves Port Aransas to return to her home port.

## **8 SCHEDULE**

8.1	Early Registration Deadline	Saturday, June 1	11:59 PM
	HMR Safety Day	Saturday Sept 26	8:00 AM
	Entry Deadline	Sunday, September 20	11:59 PM
	Late Entry Cutoff w/ late fee	Saturday, October 10,	9:00 PM
	Skippers' Meeting	Friday, October 16	7:00 PM
	First Start –Galveston	Thursday, October 22	2:00 PM
	Finish Deadline	Saturday, October 24	1:00 PM

Welcome Sailor Rum Party	Saturday, October 24	4:30 PM
Food Truck Service Starts	Saturday, October 24	5:00 PM
Awards	Saturday, October 24	7:00 PM

## **9 EQUIPMENT INSPECTION**

9.1 [DP] The Race Committee may inspect a boat any time after the Registration Deadline and before the awards ceremony. An inspection may be performed, at the discretion of the Race Committee, in person or by requesting photographic or video evidence that a boat meets specific requirements. If the boat is not made available for inspection, the Race Committee may protest that boat. Boats not intending to berth in the vicinity of Port Aransas after the finish shall make prior arrangements with the Principal Race Officer.

## **10 VENUE**

10.1 The venue for events before the day of the Race is Lakewood Yacht Club.

10.2 The venue for the race is the Gulf of Mexico between Galveston, Texas and Port Aransas, Texas.

10.3 The venue for events after racing is the Pavilion at the Port Aransas City Marina.

## **11 COURSES**

11.1 The race will start at Galveston, Texas, near Pleasure Pier. Boats will race to Port Aransas, Texas, leaving the Freeport outer buoy (RW “FP” Mo (A) WHIS) and the Matagorda outer buoy (RW “MB” Mo (A) WHIS) to starboard. The race will finish in the vicinity of the Port Aransas Ship Channel at approximately 27° 50' N and 96° 59'W. The approximate course length is 140 nautical miles.

## **12 PENALTY SYSTEM**

12.1 Appendix V1 (alternate penalties while racing) and Appendix T, including T1 (post-race penalties) shall apply.

## **13 SCORING**

13.1 The Cruising and PHRF classes will be scored based on **PHRF Time-on-Time** scoring.  
The ORC Monohull Fleet will use **ORC Time-On-Time** scoring.  
The TOMA Multihull fleet will be scored based on **PHRF Time-on-Distance** scoring.

13.2 One race is required to be completed to constitute a series.

## **14 MANDATORY RACE TRACKING**

14.1 **Race tracking utilizing YB Tracking devices will be mandatory.** Failure to have the Yellow Brick aboard and active during the race will result in the boat being scored DNF without a hearing. YB Tracking device rental is included in the registration fee for the race. Trackers will be distributed at the Skippers Meeting at Lakewood Yacht Club.

Rental devices must be turned in at the Check-in Table in Port Aransas pavilion (unless using for the return trip; see below). A credit card number will be required as a deposit; there is a charge of approximately \$920 by YB Tracking for any Tracker that is lost, damaged, or not timely returned.

For an additional fee of approximately \$40, the tracking device can be available for the return trip. If used on the return trip, the devices must be returned at the LYC reception desk or guard shack no later than 4:00 PM on October 29, 2026.

## **15 BERTHING**

15.1 The Port Aransas City Marina will be the primary regatta facility, with dockage assigned by the Docking Committee upon arrival. Any boat docking at City Marina may be required to raft up and shall comply with all instructions from the Docking Committee. Skippers intending to leave their boats at City Marina shall pre-pay a two-day Dock/Raft fee through the online Regatta Store. Skippers who fail to pre-pay this Dock/Raft fee may be denied dockage at the City Marina. Payment may be made at the time of Registration but shall be made no later than the day before the Skipper's Meeting.

## **16 PHOTOGRAPHERS AND MEDIA RIGHTS**

16.1 All participants, including, but not limited to competitors, skippers, crew, vessel owners, alike, and their guests who participate in the racing or shoreside events related to the regatta grant Bay Access Sailing Foundation®, Lakewood Yacht Club and their sponsors the irrevocable and unrestricted right and permission in perpetuity, to use their name, image or likeness or that of their vessel for editorial, promotional, educational or race reporting purposes in any and all forms of media, including, but not limited to TV, movie, videos, newspapers, magazines, periodicals, and any electronic form of the internet, or like or similar media. As part of the race registration process, each participant shall execute a waiver and release of liability in favor of Bay Access, Lakewood Yacht Club and their sponsors for the use of the participant's name, identity or likeness, or for the use of the name, identity or likeness of their guests who participate in shoreside events related to the regatta and related events.

## **17 RISK STATEMENT**

17.1 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.**

17.2 **DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY:** Competitors in this event are participating entirely at their own risk. The Race Organizers (including Lakewood Yacht Club, Bay Access Sailing Foundation®, the Race Committee, the Harvest Moon Regatta® Committee, the sponsors of the Harvest Moon Regatta®, the Protest Committee, and/or their respective members, officers, board of directors, staff or representatives) will not be responsible for damage to any boat or other property or the injury to any competitor, including death, sustained as a result of participation in this event, regardless of the fact that such damage may be, in whole or in part, due to negligence. By participating in this event, each competitor agrees to release the Race Organizers from any and all liability associated with such competitor's participation in this event to the fullest extent permitted by law, whether caused in whole or in part by negligence. Neither the adoption of the Special Equipment Requirements, their use and modification by the Organizing Authority, nor the inspection of a boat in any way reduces the complete and unlimited responsibility of the skipper. It is the sole and exclusive responsibility of the skipper and crew of a boat to decide whether or not to start or continue in a sailing event.

## 18 INSURANCE

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

## 19 PRIZES

19.1 **Divisions:** Trophies will be awarded to the first four places in each division with at least eight boats.

### 19.2 Fleet Trophies:

- The ***Harvest Moon Trophy*** will be awarded to the first-place boat in the ORC monohull fleet.
- The ***Cameron Cannon*** will be awarded to the first-place boat in the Cruising Non-Spinnaker fleet.
- The ***John Broderick Memorial Trophy*** will be awarded to the first-place boat in the Cruising Spinnaker fleet.
- The ***Founders Trophy*** will be awarded to the first-place boat in the TOMA Multihull fleet.

19.3 **First to Finish Trophies:** First to finish awards will be based on elapsed time.

- The ***Ed Bailey Memorial Trophy*** will be awarded to the first monohull to sail the course and finish the race.
- The ***Mayor's Trophy*** will be awarded to the first multihull to sail the course and finish the race.

**19.4 Women's Trophy:**

- To encourage women in yacht racing, the **Luna Trophy** will be awarded in the Cruising Non-Spinnaker Fleet based on lowest corrected time, to a boat whose skipper and primary crew are women. One male owner's representative may be part of the crew but may not act as the person in charge.

**19.5 Additional Trophies:** Additional trophies may be awarded, including Manufacturers' Trophies.

**20 FURTHER INFORMATION**

20.1 For additional information, visit [HarvestMoonRegatta.com](http://HarvestMoonRegatta.com). You may also contact Harvest Moon Regatta® Chair Steve Guerin or Principal Race Officer Bob Hunkins via email at [HMR@LakewoodYachtClub.com](mailto:HMR@LakewoodYachtClub.com),