



**HYC Mermaid Regatta
April 6, 2019**

Organizing Authority: The Houston Yacht Club, Shoreacres, Texas

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

1. RULES

- 1.1 The regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing*, Class Rules and the Galveston Bay PHRF Guidelines.

2. NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

- 2.1 Notices to Competitors will be posted on the official "HYC Race Information" notice board located in the breezeway adjacent to the offices of The Houston Yacht Club.
- 2.2 The Race Committee may elect to trail a line (not to exceed 30') attached to a floating object, behind the Race Committee boat or elect to attach a buoy to the boat's anchor marking the anchor and the anchor rode (of up to approximately 50'). The floating object and its line shall be considered to be part of the Race Committee boat and hitting the floating object or running over the line shall be treated as hitting the Race Committee boat.

3. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 3.1 Any change to these Sailing Instructions will be posted before 0800 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.
- 3.2 The Race Committee may, at its discretion, change the Sailing Instructions on the water, as follows:
- 3.2.1 Changes will be communicated after Code Flag "L" is raised before the warning signal for the race to which the change in Sailing Instructions apply.
- 3.2.2 The change will be communicated via VHF.

4. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 4.1 Signals made ashore shall be displayed from the signal staff on the lawn of The Houston Yacht Club.
- 4.2 When flag AP is displayed ashore, "1 minute" is replaced with "not less than 60 minutes" under the "Race Signals" AP section (RRS).

5. SCHEDULE OF RACES

- 5.1 The race will be sailed according to the schedule in the Notice of Race.

6. RACING AREA

- 6.1 All classes will sail around designated marks in the area bounded by the Bayport Ship Channel to the north, the San Leon shoreline to the south, the Houston Ship Channel to the east and the Seabrook shore line to the west. The racing area is shown Attachment A.
- 6.2 Boats shall not enter any Ship Channel. Ship Channels are designated as obstructions.

7. CHECK IN

- 7.1 Prior to the warning signal for the race, each boat shall check-in with, and be recognized by, the Race Committee (R/C) Signal Boat displaying the code Flag "L," either by passing close

astern, on starboard tack and hailing her sail number or by radio check-in. Boats failing to check in will be scored Did Not Start.

8. THE COURSES

8.1 Attachment A shows the courses, including the approximate angles between the legs, the order in which marks are to be passed, and the side on which each mark is to be left. The approximate course length is stated in Appendix B for each Course.

8.2 No later than the warning/preparatory signal, the Race Committee Signal Boat will display a numeral pennant indicating the course to be sailed (i.e., Course 1, 2, 3 or 4).

9. MARKS

9.1 The mark layout is shown and described in Attachment A.

10. THE START

10.1 The starting line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on a race committee boat and the course side starting mark.

10.2 The Warning/Preparatory signal is the display of the orange line flag.

10.3 The starting times for all competitors are listed in Attachment B.

10.4 GPS time governs. All boats will be responsible for determining their exact start time, and no start times will be announced or signaled from the Race Committee boat. The Race Committee will monitor start times of each boat. Any OCS boats have the option of returning to the start line and restarting, or shall take the penalty as shown in the table below. The penalty will be assessed at scoring. This changes RRS 29.1 and Appendix A.

0 to 10 seconds early	Penalty of 30 seconds
10 to 30 seconds early	Penalty of 1 minute
30 to 1 min. early	Penalty of 3 minutes
1 min to 2 min early	Penalty of 10 minutes
More than 2 min. early	Did Not Start

11. THE FINISH

11.1 The Finish Line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on a Race Committee boat and the course side finish mark. The Race Committee will record the order of finish.

12. TIME LIMITS

12.1 Unless posted on the HYC Race Information Board, the time limit is **210 minutes**.

12.2 Boats failing to finish within 30 minutes (the finishing window) after the first boat in its class sails the course and finishes will be scored Time Limit Expired (TLE). The points awarded for boats scored TLE will be the whole number (rounding 0.5 upward) equal to the number of boats starting the race minus 50% of the number of boats scored TLE. This changes RRS 35, A4, A5 and A11.

13. PENALTIES

13.1 Appendix V is in effect.

14. PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

14.1. Intent to protest shall be signaled in accordance with RRS 61.1. The protesting boat shall also notify the Race Committee at the first reasonable opportunity and be acknowledged before leaving the finish area.

14.2. Protests shall be written on forms available at the office of the Houston Yacht Club and delivered there within sixty (60) minutes following the arrival in the harbor of the Race

Committee boat for the racing line involved. This time will be posted on the "HYC Race Information" official notice board. This changes RRS Appendix S13.2.

15. SCORING

- 15.1 The Low-Point Scoring system of Appendix A shall apply.
- 15.2 One race shall be completed to constitute a series.
- 15.3 No scores will be excluded. This changes RRS A2.

16. SAFETY

- 16.1 Any boat that has checked in, and then withdraws before finishing the race, shall notify the Race Committee on the water, or, if that is not possible, The Houston Yacht Club office by telephone: **281-471-1255**. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in a score of Did Not Finish.
- 16.2 Boats shall not discharge trash into the water.
- 16.3 **DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY:** Competitors participate in this regatta entirely at their own risk. See RRS 4, Decision to Race. The Organizing Authority will not accept liability for material damage, personal injury or death sustained in connection with, prior to, during, or after this regatta.

17. RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

- 17.1 Except in an emergency that threatens the safety or life and/or property, a boat that is racing shall not make voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice or data communication that is not available to all boats.
- 17.2 The Race Committee will attempt to monitor **VHF Channel 68** and may use VHF radio to hail premature starters and the abandonment of races.

ATTACHMENT A

RACING AREA



COURSE MARKS

Mark	Approximate Coordinates	Description
Todville (Start/Finish or S/F)	29° 34.5' N, 094° 59.3' W	RC Signal Boat and Nearby Orange Floating Shape.
E	29° 35.8' N, 094° 56.9' W	The Low Range Marker (Upper Range "A") in Galveston Bay. The mark is an orange and white structure near Houston Ship Channel Marker #73, 0.23 NM NNW of the old low range.
H	29° 33.3' N, 094° 56.5' W	A platform located in Galveston bay approx 1.3 NM WSW of Houston Ship Channel Marker #65.
Bacliff (BC)	29° 32.7' N, 094° 59.1' W	An Anchored Yellow Tetrahedron.

COURSE 1

Leg	Mark	Approx. Distance (NM)	Approx. Bearing	Leave To:
Start (S)	Start (S)			
1	H	2.72	116°	Starboard
2	BC	2.34	255°	Starboard
3	H	2.34	75°	Port
Finish (F)	Finish (F)	2.72	296°	
Total		10.1		

COURSE 2

Leg	Mark	Approx. Distance (NM)	Approx. Bearing	Leave To:
Start (S)	Start (S)			
1	H	2.72	116°	Port
2	E	2.53	352°	Starboard
3	H	2.53	172°	Starboard
Finish (F)	Finish (F)	2.72	296°	
Total		10.5		

COURSE 3

Leg	Mark	Approx. Distance (NM)	Approx. Bearing	Leave To:
Start (S)	Start (S)			
1	H	2.72	116°	Starboard
2	BC	2.34	255°	Starboard
3	E	3.65	31°	Starboard
4	H	2.53	172°	Starboard
Finish (F)	Finish (F)	2.72	296°	
Total		13.9		

COURSE 4

Leg	Mark	Approx. Distance (NM)	Approx. Bearing	Leave To:
Start (S)	Start (S)			
1	H	2.72	116°	Port
2	E	2.53	352°	Starboard
Finish (F)	Finish (F)	2.46	238°	
Total		7.7		