

**Southern Yacht Club's Annual  
RACE TO THE COAST  
First sailed on the Fourth of July, 1850  
JUNE 10-11, 2011  
New Orleans, LA to Gulfport, MS**

**SAILING INSTRUCTIONS**

**1 RULES**

- 1.1 The regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing* (RRS), including the US SAILING prescriptions; applicable class and/or rating rules; the Notice of Race; and the Sailing Instructions. When there is a conflict between rules, succeeding documents in the list above shall take precedence, except as specifically prohibited by a preceding document. This changes RRS 63.7.
- 1.2 Between the local hours of sunset and sunrise, RRS Part 2 will be replaced by the Inland Navigation Rules, Subpart B – Steering and Sailing Rules; except that RRS Part 2 shall always apply between two or more yachts that are about to round or pass a Mark of the Course or finish and until they have passed the mark or cleared the finish line.
- 1.3 Monohull yachts shall be governed by the By Laws of the GYA Performance Handicap Racing Fleet (GYA-PHRF).
- 1.4 Multihull yachts shall be governed by the GYA Offshore Multihull Council (GYA-OMC) Safety Rules and Regulations, for which the event shall be classified as Category 3.
- 1.5 RRS 26 is replaced with the PURSUIT STARTING SYSTEM described herein.
- 1.6 Yachts shall set only one headsail (jib or Genoa) at a time, except while changing sails.
- 1.7 Staysails shall be tacked no farther than 1/3 of the measured “J” dimension from the stem fitting. Staysail clews shall not extend beyond the rated “LP” line. Mizzen staysails may be used.
- 1.8 Non-Spinnaker classes shall not set a spinnaker, gennaker, flasher, blooper, or any other sail cut or flown to simulate such.
- 1.9 Whisker poles may be used, but shall not exceed the rated “SPL” dimension and, except while gybing, must be affixed to the foremost mast and set on the windward side.

**2 NOTICES TO COMPETITORS**

Notices will be posted on the official notice board at SYC prior to the start and at Gulfport YC after the start. Notices will also be posted on the SYC web site.

**3 SCHEDULE**

Sat, Jun 11, 2011	0755 – Warning Signal for the Pursuit Starting sequence
	Awards Ceremony at Gulfport Yacht Club

**4 CLASS ASSIGNMENTS**

Class assignments and ratings will be as shown on the Scratch Sheet.

**5 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS**

Changes to these Sailing Instructions shall be posted no later than one hour after the end of the Skippers Meeting and will also be posted on the SYC web site.

**6 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE**

Signals made ashore will be flown from the SYC mast and posted on the SYC web site.

**7 RADIO COMMUNICATIONS**

The RC will monitor and transmit on VHF 68.

## **8 THE START**

- 8.1 The starting area will be located in Lake Pontchartrain, approximately 11.9nm at 045° from Southern Yacht Club and appx. 12.2nm at 152° from the entrance to Bayou Castine and appx. 6.4nm at 250° from the Highway 11 draw bridge. The approximate coordinates are N 30°10.1' W 089°57.1'.
- 8.2 The STARTING LINE will be between the staff bearing an orange flag on the Race Committee boat, on the starboard end, and the pre-start side of the starting mark, on the port end.

## **9 PURSUIT STARTING SYSTEM**

- 9.1 Each yacht shall have a prescribed Starting Time corresponding to her rating as shown in APPENDIX B – 50-MILE PURSUIT STARTING TIMES. The Time of Day is also shown as a reference, but the Starting Time shall take precedence at the start.
- 9.2 The RC signal boat will display a timer showing Starting Time in hours, minutes and seconds (H:MM:SS), which will begin counting up from “0:00:00” at 0800.
- 9.3 Five (5) minutes before the Starting Time sequence is first started or is resumed after a postponement a WARNING SIGNAL will be made by the display of code flag “I” with one sound signal. The “I” flag will be displayed for the duration of the starting sequence.
- 9.4 For the purposes of the rules, a yacht’s STARTING SIGNAL shall be defined as her Starting Time and her PREPARATORY SIGNAL shall be defined as five (5) minutes prior to her Starting Time.
- 9.5 The RC will make a sound signal at the Starting Time of each yacht entered in the regatta, regardless of whether they are present at the starting area.
- 9.6 If the Starting Time is not being displayed by the RC, yachts shall start at the corresponding Time of Day, per Appendix B, plus any postponement delay as displayed on the RC signal boat.

## **10 POSTPONEMENT**

- 10.1 At its discretion, the RC may signal a Postponement in accordance with RRS 27.3 before or during the Pursuit Starting sequence. If made during the sequence, code flag “I” will be removed when the postponement signal is made and the Starting Time count will be stopped, to be subsequently resumed from the same point. Postponements will apply only to yachts that have not yet started.
- 10.2 The aggregate duration of all postponements will be displayed on a board on the RC signal boat in hours and minutes (H:MM). Postponements will be made in ten (10) minute increments.

## **11 INDIVIDUAL RECALLS**

- 11.1 In accordance with RRS 30.1, the I Flag Rule will be in effect for the entire starting sequence.
- 11.2 When an individual recall is signaled per RRS 29.1, the RC will attempt to hail the sail numbers of the premature yachts via loudhailer and VHF. The order, timing and success of these hails shall not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 62.1.
- 11.3 Code flag “X” will not be displayed. This changes RRS 29.1.

## **12 BRIDGE SAFETY and DELAYS**

- 12.1 A yacht shall not overtake another yacht while transiting through a bridge. As provided below, yachts may engage their auxiliary power in reverse to reduce speed and avoid overtaking.
- 12.2 If a yacht encounters a closed draw bridge on the course, the crew shall use the BRIDGE DELAY REPORT FORM to record the time of day that the yacht’s bow reaches a point two (2) boat lengths from the nearest fender, before turning away to wait. Once the bridge opens and the yacht begins to transit the bridge, the crew shall record the time of day that the bow passes the same point relative to the fenders.
- 12.3 Yachts shall resume race progress as soon as possible and shall not delay to gain an advantage.
- 12.4 Each yacht shall submit a Bridge Delay Report Form regardless of whether she was delayed.
- 12.5 The success of this regatta is dependent upon the cooperation of the Bridge Tenders to get the fleet through The Rigolets. Competitors SHALL NOT engage in argumentative or obscene conversation with the Bridge Tenders. Competitors SHALL exercise patience and consideration and use polite and clear speech in their communications with the Bridge Tenders. An offending yacht is subject to disqualification and exclusion from future races. Also, note that Bridge Tenders must record the names and sail numbers of all boats transiting the bridges.

**13 USE OF AUXILIARY PROPULSION WHILE RACING**

- 13.1 Except as required by RRS 1.1 & 42.3(f) and as provided by 42.3(h), yachts may engage their auxiliary propulsion while racing as specifically described in this section.
- 13.2 While using auxiliary power, a yacht shall not overtake another yacht in the race.
- 13.3 For safety while transiting through each bridge, yachts may engage their auxiliary propulsion to maintain a steady course and speed, not to exceed four (4) knots, from the time the bow is two (2) boat lengths from the fenders until the yacht clears the fenders on the opposite side.
- 13.4 A yacht that becomes grounded in either the North Shore Channel or The Rigolets, and nowhere else, may use auxiliary propulsion to free herself. Once afloat, a yacht shall immediately disengage her auxiliary power and complete one 360-degree turn, under sail only, before resuming race progress.
- 13.5 Yachts waiting for a bridge to open may use auxiliary propulsion to maneuver and to return to the point where the bridge arrival time was taken, as long as her speed does not exceed four (4) knots at that point.

**14 THE COURSE**

- 14.1 The course distance will be 50.0nm and is not subject to protest. This alters RRS 62.1(a).
- 14.2 The required Marks of the Course, in order of rounding or passing, will be as follows:

Mark	Leave To:	Description	NOAA Chart
Starting Mark	PORT	Inflatable orange shape	11369
NSRR & Highway 11 Bridges		(2) bascule bridges	11371
I-10 "Twin Span" Bridges	Note 1	(4) fixed bridges (2 being demolished)	
North Shore Channel green marks	STBD	(7) day markers – G "15,13,11,9,7,5,3"	11371 or 11367
Rigolets West Entrance "6"	PORT	Fixed mark – FI R 2.5s 17ft 3M "6"	
Highway 90 Bridge	Note 1	Fixed bridge	
Rigolets CSX Railroad Bridge	Note 2	Swing bridge	
ICW Rigolets Approach "19"	PORT	Fixed mark – Q G 17ft 4M "19"	
St. Joe Pass – Grassy Isle "3"	STBD	Fixed mark – FI G 4s 17ft 5M "3"	11371
Gulfport Sound Channel "62" / Finish	PORT	Fixed mark – FI R 2.5s 17ft "62"	
Note 1: Yachts shall pass through the navigable fixed span or, at the Skipper's risk, the spans immediately adjacent on either side. Note 2: Yachts shall pass through the navigable passage or, at the Skipper's risk, the opposite side of the swing span.			

**15 NOTIFICATION OF WITHDRAWAL**

Yachts withdrawing while racing must report their actions as soon as possible to the Race Committee via telephone, at Southern YC (504) 288-4200 or Gulfport YC (228) 863-6796. Failure to report promptly will prevent the offending boat from entering next year's race.

**16 TIME LIMIT**

There is no time limit.

**17 THE FINISH**

- 17.1 Yachts shall attempt to hail the RC via VHF when they are approximately thirty minutes from the finish.
- 17.2 The FINISH LINE will be between a staff bearing an orange flag on the RC signal boat, on the starboard end, and the course side of the finish mark, on the port end.
- 17.3 Yachts finishing in darkness shall illuminate their sail numbers to aid the RC in identification.

**18 FINISH BOAT ABSENT**

- 18.1 If the RC boat is not on-station at the finish, a yacht shall use the FINISHING TIME REPORT FORM to record the time of day at which, while within two (2) of her hull lengths of the finish mark, her bow passes directly abeam of the mark. She shall also record any nearby yachts ahead and behind.
- 18.2 Yachts that have recorded their own finish shall report their status, as soon as possible, to the Race Committee after docking at Gulfport YC or via telephone, (228) 863-6796. Failure to report promptly will be grounds for disqualification and additional penalties.

**19 PROTEST TIME**

The protest time limit is one (1) hour after the last yacht finishes.

**20 DOCKING**

Yachts may dock or raft at the Gulfport YC Visitors Pier (D-Pier) through Friday, June 27, 2011 without charge. Slips may be available by reservation.

**21 POST-RACE CHECK-IN**

Skippers shall submit a completed Bridge Delay Report Form and, if applicable, a Finishing Time Report Form to the RC or club office immediately upon docking at Gulfport YC or via telephone, (228) 863-6796. Yachts that do not check-in within one (1) hour of their finish may be disqualified.

**22 SCORING**

Yachts shall be scored in accordance with RRS Appendix A, after applying adjustments for Bridge Delays and Postponements, if any. In the event of a tie, duplicate prizes will be awarded.

**23 PRIZES**

- 23.1 Trophies will be awarded as follows:
  - First place overall.
  - Fastest boat overall (adjusted elapsed time).
  - First place in each class with 4 or more boats.
  - Second place in each class with 5 or more boats.
  - Third place in each class with 6 or more boats.
- 23.2 The following perpetual trophies will be awarded to yachts skippered by SYC members:
  - Beauregard “Bugs” Avegno Perpetual Trophy** – First Place SYC boat, overall.
  - Louis V. Rand Memorial Trophy** – Fastest SYC boat, overall (adjusted elapsed time).

**24 DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY**

Competitors participate in the event entirely at their own risk. See RRS 4, Decision to Race. The Management of the event will not accept liability for any losses resulting from competitors’ participation in this event and associated activities prior to, during and after the regatta.

**25 MISCONDUCT**

In the event of gross misconduct by a Skipper, owner, crew or their guests, before, during or after the regatta, a yacht may be subject to disqualification and other disciplinary action.

**26 FURTHER INFORMATION**

For more information, see the SYC web site ([www.southernyachtclub.org](http://www.southernyachtclub.org)) or contact:  
Southern Yacht Club, (504) 288-4200 or [info@southernyachtclub.org](mailto:info@southernyachtclub.org)  
Gulfport Yacht Club, (228) 863-6796  
GYC Harbormaster, Sam Vasquez (228) 323-1336 or [sam@gulfportyachtclub.org](mailto:sam@gulfportyachtclub.org).