

Galveston Bay Cruising Association
2011 Texas Race Week
July 21-23 2011

PRELIMINARY SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

1. RULES

The Regatta will be governed by The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) 2009-2012 including US SAILING Prescriptions, the International Rules for Prevention of Collision at Sea (COLREGS), PHRF of Galveston Bay, the Notice of Race and these Sailing Instructions. The following RRS are modified herein:

Sailing Instruction 2 modifies Rule 63.1
Sailing Instruction 8 modifies RRS 29
Sailing Instruction 10 modifies RRS 28
Sailing Instruction 11 modifies RRS 61
Sailing Instruction 13 modifies RRS 35

2. OWNER'S AND SKIPPER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

The safety of a yacht and her crew is the sole and inescapable responsibility of the skipper, who must ensure that the yacht is fully found, thoroughly seaworthy, and manned by an experienced crew. The skipper is responsible to be fully knowledgeable of the requirements and skills of offshore sailing.

It is the sole and inescapable responsibility of the skipper to decide whether to start or to continue a race.

The skipper shall ensure that all necessary equipment for safe offshore racing is carried and that all crew are trained in its proper use.

Yachts MUST obey all maritime RULES OF THE ROAD when encountering vessels not racing. This is especially important when dealing with ship and other commercial traffic. Special attention is called to Rule 9. Serious violations of applicable regulations shall be cause for disqualification by the Race Committee without a hearing. This modifies Rule 63.1.

Special attention is called to the shoal area that exists along the South side of the Galveston jetties. Skippers should have the most recent charts of the racing area and all Notices to Mariners.

3. NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

Official Notices to Competitors will be posted electronically at:

https://www.regattanetwork.com/clubmgmt/applet_notice_board.php?regatta_id=4287

Notices to Competitors and Protest Hearings will also be posted at the Galveston Yacht Basin pool area. Any written change to the sailing instructions will be posted before 2000 the day before it takes effect. Oral changes to the sailing instructions may be given on the water. Any oral change will be communicated to each boat via VHF radio channel 69 at Check In.

4. RACE AREA and COURSES

The race area will be the Bolivar Roads, Galveston Jetties and the Gulf of Mexico. Race area and relative location of fixed marks are shown in **Appendix A**. Course Descriptions and approximate coordinates for fixed marks are shown in **Appendix B**.

5. DAILY RACES

The warning signals for the daily races are scheduled as follows:

Thursday, July 21 - not before 1100 hours.
Friday, July 22 - not before 1100 hours.
Saturday, July 23 - not before 1100 hours.

6. CHECK-IN PROCEDURE

All yachts intending to race shall contact the Race Committee on VHF Channel 69 prior to their warning signal each day to check in.

7. START LINE

The Start Line for all courses will be in the Bolivar Roads area between an orange flag or shape displayed from shore or a signal boat on the starboard side and HSC Marker #11 on the port side.

Yachts shall avoid commercial ship channel traffic. Yachts shall keep Channel Marker 5A to starboard when entering the Gulf of Mexico.

8. STARTING SIGNALS

The Race Committee may give a countdown on VHF Channel 69 prior to the raising/lowering of each signal flag. The course to be sailed will be designated by a numeral pennant. It is likely that spinnaker, non-spinnaker and cruising classes will sail different courses. Starting order of classes may vary on conditions and courses.

As a courtesy, the Race Committee may attempt to hail recalled yachts. Failure of the race committee to make this broadcast, failure of a boat to receive the broadcast, a boat's order in that broadcast or the promptness of the broadcast shall not be subject to redress. This modifies RRS 29.

Yachts starting later than fifteen (15) minutes after their starting signal will be allowed only at the discretion of the Race Committee.

8.1. CLASS FLAGS

PHRF SPINNAKER - Pink

PHRF NON-SPINNAKER – Purple

GBCA CRUISING CLASS - Green

9. FINISH LINE

The Finish Line for all courses will be in the Bolivar Roads area between an orange flag or shape displayed from shore or a signal boat on the port side and HSC Marker #11 on the starboard side.

Yachts shall avoid commercial ship channel traffic. Yachts shall keep Channel Marker 5A to port when entering the Jetties.

10. FINISHING PROCEDURES

In the event that a yacht cannot reach the Race Committee by VHF or the Race Committee is not on station, she shall continue to the finish line, take her own finish time and report it to the Race Committee as soon as possible. This modifies RRS 28

11. PROTESTS

Protests shall be communicated to the Race Committee before leaving the race area and must be filed in writing prior to 1900 hours each day. This modifies RRS 61

12. WITHDRAWING PROCEDURES

The Race Committee places the highest priority on accounting for every yacht participating in a race. It is imperative that any yacht withdrawing from a race makes its best and most persistent efforts to notify other parties of such withdrawal at the earliest opportunity. Withdrawing yachts should make every effort to contact the Race Committee and/or other nearby yachts to communicate the withdrawal via VHF channel 69. Proper reporting of a withdrawal should include; yacht name, sail number and skipper's name.

13. TIME LIMIT

Racing will be concluded as of 1800 hours, Central Daylight Savings Time each day. Yachts finishing after this time will be scored as DNF. This modifies RRS 35.

14. RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

The Race Committee channel will be VHF channel 69.

15. SCORING

The Race Committee will score the race using the performance handicapping racing formula, time on distance, for each yacht, as determined by the Race Committee. The Low-Point Scoring System of Appendix A of the RRS shall apply. No score shall be excluded. One race shall constitute a regatta.

16. Larry Kevan Trophy

The Larry Kevan Trophy will be awarded to the PHRF Spinnaker Fleet winner.

17. Texas Navy Cup

The Texas Navy Cup will be awarded to the PHRF Spinnaker yacht with the lowest score combining all races of the GBCA Texas Race Week plus the lowest score received in either the HYC or LYC offshore races. Yachts that have not participated in the LYC or HYC races shall have the score of (TRW Fleet + 1) added for purposes of Texas Navy Cup scoring.

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