

Catherine Spiller Regatta

October 4, 2026

**Organizing Authority: HYC Women's Sailing Association
Shoreacres, Texas**

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

1. RULES

- 1.1. This event will be governed by the Rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing.
- 1.2. RRS Rule 60.4(a)(2) is changed as follows:
(2) if it alleges a breach of rule 2 or Rule 31 and is from another boat that was not involved in, and did not see the incident, or
- 1.3. Appendix T shall apply.
- 1.4. The notation "[NP]" in a rule of the sailing instructions (SIs) means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule. This changes RRS 60.1.

2. ENTRIES

- 2.1. Competitors shall enter on-line at the event website houstonyachtclub.com Racing/Race Schedule & Regatta Info
- 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.
- 2.3. [NP] Competitors in PHRF classes must have a current PHRFGB certificate.

3. 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.

4. CHANGES IN SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Any change to these sailing instructions shall be posted before 0900 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.

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 will be made not less than 45 minutes after the "AP" is lowered.

6. SCHEDULE OF RACES

Saturday, October 20

9:30 am Competitor's briefing at the Beachcomber

11:00 am Warning Signal for first race

One additional race, weather/time permitting will be announced by VHF Channel 68.

Awards ceremony at the Porthole approx. 1 hour after RC enters the harbor.

7. CHECK IN:

- 7.1. Prior to the warning for the first race, each boat shall check-in with the signal boat for its respective class. Check-in means passing on starboard tack, close astern of the Race Committee Signal Boat displaying the code Flag "L" and hailing her sail number and being recognized by the Race Committee.
- 7.2. Boats failing to check-in shall receive a 20% scoring penalty in the first race of the day, without a hearing, in accordance with RRS 44.3 (c).

8. RACE AREA

- 8.1. All classes will sail around drop 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.
- 8.2. The Distance Course 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
- 8.3. Boats shall not enter any Ship Channel. Ship Channels are designated as obstructions.

9. THE COURSES and MARKS

- 9.1. **The Distance course is six legs (7.0 nm)** See Appendix "D"
Leg 1 (0.3 nm) will be from the start/finish line to Mark #1 of the quadrilateral.
Legs 2, 3, 4, 5 will be the four sides of the quadrilateral traveling counter clockwise.
Leg 6 (0.3 nm) will be the return to the start/finish line. All marks shall be left to port.

10. CLASSES AND STARTING ORDER

To be announced at the competitor's briefing

11. THE START

- 11.1. 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.
- 11.2. Rule 26 starts.
- 11.3. Boats whose preparatory signal has not been made shall keep clear of the starting area and of all boats whose preparatory signal has been made.
- 11.4. A boat shall start no later than 10 minutes after her assigned starting time.
- 11.5. The Race Committee may elect to trail a line (not to exceed 30') attached to a floating object, behind the Race Committee boat. 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.

12. RECALLS

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

13. THE FINISH

The 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. This changes RRS Race Signals.

14. TIME LIMIT

The time limit is **210 minutes for the first boat to finish**. 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 AND PROTESTS

- 15.1. A boat intending to protest another boat shall notify the race committee immediately after finishing and before leaving the racing area by sailing past the race committee signal vessel and hailing their intent. The protesting boat shall identify the other boat and receive acknowledgment from the race committee before leaving the racing area. Boats that do not finish shall report their intent to protest to any race committee vessel at the first possible opportunity. This adds to RRS 61.1(a).
- 15.2. Protests, Scoring Inquiries, Requests for Redress, and Requests to Reopen a hearing shall be written on forms available in the lobby of the HYC Clubhouse and delivered to a Judge there within the time limit stated in these Sailing Instructions.
- 15.3. The protest time limit is sixty minutes (60) after the race committee signal vessel enters the Houston Yacht Club harbor. This time will be posted on the official notice board.
- 15.4. A request for redress based on a protest committee decision shall be delivered in writing no later than thirty minutes (30) after the decision was posted on the official notice board.
- 15.5. Requests to reopen a hearing shall be delivered in writing no later than thirty minutes (30) after the decision was posted on the official notice board.
- 15.6. Scoring inquiries shall be delivered in writing within the protest time limit or thirty minutes (30) after the provisional results are posted on the official notice board, whichever is later. Scoring inquiries shall first be referred to the PRO.
- 15.7. Notices will be posted no later than 30 minutes after the protest time limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses. The times and locations of the protest hearings and hearings to request redress, along with the names of the boats involved, will be posted on the official notice board within thirty minutes (30) after the end of the protest time limit. Hearings may be held with some Judges appearing by Zoom in the protest room, the location of which will be identified on the official notice board, beginning at the time posted. Parties and witnesses shall appear in person at all hearings.

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. Prior to the warning signal, each boat shall check-in with, and be recognized by, the Race Committee (R/C) Signal Boat displaying the code Flag "L," by passing close astern, on starboard tack and hailing her sail number.
- 17.2. 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.
- 17.3. **DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY:** Competitors participate in the regatta entirely at their own risk. See Rule 3, 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.

19. PRIZES

Prizes will be awarded in accordance with the NOR.

Appendix "D"

#3 -- Yellow Tet

#4 -- Yellow Tet

#2 -- High Range

#1 -- HYC Judges Stand

