



GULF YACHTING ASSOCIATION

# OFFSHORE CHALLENGE CUP

## NOTICE OF RACE

*(A GYA Sanctioned Interclub Event)*

*Hosted by GULFPORT YACHT CLUB*

*JUNE 20-22, 2025*

*Organizing Authority: Gulfport Yacht Club*

### 1 RULES

1.1 The regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in the current revision of the *Racing Rules of Sailing* (RRS), Including US Sailing Prescriptions and:

1.1.1 The GYA Regulations for Sanctioned Events, available at:

<https://www.gya.org/documents/bylawsregs/racingregs.pdf>

1.1.2 The United States Coast Guard safety equipment regulations, available at: <https://www.uscgboating.org/assets/1/AssetManager/Boaters-Guide-to-Federal-Requirements-for-Recreational-Boats-20231108.pdf>

1.1.3 World Sailing Offshore Special Regulations Appendix B (Special Regulations for Inshore Racing), available at: <https://d7qh6ksdplczd.cloudfront.net/sailing/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/24175301/2024-2026-Offshore-Special-Regulations-published-v1.13.docx.pdf>

1.2 The RRS changed by this NOR are listed below:

<u>RRS</u>	<u>NOR Section</u>	<u>RRS</u>	<u>NOR Section</u>
60.1	1.3	35	22.1,22.2
A5.1	2.3	60.2(a)	23.2
Race Signals	5,8,13,20.3	A8	24.4
32.1	14.6	A4	24.5
A5.1	16.3	63.1	26.1
61.4(b)(1)	6.4,6.6,6.7,17	36	27.12.3
32	19		

1.3 The notation '[NP]' in a rule of the sailing instructions (SI's) means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule. This changes RRS 60.1.

### 2 ELIGIBILITY.

2.1 Entries shall be by Teams, made up of GYA clubs, who are current members of the Gulf Yachting Association.

2.2 Each competing Team shall enter three (3) or four (4) boats, each in a different class. A Team shall be made up of a single GYA Club or two (2) GYA Clubs, neither of which placed in the top 3 of the prior year's Challenge Cup. A GYA club may only represent one Team.

2.3 NOTE: The word skipper and helmsperson are interchangeable for this event. The skipper and helmsman and at least one half of the crew racing on each boat (including the skipper and helmsman) must be a members of the GYA club the boat represents. The skipper must be a member of the club they represent for not less than six (6) consecutive months, immediately prior to the event. The balance of the crew need not be GYA club members. Each team captain shall submit a written statement on the form provided that his team is meeting this eligibility requirement along with a list of all potential crew for the event. This statement and crew list shall be submitted with the team registration package by the deadline in Article 3 CLUB ENTRIES. If a team is found not to be in compliance with this requirement, the team shall be scored DSQ for the race(s) in which non-compliance took place without a hearing. This changes Racing Rule A5.1.

2.4 A boat shall represent only one Yacht Club in this event.

2.5 Each boat shall be a monohull no less than 20 feet LOA and have a valid ORR-Ez rating certificate.

### 3 TEAM ENTRIES.

All entry forms must be accompanied by a valid 2025 ORR-Ez certificate number (e.g. EZ12345) for each boat and a complete crew list. All information required on the official entry form must be completed. Each participating GYA team shall pay \$175.00 per boat entered to participate in the GYA Challenge Cup, to be submitted with the entry form by June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025. **Entry forms can be found on the regatta web page at;**

<https://www.nextsailor.com/app/page/regatta/895>

### 4 BRIEFING FOR COMPETITORS.

A briefing for the competitors will be held in the Ballroom at Gulfport Yacht Club on Thursday June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 1900. All questions regarding the sailing instructions must be submitted in writing to the judges by placing such questions in the protest box located under the notice board, no later than 0900 hours, Friday June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Responses, if any, will be posted on the official regatta notice board no later than 0945 hours, Friday, June 20<sup>th</sup>.

### 5 NOTICES TO COMPETITORS.

Notices to competitors will be posted on the Official Notice Board located on the lower deck. At the end of each day of racing the race committee will post its docking time as well as any boats that it intends to score in other than a finishing position. Notices of hearings will be posted here within 30 minutes of the expiration of protest time (flag "L" will NOT be displayed with this notice.) This changes RRS Race Signals.

### 6 COMMUNICATION

6.1 [DP] All boats shall carry a VHF radio capable of communicating on channel 72. Channels 68, 69, and 71 may be used.

6.2 On the water, the Race Committee (RC) will make courtesy broadcasts to competitors on VHF radio channel 72. Channels 68, 69, and 71 may be used.

6.3 [DP] From the warning signal until the last boat finishes the race, except in an emergency or as required by a rule, a boat shall not make voice nor data transmissions and shall not receive voice nor data communication that is not

available to all boats.

- 6.4 The RC may broadcast the course, bearing and distance information before the warning signal, start times, starting infractions, and information important to racing. Failure of the transmission, failure of any boat to receive or properly interpret this information, or any errors or omissions on the part of the hailed messages shall not constitute grounds for granting redress. (This changes RRS 61.4(b)(1))
- 6.5 [NP] Individual recalls and boats penalized under RRS 30.2 or RRS 30.3 may be broadcast on the designated VHF channel using bow/sail numbers.
- 6.6 Failure of the RC to make any broadcast or broadcast in a timely manner will not be grounds for a request for redress. (This changes RRS 61.4(b)(1))
- 6.7 The RC may broadcast any course changes over the designated VHF channel. Failure of a boat to hear such notification or failure to broadcast will not be grounds for redress. (This changes RRS 61.4(b)(1))
- 6.8 The RC intends to broadcast its intentions for the day at 0900 each morning on channel 72 VHF. Channels 68, 69, and 71 may also be used.

## 7 CHANGES IN SAILING INSTRUCTIONS.

The Sailing Instructions may change some of the Rules in accordance with RRS 86.1(b). Any changes to the Sailing Instructions will be made in accordance with RRS 90.2(c). Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted on the Official Notice Board not later than two (2) hours prior to the scheduled warning signal for the first class to start on the day the change will take effect, except that any change in the schedule of races will be posted not later than 2000 hours on the day before it will take effect.

## 8 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE.

- 8.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed on the signal mast at Gulfport Yacht Club.
- 8.2 Flag AP with two sound signals (one when lowered) means, the next race is postponed. The warning signal will be made not less than 45 minutes after AP is lowered. This changes RRS Race Signals.

## 9 RATING SYSTEM.

- 9.1 Corrected times for all classes will be calculated using ORR-EZ Performance Curve Scoring (PCS). Boats shall only declare one valid ORR-EZ certificate for the regatta.
- 9.2 ORR-Ez rule III.E. Crew Weight shall apply for both the Maximum and Minimum crew weight allowed while racing. The Maximum shall be the Rated Crew Weight (RCW) shown on the registered certificate: and the Minimum shall be 75% of the RCW.

## 10 CLASSES.

The boats will be divided into the following classes based on their 2025 ORR-Ez benchmark IR# TOD Rating:

	<b>ORR-Ez IR#</b>
Class A	NONE – 609.9
Class B	610.0-649.9
Class C	650.0-689.9
Class D	690.0-NONE

## 11 SCHEDULE OF RACES.

The Race Committee has scheduled seven (7) races. A minimum of two (2) races must be completed to constitute a series. On Sunday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, no warning signal shall be made later than 1530 hours.

- 1155**      **FRIDAY, JUNE 20** – Distance Race  
*WARNING SIGNAL RACE #1 -  
Party with Live Music & Daily Trophies after racing.  
Free Beer during Protest Time*
- 1155**      **SATURDAY, JUNE 21** - Windward-Leeward Courses  
*WARNING SIGNAL—Race #2  
WARNING SIGNAL NEXT RACE(S) – as soon as possible  
Party with Live Music & Daily Trophies after racing.  
Free Beer during Protest Time*
- 1055**      **SUNDAY, JUNE 22** - Windward-Leeward Courses  
*WARNING SIGNAL FIRST RACE OF THE DAY.  
WARNING SIGNAL NEXT RACE(S) – as soon as possible  
Trophy Ceremony following races (GYC Ballroom)  
Free Beer during Protest Time*

## 12 CLASS FLAGS AND ORDER OF START.

Class flags (streamers) will be issued at the briefing for competitors. Each boat shall conspicuously display its class flag (streamer) on its backstay while racing.

### CLASS FLAGS

- A**    *White*
- B**    *Pink*
- C**    *Green*
- D**    *Purple*

## 13 RACING AREA.

The racing areas are shown in Sailing Instruction Exhibit A and are designated 1 and 2. The Race Committee will display numerical pennant #1 or # 2 from the Race Committee Signal Boat along with Flag "L" on departure to the racing area each day. The number displayed will indicate the racing area where the Race Committee plans to set the initial course of the day. In the event racing area # 1(West) is signaled, the Gulfport Ship Channel should not be crossed north of Channel Marker # 61, in order to avoid possible shoal water. The approximate location of starting area # 2(East) will be 30° 20" N and 89° 00" W, conditions permitting. This changes RRS Race Signals.

## 14 THE COURSES.

14.1 The Course layout is shown on Sailing Instruction Exhibit B. Course "W2" will be a four (4) leg Windward-Leeward courses with offset marks. All windward marks shall be left to port.

Classes A and B will sail: Start – 1-offset – Gate – 2-offset – Finish.

Classes C and D will sail: Start – 2-offset – Gate – 2-offset – Finish.

14.2 Course "W2½" will be a five (5) leg Windward-Leeward courses with offset marks. All windward marks shall be left to port.

Classes A and B will sail: Start – 1-offset – Gate – 2-offset – Gate – (Finish (2)).

Classes C and D will sail: Start – 2-offset – Gate – 2-offset – Gate – (Finish (2)).

14.3 The initial windward mark (1) for classes A & B will be located approximately 125 to 175 percent of the distance to the initial windward mark (2) for classes C & D.

14.4 The course identifier and approximate compass bearing from the starting line to the windward mark will be displayed from the race committee signal boat before or with the warning signal.

14.5 The approximate distance in nautical miles from the starting line to the initial windward mark for each class will be displayed from the race committee signal boat before or with the preparatory signal.

14.6 The course shall not be shortened to less than two legs. This changes Rule 32.1.

14.7 Courses for the long distance race are reflected on Sailing Instruction Exhibit C. Courses will be displayed by number on or before the warning signal for each class.

## 15 MARKS.

15.1 Mark 1 and the Gate Marks will be **orange** tetrahedrons. Mark 2 will be a **green** tetrahedron. Off set marks will be an **orange** ball.

15.2 New marks, as provided in instruction 18, CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE, will be **yellow** tetrahedrons. (Note: Mark 1 cannot be changed.)

15.3 The finish mark in course "W2" will be an **orange** ball.

## 16 START.

16.1 The starting line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the race committee signal boat at the starboard end of the line and a staff displaying an orange flag on the race committee boat at the port end.

16.2 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.

16.3 A boat starting later than 10 minutes after her starting signal will be scored "Did Not Start". This changes Rule A5.1.

## 17 RECALLS.

Individual recalls will be signaled in accordance with Rule 29.1, with the addition that the race committee will endeavor to hail the boat's sail number on VHF channel 72. Channels 68, 69, and 71 may be used. The delay of such a hail or the failure of a competitor to hear such a hail shall not be grounds for redress. This changes Rule 61.4(b)(1).

## **18 CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE.**

A change of the next leg of the course after the start will be signaled before the leading boat has begun the leg, although the new mark may not then be in position.

## **19 ABANDONING AFTER THE START.**

Rule 32 is changed to additionally provide that the race committee, with the approval of the judges, may, in accordance with GYA regulation 5.2(b), abandon a race in progress when conditions have made the race an unsatisfactory test of skill.

## **20 THE FINISH.**

20.1 When finishing to leeward the finish line will be between a staff displaying a blue flag on a race committee boat and the nearby orange ball.

20.2 When finishing to windward the finish line will be between a staff displaying a blue flag on a race committee boat and Course Mark (2).

20.3 Flag "L" when displayed from the Race Committee Signal Boat at the finish indicates additional races to follow. This changes RRS Race Signals.

## **21 PENALTIES.**

21.1 Appendix T, Arbitration, will apply and be in effect for this regatta.

21.2 Appendix V1, Alternative Penalties, will be effect for this regatta.

## **22 TIME LIMIT.**

22.1 The time limit for the long distance race will be six (6) hours. The time limit will be 2.5 (2 1/2) hours for windward-leeward races.

22.2 Boats failing to finish within one (1) hour after the first boat in their division finishes will be scored Did Not Finish. This changes RRS 35.

## **23 PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS.**

23.1 Protests and requests for redress shall be in writing. Protest Forms will be available in the Protest Box located below the Official Notice Board on the lower deck. Completed Forms must be delivered to the protest room on the second floor for time stamp and registration not later than one hour after the Race Committee Signal Boat docks for the day and makes one sound signal. The docking time will be posted on the Official Notice Board.

23.2 The time and place for hearings and the sail numbers of the boats involved will be posted on the Official Notice Board within thirty (30) minutes following the expiration of the time to file protests. Additionally, the Race Committee will post the sail numbers of boats it intends to score OCS within thirty (30) minutes of the Committee Boat's docking time. Such posting shall constitute notice as required by rule 63.2. No signal will be made when this notice is posted. The protest committee will hear protests and requests for redress in approximately the order of receipt with hearings beginning as soon as possible.

23.3 Rule 60.2(a) is changed to add the following requirements for a valid protest: "A boat shall inform

the finish line race committee boat of her intent to file a protest and the sail number (or other identification) of the protested boat(s) either at the first reasonable opportunity after finishing, or if the protesting boat does not finish, at the first reasonable opportunity, and she must receive confirmation from the race committee." This changes RRS 60.2(a)

## **24 SCORING**

24.1 Places will be determined by handicap correction per NOR 9. Scoring for all classes will be according to the low point system of Appendix A with no races excluded.

24.2 A team's points for a race will be the sum of the scores of the best three boats of that team in the race. The team with the lowest total points overall for all races wins.

24.3 Ties for overall class standings will be broken using the method described in Appendix A 8. Should a tie on corrected time occur in the last race, the same procedure will be applied to the next to last race, and so on until the tie is broken.

24.4 Ties for overall team standings will be broken in favor of the team which has the most firsts, seconds, etc., until all places have been exhausted, using the team's best three boats in each race. Should a tie still exist it shall be resolved in favor of the team which scored better in the last race in the fastest rated class in which the tied teams had boats entered and scored differently, regardless of whether the boats' scores counted for the team. Should ties exist in all classes where both team had boats entered in the last race, the same procedures will be applied to the next to last race, and so on until the tie is broken. This changes Appendix A8.

24.5 The long distance race scores will be adjusted by a multiple of 1.5. This changes RRS A4

## **25 TROPHIES**

### **25.1 The Spring Hill College Gulf Yachting Association Offshore Challenge Cup**

The winning team with the best four (4) boat entry will be awarded "The Spring Hill College Gulf Yachting Association Offshore Challenge Cup" Winning team, will see to having the trophy engraved as it has been, and will be given the trophy for one year. A keeper trophy will also be awarded to the winning team. In addition, trophies for the second and third teams overall will be awarded.

### **25.2 The Mobile Yacht Club Trophy**

The team with the lowest point total among teams with three boat teams will be awarded "The Mobile Yacht Club Trophy," will see to having the trophy engraved as it has been, and will be given the trophy for one year. A keeper trophy will also be awarded to the same team.

### **25.3 The "G. S. 'Buddy' Friedrichs" Trophy**

The boat that places first in the "A" fleet will be awarded the "G. S. 'Buddy' Friedrichs" trophy, will see to having the trophy engraved as it has been, and will be given the trophy for one year for display at the winner's Club.

### **25.4 The Commodore Thomas D. Beery Jr. Trophy**

The boat that places first in the "B" fleet will be awarded the Commodore Thomas D. Beery, Jr. Trophy, will see to having the Trophy engraved as it has been, and will be given the trophy for one year for display at the winner's Club.

### **25.5 The Commodore Bobby Bailey Trophy**

The boat that places first in the "C" fleet will be awarded the Commodore Bobby Bailey Trophy, will see to having the trophy engraved as it has been and will be given the trophy for one year for display at the winner's Club.

### **25.6 The Commodore Janet R. Miller-Schmidt Trophy**

The boat that places first in the "D" fleet will be awarded the Commodore Janet R. Miller-Schmidt Trophy, will see to having the trophy engraved as it has been, and will be given the trophy for one year for display at the winner's Club.

## **26 SPECIAL REGULATIONS**

26.1 CHECK IN: Prior to the warning signal for the first race of the day, each boat shall check in and hail her sail number with the entire crew wearing their PFDs until she is acknowledged by the race committee signal boat. Boats failing to do so will receive a 20% scoring penalty in the first race of the day. This changes RRS 63.1.

26.2 Any boat withdrawing from any race should notify the Race Committee or the Gulfport Yacht Club as soon as possible.

26.3 A boat shall neither make radio/data transmissions nor receive radio/data communications not available to all boats while racing. This restriction also applies to mobile telephones.

## **27 SAFETY AND RESPONSIBILITY**

27.1 It is each competitor's exclusive and individual responsibility to decide whether or not to race or continue racing, to wear a life jacket when conditions warrant, and to otherwise provide for his or her own personal safety.

27.2 Competitors participate in the regatta entirely at their own risk, (See RRS 3). The organizing authority nor the Gulfport 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.

27.3 Competitors are reminded that all state and federal safety regulations should be observed.

27.4 **[DP]** Before the first warning signal of each day, all boats shall sail past the stern of the RC Signal Vessel on starboard tack and check in by hailing their sail/bow number. They shall continue to do so until their sail/bow number is verbally acknowledged by the RC.

27.5 **[DP] [NP]** A boat that retires from a race shall notify the RC before leaving the course area or immediately after arriving ashore via radio contact from Gulfport Yacht Club.

27.6 Each support vessel shall have a working VHF radio and monitor the radio, an anchor suitable for anchoring in the waiting area, a basic first aid kit and a kill-cord attached to the driver at all times while on the water.

27.7 **[DP] [NP]** No drones are allowed closer than 500 meters from racing areas from the Warning Signal for a race and after the last boat has finished the race. As a penalty for breaching this rule the protest committee may impose a discretionary penalty to all boats associated with the owner / operator of the drone. This rule does not apply to the OA drones.

27.8 Support persons shall declare which boat or boats to which they are attached and shall declare proof of insurance and provide photo ID of the driver. Vessels shall comply with local laws and regulations regarding their operation.

27.9 The starting area is a rectangle with its borders 100 meters to windward and leeward and 100 meters to pin ends of the starting line.

27.10 Under all circumstances, support vessels are expected to assist any boat in danger.

27.11 A boat shall report for a safety inspection when asked to do so by the RC or Protest Committee.

27.12 A boat and its crew shall, at all times, keep clear of all commercial vessels and shall not maneuver in any manner which would cause a commercial vessel to be unable to sail their proper course or carry out their commercial functions in a normal manner.

27.12.1 A boat whose actions or maneuvers result in a Danger Signal (5 Horns or Sounds) from a commercial vessel, shall be protested.

27.12.2[**NP**] A boat in violation of 27.12 can only be protested by the RC.

27.12.3 The penalty for breaking this 27.12 shall be disqualification from the entire regatta in which case rule RRS 36 will not apply. (This changes RRS 36))

## **28 FURTHER INFORMATION:**

Link to Regatta Website:

<https://www.nextsailor.com/app/page/regatta/895>

Link to Hearing Request Form:

[https://www.gulfportyachtclub.org/files/US\\_Sailing\\_Hearing\\_Request\\_Form\\_20210301\\_Fillable.pdf](https://www.gulfportyachtclub.org/files/US_Sailing_Hearing_Request_Form_20210301_Fillable.pdf)

Link to GYA Information:

<https://www.gya.org>

For questions regarding the 202 GYA Offshore Challenge Cup please contact:

Principle Race Officer, Michael G. Hage, 228-697-8880 or email at [mhage@allsignsgulfport.com](mailto:mhage@allsignsgulfport.com)

GYC Waterfront Director, by email at [GYCWaterfrontDirector@gmail.com](mailto:GYCWaterfrontDirector@gmail.com)

Gulfport Yacht Club  
PO Box 600  
Gulfport, MS 39502  
(228) 863-6796  
[GulfportYachtClub.org](http://GulfportYachtClub.org)

