



2018 HYC OFFSHORE REGATTA FAQ'S

Q: Why is the spinnaker class in the HYCOR designated Category 2?

We consulted with a US Sailing Judge. We have deleted that requirement, as the definition of a Category for a race is ambiguous...

Q: Will R/C conduct vessel inspections?

A. We do not conduct inspections. The skipper is responsible for evaluating the recommendations and assessing their level of preparedness. It's the same judgment call as when evaluating weather conditions. Coping with foul weather is a feature of offshore seamanship. It's the Skipper's call...

Q: Have there been material changes to the sailing instructions since last year?

A. Not major.

Q: Will there be changes to the posted NOR?

A. Yes. If there are changes we will update the footer with a new version number. We will also use the strikethrough function of Microsoft Word to highlight deleted text and any additions. If you are already registered, the Race Committee will email you a copy of the revised NOR. If the changes cause you to decide to withdraw your entry, a refund will be processed ASAP.

If we update these FAQ's we will simply note the new version number and date in the footer.

Q: What about changes to the posted Sailing Instructions?

A. We will follow the same procedure as in #1 above. Plus, please notice that we have allowed ourselves the ability to make changes on the water. If this is needed, the race committee will notify each boat individually by VHF of any changes.

Q: What is my start time for the Reach Down the Beach?

A. Your exact, precise start time will be published in the Sailing Instructions. However, for planning purposes the table to the right may be useful...

Q: Can we fly flags during this regatta?

A. Yes, but with some restrictions. Some people want to promote their business and others simply want to fly

SAMPLE START TIMES FOR THE HYC REACH DOWN THE BEACH

If your rating is...	Your start time will	If your rating is...	Your start time will be...
300	8:00:00 AM	140	9:52:16 AM
290	8:07:01 AM	130	9:59:17 AM
280	8:14:02 AM	120	10:06:18 AM
270	8:21:03 AM	110	10:13:19 AM
260	8:28:04 AM	100	10:20:20 AM
250	8:35:05 AM	90	10:27:21 AM
240	8:42:06 AM	80	10:34:22 AM
230	8:49:07 AM	70	10:41:23 AM
220	8:56:08 AM	60	10:48:24 AM
210	9:03:09 AM	50	10:55:25 AM
200	9:10:10 AM	40	11:02:26 AM
190	9:17:11 AM	30	11:09:27 AM
180	9:24:12 AM	20	11:16:28 AM
170	9:31:13 AM	10	11:23:29 AM
160	9:38:14 AM	0	11:30:30 AM
150	9:45:15 AM		

USE THIS TABLE TO HELP PLAN YOUR TRIP DOWN TO GA11 - THE START...



Old Glory while sailing offshore with friends on a beautiful spring day. Please note that US Sailing prescribes a boat shall not display flags when racing except for signaling. However RRS 56 stipulates that a boat shall not be penalized for breaking this rule without prior warning. WE WILL NOT ISSUE THIS WARNING UNLESS, the flag you are flying is solid red or solid yellow. These are protest and scoring penalty flags and should be used as such.

Q: Why are there two separate races, the Reach Down the Beach and the HYC Offshore?

- A. It provides maximum flexibility to our racers. Some want to have a leisurely cruise. So they plan an overnight in Galveston Thursday night. Some sail direct to the Friday morning start line. They set out from HYC at 2:00 am and sail Harvest Moon style, sleeping in shifts. We know of at least one racer from Dallas who hits I45 at 5:00 p.m. Friday night, sails all night and meets us at the start line in Freeport, skipping the Friday race completely. Plus, racers from the Brazosport Yacht Club typically only do the second race and then go home on Sunday.

Q: Will the PHRF non-spinnaker class have a course that includes a short beat to windward?

- A. We will do the best we can to be assured that the ORC and PHRF class have a beat to windward. This depends on wind direction; the courses will include either the Freeport outer buoy and/or the TABS "B" marker. The TABS "B" Marker is 12 miles offshore. Please see the draft Sailing Instructions posted on the HYC Race and Regatta web page (Race Calendar at www.houstonyachtclub.com).

Q: When we arrive Thursday at the Yacht Basin in Galveston what phone number do we call to arrange for the Harbor House limousine to pick us up?

- A. 409.515.2158 takes you directly to the Valet desk. If no answer the hotel switchboard may be reached at 409.763.0300. Please be very specific as you direct them to your location. If you are behind the big cement wall in the main marina area you need to tell them to go past security on North Holiday Drive to the end of the street. If you are on the floating dock (in one of those strange, stubby little slips where your boat sticks out some 25 feet and you have to work miracles with dock line to secure her) you will be waiting at the corner of Barracuda and 7th street close to Texas Gulf Seafood. Mosquito repellent is a fine idea (one competitor commented that the mosquitos are like elephants...). **DON'T FORGET TO BRING THE SECURITY GATE CODE!** Or you will have an unplanned adventure getting back in...

Q: Are there activities planned for Thursday evening?

- A. Not exactly. The Race Committee will make themselves available at the bar at Willie G's between the hours of 7:00 pm and 10:00 pm. They will have copies of Sailing Instructions and the NOR available, and will be prepared to answer questions. You can identify them by their white shirts, khaki trousers and classic Martini's.



Q: Q: What is the Freeport shuttle van schedule?

- A. Friday night: 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm. Saturday morning: 5:45 am to 7:00 a.m.

Q: What is the Menu at Captain Ken's Port O' Call?

- A. Either fried fish and shrimp, or a grilled steak (if you have fish allergies...) with cole slaw, barbecue beans, potato salad, hush puppies and a garden salad for \$17. This year we will all buy our dinners directly from Captain Ken – no Regatta Network pre-pays. Be aware the line gets quite long as the good Captain's credit card processing machine is S-L-O, SLOW! You may want to bring cash. Ken accepts cash and Visa/Master Card.

Q: What drinks will be available at Captain Ken's?

- A. The good Captain serves beer and wine (\$4). He will have Budweiser, Bud Light, Miller Light, Corona, Dos X, Michelob Ultra and Shiner Bock. Prefer your own wine? If you want to bring your own bottle of 1938 Chateau Petrus - you need to pay the house a \$5 corkage fee.
- A. What about the regatta rum? Good question. The house needs to make money too. So, while **RUM IS FREE**, the set-up (i.e. a cup of ice and a mixer – Coke, Diet Coke and Ginger ale) costs \$3.00.
- A. Please do not bring ice chests full of beer to the party.
- A. The regatta will provide a meagre gratuity of 15% to Captain Ken's hard-working staff. Regardless, all are encouraged to tip as you see warranted – a dollar and a smile are great feedback!

Q: What is the official rum of the HYC Offshore Regatta?

- A. Why Cruzan of course. We learned this from our friends at GBCA and it is quite tasty. We will have 30 liters available.
- A. We invented a delicious concoction involving Cruzan for the HYC Barbecue on the Bay event; it was very successful. It is a variant on the classic Mai Tai. The Race Committee will be mixing these in great quantities. Please come watch...

Q: What is the "HYC Rollicking Beach Party"?...

- A. This is a party for YOUR friends and relatives (F&R's) hosted by the race committee on the East Beach in Galveston. The Race Committee will bring the leftover rum from the Freeport party and will provide commentary for your F&R's as boats cross the finish line. Finishes typically happen between 2pm and 6pm. All are welcome to bring their handheld VHF's and listen to the race chatter, all greetings on Channel 72 please!



Q: What will the weekend look like – can you draw us a picture of the event?

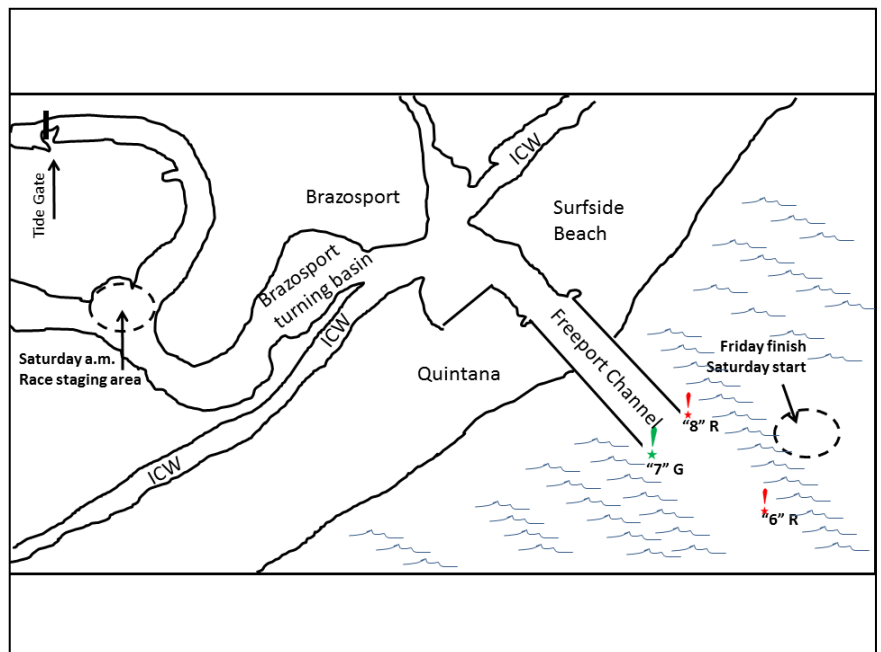
- A. Friday morning. Take two aspirins, wake the indolent crew, check the mini-bar for anything missing, check out of the hotel and ride the hotel limo to the marina.
- At the marina you have forgotten the gate code. You select your lightest crew, form a human pyramid and drop her on the other side of the gate.
 - Drop your dock lines, hot coffee, engine purring, bride is happily spotting dolphins – everything's cool.
 - You spot the sailing instructions, slightly damp from last night's rain wadded up in the corner. All you care about is your start time. Is it 9:08:09? Or perhaps 8:09:09? Better find out 'cause there is a shivering MADMAN on the beach with binoculars, wrapped in an orange tarp, clutching a GPS and monitoring times.... He knows your start time – you should too!
 - It would be nice if you were to:
 - A. Talk to him – it would be good to tell him who you are and how many souls you have on board – channel 68 please.
 - B. As you cross the start line the race committee will announce your actual start time. No particular reason for this, we value transparency and if we capture data we like to share it.
 - C. If you cross the line early we will politely hail you OCS.
 - D. Please stay away from the ships. Please don't cut in front of them. One year we had a J/Boat cut in front of an ammonia ship. The owner's then-fiancée thought the five horn blasts were - friendly finish horns... Last year at the Heald Bank we witnessed no fewer than THREE 5-horn incidents, let's not do this please.
 - E. As you leave the Galveston jetties please leave the 5A mark to starboard – though we know it's irresistibly tempting, no cutting corners please...
 - F. Otherwise, there are few hazards between Galveston and Freeport.
 - Please notice the timeout feature of the Friday race. Use your GPS and do the math, IT IS INESCAPABLE. If you will not make the finish area by 6 pm – it's time to fire up the auxiliary and motor in. There is no dishonor in arriving at the regatta party before the rum runs out...
 - Friday the race committee will be on station on the beach end of the finish line until 6 pm. They will give you a friendly horn blast as you finish, record your finish position and advise you of any "security operations" (i.e. ammonia ships) in process. Again channel 68 please.



- FACTOID: Port Freeport is an unmanned Pilot Station and unless vessels are moving there will not be anyone to answer the VHF radio. While they are working vessels, the pilots standby on Ch 16 and 14. Channel 14 is the channel used in Freeport to work tugs and communicate with docks. So monitoring channel 14 is a good way to monitor ship movements. For your information, the Houston Ship Channel uses channel 13.
- After you pass under the heart-stopping storm gate (look up as you pass under...) aka “The Guillotine”... PLEASE announce your boat name and slip assignment on 68 to help the people docking your boats.
- This is a good opportunity to ice (\$2.50 for 20 pounds) and water your boat.
- The party at Captain Kens (see attached map) starts at 5:00 – ish, food will be served starting at 7:00. If there is light air we will advise Captain Ken to push the food time back an hour.
- The race committee will be pouring rum drinks. Find us inside.
- DJ Anthony will attempt to deafen us with LOUD BLASTS of late 70’s album rock.
- Karaoke will be available for those so inclined...
- This is a “La Bamba – free” event. If anyone attempts to sing “La Bamba” please intercept them immediately
- The party MUST wrap up at 9. There will be serious business in the morning...

Saturday morning:

- Prepare yourselves for lots of vertical action. Up 6 feet, down 12, up 4 etc.
- We set out at approximately 7:30 am. FYI, we are very laid back – if you have trouble please communicate with us. HOWEVER, we will not impair the fun of many due to the problems of a few. So, talk to us please...
- Proceed to Berth 7 off the container docks (drawing





attached), please await further instructions.

- At 07:45 the race officer (PRO) will hail Pilot One on VHF channel 14. We will wait for Pilot One's signal to proceed. We will need thirty minutes for all 20 boats to clear the jetties.
- We plan to set our start line between 1.5 and 3 nautical miles offshore somewhere North and East of the Freeport channel. We should be clear of the area by 09:00.
- When you get to the start line you will see a signal boat and an orange tetrahedron forming a start line.
- You will note that the signal boat is not anchored. We have given up on that idea after incidents involving significant damage and one near sinking. We will use raw power to stay approximately in place. Consequently we will be very reasonable regarding OCS (over early) calls. However, it is very obvious when someone is abusing our hospitality – we are not shy with the X flag, please be advised...

Now, you are racing...

- You all are probably beating towards the Freeport outer buoy. Again – stay away from the ammonia ships.
- The spin boats and probably the non-spin boats will visit TABS B as their “B” mark. We know TABS B is there because it is broadcasting every 15 minutes and can be seen at ([TABS B](#)).
- The finish is at GA11. Most boats cross between 2pm and 6pm depending on the wind. The race committee will be on the beach waiting for you.
- OK, now everyone has worked hard and had a fantastic day – it's time to enter Galveston. Please be careful at the 5A mark. We all remember what happened to French Kiss... Please do not aim your GPS directly at 5A – set a coordinate slightly clear of it. Maybe 1,000 yards to Starboard?
- Bolivar Roads in the daylight is fun. Blasting through the Port of Galveston under full sail and motor is one of our favorite things to do. At night, at 3:00 a.m. it is a surreal nightmare. Please have rested, experienced crew with good vision available should you arrive after sundown.

Please notice the timeout feature of the Saturday race. The race shall end at 0800 hours CDT, Sunday 13 May 2018, or when the last yacht finishes, whichever is earlier. Yachts that have not finished at the expiration of the time limit will be scored Did Not Finish without a hearing. This changes rules 35, A4 and A5. The race committee will stay on station until this time and then proceed up to HYC to process protests the next morning.



Saturday night? Well, quality time at the HYC bar is a fine idea if you get there in time – however... to buy drinks at HYC you will need to arrange for a guest membership. We at HYC do not take cash, so call our office and arrange for one please.

Sunday? Wash and fold sails, then it's time for Mother's Day Brunch! Blue Blazers are encouraged but certainly not required. AWARDS AT 1300 in the bar!!!!