



Mermaid Sail
April 1, 2017
Houston Yacht Club
Shoreacres, Texas

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

1. RULES

1.1 This event will be governed by the "Rules" as defined in the *Racing Rules of Sailing. (RRS)*.

2. ENTRIES

2.1 Competitors may enter the Regatta by registering on-line at <http://www.regattanetwork.com/>.

2.2 Entrants must meet all ownership, class membership and yacht measurement requirements, and must have completed registration and paid all fees with the regatta organizing authority before becoming official competitors.

3. NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

3.1 Notices to Competitors will be posted on the official notice board located in the breezeway adjacent to the offices of the Houston Yacht Club (HYC).

4. CHANGES IN SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

4.1 Any change to these Sailing Instructions (SIs) will be posted before 1130 hours on the day it will take effect.

5. IDENTIFICATION

5.1 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 grants an exception before her start. This modifies Rule 77.

6. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

6.1 All signals made ashore shall be displayed from the signal staff on the lawn of the HYC .When the AP flag is displayed ashore. '1 Minute" is replaced with "not less than 60 minutes" in Race Signals AP.

7. SCHEDULE OF RACES

7.1 Pursuit Line individual starting times are shown in Attachment C 1 thru 3. In the event of a postponement ashore, new starting times will be calculated by the race committee and posted on the Race Information Notice Board while the AP is displayed.

7.2 Code Flag "A" displayed, with no sound, while boats are finishing means "no more racing today".

8. RACING AREA

- 8.1. The race course is to be located in that part of the Bay bounded by Morgan's Point on the North, the Bayport Ship Channel on the South, the Houston Ship Channel on the East and the La Porte/Shoreacres shore line on the West. This is Upper Galveston Bay, immediately adjacent to HYC.
- 8.2. Boats shall not enter any Ship Channel WHILE RACING. Ship Channels are designated as obstructions.
- 8.3. The Pursuit Line layout is shown in Appendix D: Mark #1, is the "The Judges Stand" located at 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 at 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.

9. THE COURSES

- 9.1. The Pursuit Line will sail one of the courses described in Attachment A. Each description indicates the marks to be rounded and the side they shall be left on.
- 9.2. The Pursuit Line Signal boat shall, no later than the Warning/Preparatory signal, display a numeral pennant to indicate the course to be sailed.

10. MARKS

- 10.1 Starting and finishing marks will be marks of the course.
- 10.2 Pursuit Line marks are as described in 8.3.

11. THE START

- 11.1 Before the Warning/Preparatory signal, each boat shall check-in with the RC signal boat on the water while on starboard tack. Each boat shall hail until acknowledged by the race committee.
- 11.2 There will be a combination Warning/Preparatory signal and it will be the display of the orange line flag in 11.3.
- 11.3 The starting line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag flying on a RC boat a mark of the course.
- 11.4 Boats whose preparatory signal has not been made shall keep clear of the starting area and will also keep clear of all boats whose preparatory signal has been made.
- 11.5 A boat shall start not later than 10 minutes after her starting signal.

12. RECALLS

- 12.1 RC intends to hail the sail numbers of OCS boats after her starting time. As a courtesy, the RC may use VHF radios or a loud-hailer to hail over-early starters. 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 RRS 41 and RRS 62.1
- 12.2 Code flag X will be displayed for a short period with no sounds. This changes RRS 29.1 and Race Signals.
- 12.3 Start times are taken from GPS time, which 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. 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.

0 to 10 sec early	penalty of 30 seconds
10 to 30 sec early	penalty of 1 minute
30 to 1 min early	penalty of 3 minutes
1 min to 2 min	penalty of 10 minutes
More than 2 min	disqualified

13. CHANGE OF THE POSITION OF THE NEXT MARK

13.1 Mark positions will not be changed.

14. THE FINISH

14.1 The finishing line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag flying on a RC boat and a mark of the course.

15. TIME LIMIT

15.1 If no boat in a class has completed leg 1 within 45 minutes the race shall be abandoned for that class.

15.2 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.

15.3 The time limit is 210 minutes. .

16. PENALTIES AND PROTESTS

16.1 Scoring Penalties and Protest Procedures shall apply as outlined in RRS Appendix V1 and V2.

16.2 Arbitration will apply in accordance with RRS Appendix T2, T3, T4.

16.3 The Protest Time Limit is 60 minutes after the race Committee signal boat enters the harbor.

17. SCORING

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

18. SAFETY

18.1 Any boat that has checked in, and then withdraws before finishing a race, shall notify the RC on the water, or, if that is not possible, the HYC 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 Sailors shall not put trash in the bay.

19. RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

19.1 A yacht shall neither make radio transmissions while racing, nor receive radio communications not available to all yachts. This restriction also applies to mobile telephones. This does not apply to situations that threaten safety of life and/or property.

19.2 The RC will monitor VHF channel 68.

20. PRIZES

20.1 Trophies will be awarded at the discretion of the organizing authority in classes with three or more registered boats.

Courses

Attachment A

Course 1 – 8.6 nm

Start at Mark 1
Mark 2 leave to port
Mark 1 leave to starboard
Mark 4 leave to starboard
Mark 3 leave to port
Mark 4 leave to port
Finish at Mark 1

Course 2 – 11.6 nm

Start at Mark 1
Mark 2 leave to port
Mark 3 leave to port
Mark 1 leave to starboard
Mark 4 leave to port
Mark 1 leave to port
Mark 2 leave to port
Finish at Mark 1

Course 3 – 12.8 nm

Start at Mark 1
Mark 2 leave to port
Mark 4 leave to port
Mark 2 leave to port
Mark 3 leave to port
Mark 1 leave to port
Mark 2 leave to port
Finish at Mark 1

