



2026 HYC Mermaid Regatta

Honoring Barbara Ann Bukowski

October 3, 2026

The Houston Yacht Club
3620 Miramar Drive, Shoreacres, TX 77571
(281) 471-1255



NOTICE OF RACE (NoR)

HYC invites all women sailors to an exclusive event for women. In addition to the very competitive PHRF Spinnaker and Non-Spinnaker classes, we have added a non-competitive class called “Mermaiden.” This class offers a fun, easy, low-pressure way to participate in the racing and the comradery afterwards. This event is a qualifier for *The Mermaid Perpetual Trophy* and for the *2026 Galveston Bay Women’s Championship Series*. Restrictions are detailed in the references below.

This year we have a special offer for racers competing for the Mermaid Perpetual Trophy – A safety officer may be onboard getting in and out of the harbor and reaching the racing area. We will provide a coach boat to pick up the safety officer before the boat checks in to race. This is strictly to mitigate the risk of docking an unfamiliar/borrowed vessel. In the meantime, the safety officers can relax and watch the racing.

The notation ‘[NP]’ in a rule means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule. This changes RRS 60.1.

RULES

- 1.1 The regatta shall be governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing*.
- 1.2 The *2026 Galveston Bay Women’s Championship Series, Notice of Series* applies.
- 1.3 A woman shall helm with an all-female crew.
- 1.4 Boats may race with one (1) male *Support Person* aboard. A “*Support Person*” is defined in the RRS DEFINITIONS and limited in this regatta to the owner of the boat to assure the safety of the boat.
 - a. A male *Support Person* is **not** allowed to coach or assist the team while racing except to intervene in the prevention of a collision that would otherwise cause damage to the boat and risk injury to the crew.
 - b. Boats racing with a male *Support Person* aboard are **ineligible** for *The Mermaid Perpetual Trophy* as defined in **NOR 15.2**.
- 1.5 When rule 20 applies, a boat may indicate her need for room to tack or her response by VHF on the channel identified in the Sailing Instructions.

2. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1 The sailing instructions will be available on the Houston Yacht Club website, [2026 HYC Mermaid Regatta](#), by Wednesday, September 30, 2026, 7:00 pm.

3. COMMUNICATION

- 3.1 The official notice board is the “HYC Race Information” board located in the breezeway adjacent to the HYC Office.
- 3.2 [DP] All keel boats shall carry a VHF radio capable of communicating on US Coast Guard required channels.
- 3.3 [DP] While racing, except in an emergency, a boat shall not make voice or data communication that is not available to all boats.

4. ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

- 4.1 The regatta is open to all keel boats with a valid 2026 **PHRF Galveston Bay Rating Certificate**. A valid 2026 PHRF-GB Rating Certificate may be obtained at <https://www.phrfgb.org>.

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4.2 Classes are defined as:

Class Name	Definition of Class
PHRF Spinnaker	Boats racing at their PHRF-GB "Spinnaker Rating"
PHRF Non-Spinnaker	Boats racing at their PHRF-GB "Non-Spinnaker Rating"
Mermaiden	Boats racing non-competitively

4.3 The new Mermaiden class is designed to be fun, easy, low-pressure racing for women.

- No rating required - completing the course is the winning goal.
- Start last after competitive boats, so the starting area is less congested.
- Female skipper at the helm, may have mixed crew, not limited to a safety officer.
- No scoring and no competition awards, get to participate and have fun.

4.4 Each class requires a minimum of two (2) boats. A class of fewer than two (2) boats by the Late Entry Deadline will be regarded as failing to form and the boat(s) in that class may be assigned to another class at the discretion of the Principal Race Officer (PRO).

4.5 Boats may only enter the event by registering online at [2026 HYC Mermaid Regatta](#).

4.6 To be considered an entry in the event, a boat shall complete all registration requirements and pay the required entry fees by the registration entry deadline.

5. FEES & DISCOUNTS

- \$ 95.00 Standard Registration Fee, (must be paid prior to Friday, October 2, 2026, 5:00 pm).
- \$ 50.00 Mermaiden Registration Fee, (must be paid prior to Friday, October 2, 2026, 5:00 pm).
- \$ 25.00 Late Registration Fee, (applies after Wednesday, September 30, 2026, 5:00 pm).

6. QUALIFYING SERIES

- The HYC Mermaid Regatta is a qualifier for the *2026 Galveston Bay Women's Championship Series* if registered in a spinnaker class. For details go to www.gbca.org.

7. SCHEDULE

7.1 Registration Deadlines and Schedule of Races:

Wednesday, Sept 30, 2026		
	5:00 pm	Regatta Entry Deadline / \$25.00 Late fee applies thereafter.
Friday, Oct 2, 2026		
	5:00 pm	Late Entry Deadline / No entries accepted thereafter.
Saturday, Oct 3, 2026		
	9:30 am	Competitor's Briefing and Registration Check-in - Beachcomber.
	11:00 am	Warning Signal for first race, one additional race is planned.
	After Racing	Awards Ceremony and gathering at the Porthole, approximately one hour after Committee Boat enters the harbor.

8. VENUE

- All races will be sailed on Upper Galveston Bay in the areas bound by the *Houston Shipping Channel* to the East and the *Bayport Shipping Channel* to the South, in the vicinity of Houston Yacht Club.
See: *Addendum, Race Area*.

- Houston Yacht Club is located at 29°37'02.9"N 95°00'08.0"W

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9. COURSES

- 9.1 Courses will be around designated marks with Rule 26 starts.
- 9.2 The racecourse configurations will be posted in the Sailing Instructions and detailed at the Competitor's Briefing.

10. PENALTY SYSTEM

- 10.1 RRS Appendix V1 & V2 are in effect.

11. SCORING

- 11.1 The scoring system is in accordance with RRS Appendix A.
- 11.2 One (1) race is required to be completed to constitute a regatta.
- 11.3 All boats will be scored by PHRF TOD (Time On Distance).
- 11.4 No score will be excluded from the total score for each boat. This modifies RRS A2.1.

12. BERTHING

- 12.1 Yachts entering this regatta may be docked free of charge at Houston Yacht Club.
- 12.2 Upon arrival, competitors must complete a registration form available at the front desk which includes an emergency contact number and the owner's name.
- 12.3 For slip availability and further information, please contact the **HYC Harbor Manager**, Philip Meeker, at maintenance@houstonyachtclub.com or at **(281) 471-1255**.

13. RISK STATEMENT

- 13.1 Competitors participate in the regatta entirely at their own risk. RRS 3 states: "The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone." By participating in this event each competitor agrees and acknowledges that sailing is a potentially dangerous activity with inherent risks. The OA and **Houston Yacht Club** will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury, or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after the regatta.
- 13.2 The Skipper/Owner of each boat participating in the regatta shall be responsible for the behavior of each member of the crew of his/her boat both on the water and while ashore. The destruction of property, the breach of reasonable standards of good sportsmanship by any crew member, or any other person associated with the boat, or the failure of any of those persons to comply with the state and local laws, guidelines and recommendations as well as the host club's restrictions or with any reasonable request of the Organizing Authorities, Race Officers, Regatta Committee members, or their representatives, may result in the disqualification of the boat, and its exclusion from the regatta.
- 13.3 All competitors will be required to sign a Competitor Liability Waiver form provided in the race documents section of the event website. The signed Waivers must be submitted online or at the Check-in for their class.

14. INSURANCE.

- 14.1 [NP] Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party marine liability insurance with a minimum coverage of \$300,000.00 per incident or the equivalent.
- 14.2 Competitors shall supply proof of insurance during registration.

15. PRIZES

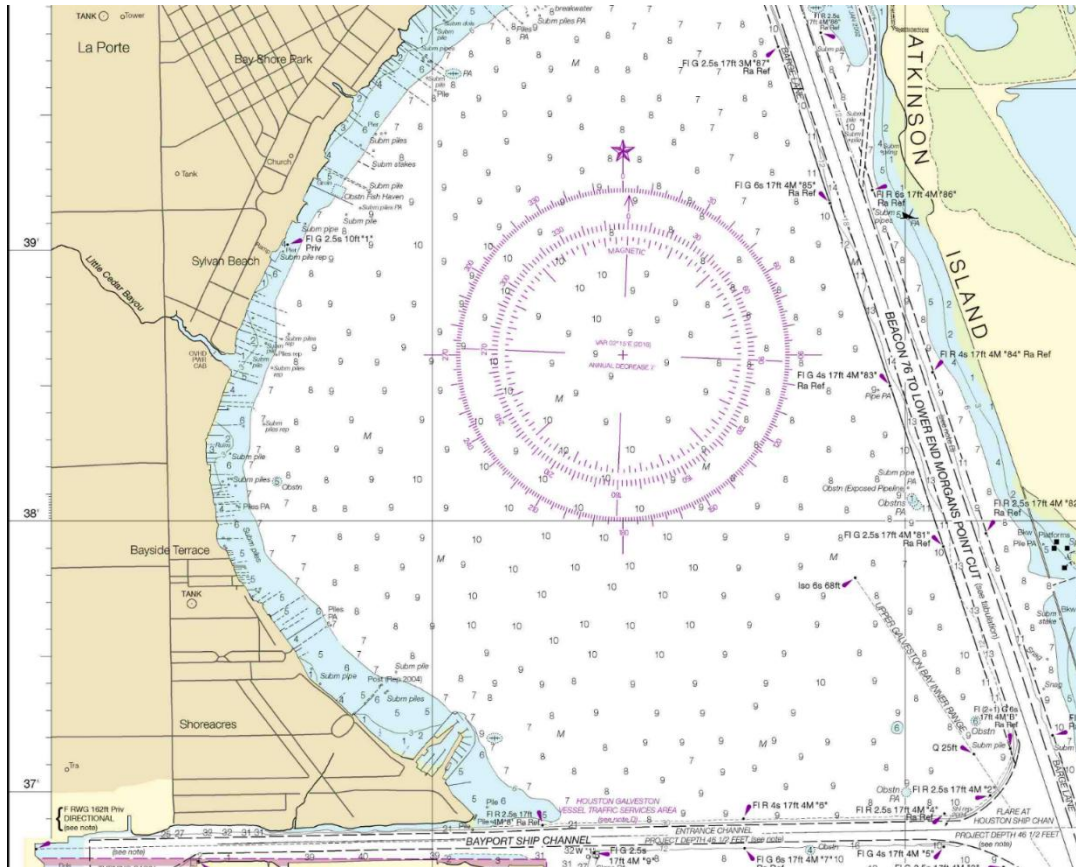
- 15.1 Trophies shall be awarded to each PHRF class, based on class participation:
 - a. Five (5) or more boats: 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place trophies
 - b. Four (4) boats: 1st and 2nd place trophies.
 - c. Three (3) boats: 1st place trophy only
- 15.2 *The Mermaid Perpetual Trophy* may also be awarded to a boat and her team provided:
 - a. She is the first-place boat in her class,
 - b. She has an all-women team, without a male *Support Person* aboard, and
 - c. She is a yacht of 30 feet or greater length.

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16. CONTACT INFORMATION

16.1	Principal Race Officer	Juliane Graham juliane.graham@yahoo.com
16.2	Chief Judge	Jay Grills jigrills@gmail.com
16.3	Regatta Chairperson	Terry Eukel terry.eukel@gmail.com

ADDENDUM, RACE AREA

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