



HYC Spring Series Regatta

March 12, March 26, and ~~April 2~~, **April 29, June 3, 2017**

Organizing Authority: The Houston Yacht Club, Shoreacres, Texas

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS - Revised 9 MAY 2017

1. RULES

This event will be governed by the "Rules" as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing* (RRS 2017-2020), the prescriptions of US Sailing Association and Class Guidelines.

2. ENTRIES

Competitors may enter the Regatta by signing up at the Skipper's meeting or just showing up at the starting line. Competitors in PHRF classes must have a current PHRF-GB certificate and start according to their PHRF rating listed in the attachment to these instructions. Competitors are entered when they sail by the stern of the committee boat on starboard tack and hail their sail number until acknowledged. Pursuit racers must additionally hail their PHRF rating and spinnaker or non-spinnaker class to complete their entry.

3. NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

Notices to Competitors will be posted on the official NOTICE BOARD "HYC Race Information" located in the breezeway adjacent to the offices of the Houston Yacht Club.

4. IDENTIFICATION

Each boat shall comply with the requirements of Appendix G and her class rules with respect to class insignia and numbers unless the Principal Race Officer for the line involved grants an exception before her start. This modifies RRS 77.

5. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

5.1 All signals made ashore shall be displayed from the signal staff on the lawn of the Houston Yacht Club.

5.2 Signal Flag "AP" (Answering Pennant) with two sound signals (one when lowered) means "The race is postponed". The warning signal for the postponed line(s) will be made not less than 60 minutes after the "AP" is lowered.

5.3 Signal flags may be flown either alone or beneath one or more Line Flags. Individual lines will be designated by following Line Flags:

- Windward/Leeward Line = Numeral Pennant 1
- Pursuit Line = Numeral Pennant 2

If no Numeral Pennant is displayed, the signal pertains to all lines. This changes RRS Race Signals.

6. SCHEDULE OF RACES

6.1 Races will be sailed according to the schedule in the Notice of Race. All times are GPS times.

7. RACE AREA

7.1. All classes will sail around dropped or fixed marks in the area bounded by Morgan's Point on the north, the Bayport Channel on the south, the Houston Ship Channel on the east and the La Porte/Shoreacres shore line on the west.

7.2. The mark layout is shown in Appendix D:

- Mark #1, is the "The Judges Stand" located approximately:
 - **29° 37.367'N, 94° 59.726'W**
- Mark #2, is the "High Range" located at approximately:
 - **29° 37.790'N, 94° 58.214'W**
- Mark #3, a large YELLOW tetrahedron located approximately:
 - **29° 39.833'N, 94° 58.919'W**
- Mark #4, a large YELLOW tetrahedron located at approximately:
 - **29° 38.839'N, 95° 00.114'W**

7.3. Boats shall not enter any Ship Channel. Ship Channels are designated as obstructions.

8. THE COURSES AND MARKS

8.1. The Pursuit Line.

8.1.1 Appendix C shows the courses and the order in which the marks are passed.

8.1.2 No later than the warning signal, the Race Committee Signal Boat will display a numeral pennant indicating the course to be sailed (See Appendix C).

8.1.3 A red flag displayed with the number pennant means marks shall be left to port and a green flag displayed with the number pennant means all marks shall be left to starboard. This changes Rule 33 (a)(2) and Race Signals.

8.2. The Windward/Leeward Line.

8.2.1 The windward mark will be an orange tetrahedron.

- 8.2.2 No later than the warning signal, the race Committee Signal boat will display a numeral pennant indicating the number of legs to be sailed. Each leg will be approximately 0.7 nm, more or less depending on wind speed and weather conditions. All marks shall be left to port.

9. THE START

- 9.1 The Windward/Leeward starting line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag from the signal boat on the starboard end and a mark or floating shape at the port end. The Pursuit Line will start on the opposite side of the committee boat. The Pursuit Line will be between a mark of floating shape on the starboard end and a staff displaying an orange flag on the committee boat on the port end.
- 9.2. The Pursuit Line start is staggered, based on the boat PHRF handicap. The time of the Warning/Preparatory signal, as well as the starting times for all competitors, are listed for in Attachment A. The Warning/Preparatory signal is the display of the orange line flag. The Windward/Leeward Line start will use Rule 26. Class flags to be announced at the Competitor's Briefing.
- 9.3. Any boat whose preparatory signal has not been made shall keep clear of the starting area and of any boat whose preparatory signal has been made.
- 9.4. A boat shall start no later than 10 minutes after her assigned starting time.
- 9.5. 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.

10. RECALLS

Recalls will be signaled in accordance with Rule 29. The race committee intends to hail the sail numbers of OCS boats. As a courtesy, the Race Committee may use VHF radios or loud hailer. The failure of any boat to hear the hail, an untimely hail of OCS boats, failure to hail any boats, and the order of the boats in the hail shall not be grounds for granting redress. This changes rules 41 and 62.1.

11. CHANGE OF THE POSITION OF THE NEXT MARK

- 11.1. The race committee boat may relocate the windward mark to square the course for the Windward/Leeward Line.
- 11.2. No change will be signaled. This changes Rule 33.

12. SHORTENED COURSE

12.1 Windward/Leeward line: Shortening the race at the leeward mark, finish downwind in the direction from the Windward mark with the Race Committee Signal Boat to port. The Signal Boat will be in the original starting position and will not relocate to the opposite side of the mark.

13. THE FINISH

The Windward/Leeward Finish Line will be between a staff displaying orange flag on the race committee boat on the port end and a mark or floating shape on the starboard end. The Pursuit line will be on the opposite side of the committee boat with a staff displaying an orange flag on the committee boat on the starboard end and a mark or floating shape on the port end.

14. TIME LIMIT

The Windward/Leeward Line time limit is **120 minutes**. The Pursuit Line time limit is **210 minutes**. 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.

15. PENALTIES

A boat that has taken her Penalty Turns shall notify the Race Committee via the appropriate VHF channel at the first reasonable opportunity. At that time she shall also inform the Race Committee of the identity of the other boat involved in the incident.

16. PROTESTS

16.1. Intent to protest shall be signaled in accordance with RRS. The protesting boat shall also notify the Race Committee and be acknowledged before leaving the finish area.

16.2. Protests shall be written on forms available as the office of the Houston Yacht Club and delivered there within one hour following the arrival in the harbor of the Race Committee boat for the racing line involved.

16.3. The times and locations of the protest hearings, along with the names of the boats involved will be posted.

17. SCORING

The Low-Point Scoring system of Appendix A shall apply. One race shall be completed to constitute an event. No scores will be excluded. This changes Rule A2.

18. SAFETY

- 18.1. 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**, or **VHF Channel 68**. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in disqualification from the event.
- 18.2 Boats shall not discharge trash into the water. The penalty for violating RRS 55 will be a 20% Scoring Penalty.
- 18.3 **DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY:** Competitors participating in the 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 or prior to or after the regatta.

19. RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

- 19.1 A yacht shall neither make radio transmissions while racing, nor receive special radio communications not available to all yachts. This does not apply to situations that threaten safety of life and/or property.
- 19.2 The Race Committee will attempt to monitor **VHF channel 68** for the Windward/Leeward Line and Pursuit Line; and may use VHF radio to hail premature starters and the abandonment of races.

APPENDIX C

PURSUIT LINE COURSES

Course #1

Signal to Mark 1
Mark 1 to Mark 3
Mark 3 to Mark 4
Mark 4 to Mark 1
Mark 1 to the finish for a total of 7.5 NM

Course # 2

Signal to Mark 1
Mark 1 to Mark 2
Mark 2 to Mark 3
Mark 3 to Mark 1
Mark 1 to the finish for a total of 8.1 NM

Course #3

Signal Boat to Mark 1
Mark 1 to Mark 3
Mark 3 to Mark 1
Mark 1 to Mark 4
Mark 4 to Mark 1
Mark 1 to the finish for a total of 10.1 NM

Course #4

Signal boat to Mark 1
Mark 1 to Mark 2
Mark 2 to Mark 3
Mark 3 to Mark 4
Mark 4 to Mark 1
Mark 1 to Finish for a total of 8.4 NM

Course #5

Signal boat to Mark 3
Mark 3 to Mark 4
Mark 4 to Mark 1
Mark 1 to Mark 3
Mark 3 to Finish for a total of 7.5 NM

