



HYC COMMODORE'S CUP

September 2, 2018

Organizing Authority: The Houston Yacht Club, Shoreacres, Texas

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

1. RULES

This event will be governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing*.

2. NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

Notices to Competitors will be posted on the official Race Information Notice Board located in the breezeway adjacent to the offices of the Houston Yacht Club.

3. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Any change to these Sailing Instructions shall be posted before 0800 hours on the day it will take effect. Any change to the Schedule of Races will be posted by 2000 hours on the day before it will take effect.

4. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

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

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

5. SCHEDULE OF RACES

The race will be sailed according to the schedule in the Notice of Race, unless changed by the provisions of paragraph 3 of these Sailing Instructions. All times are GPS times.

6. CLASS FLAGS

Pink Flag.

7. RACE AREA

7.1 The class will sail around drop 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 Boats shall not enter any Ship Channel. Ship Channels are designated as obstructions.

8. THE COURSE

The course is L2 as depicted in *The Racing Rules of Sailing*, Appendix S. If there is no gate, the downwind rounding will be the starting line pin.

9. MARKS

9.1 All marks will be yellow balls.

9.2 The starting line pin is a floating mark.

10. THE START

10.1 Races will be started by using RRS 26.

10.2 The 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.

11. 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.

12. THE FINISH

The finishing line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the signal boat on the port end and the course side of the finishing mark.

13. TIME LIMIT

The time limit is **90 minutes**. Boats failing to finish within 30 minutes 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.

14. PENALTY SYSTEM

A boat that has taken his 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.

15. PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

- 15.1. 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.
- 15.2. 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.
- 15.3. The times and locations of the protest hearings, along with the names of the boats involved will be posted on the Race Notice Board at the entrance to the breezeway at the front of the Houston Yacht Club.

16. 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.

17. SAFETY

- 17.1. 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.
- 17.2. Boats shall not discharge trash into the water. The penalty for violating RRS 55 will be a 20% Scoring Penalty.
- 17.3. **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.

18. RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

- 18.1 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.
- 18.2 The Race Committee will attempt to monitor **VHF Channel 68** and may use VHF radio to hail premature starters and the abandonment of races.