



GYA OFFSHORE CHALLENGE CUP



REVISED 6-11-26

June 18-21, 2026

Organizing Authority: **Gulfport Yacht Club**
Host Club: **Gulfport Yacht Club (GYC)**
Gulfport, Mississippi

NOTICE OF RACE

1. RULES

- 1.1. The regatta shall be governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing* (RRS) and by the [“GYA Regulations for Sanctioned Events”](#).
- 1.2. The United States Coast Guard Safety equipment regulations, available at: https://silentwake.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/us_coast_guard_federal_requi.pdf
- 1.3. World Sailing Offshore Special Regulations Appendix B (Special Regulations for Inshore Racing), available at: <https://www.sailing.org/tools/documents/OSR2016AppB15122015-%5B19842%5D.pdf>
- 1.4. The US Sailing Prescriptions in the Preamble to Part 5, Section B, and RRS 63.1(b) are deleted.
- 1.5. The notation (NP) in a rule of the Notice of Race or the Sailing Instructions means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule. This changes RRS 60.1.
- 1.6. Appendix V (Alternative Penalties) of the RRS will apply.
- 1.7. Protests alleging a breach of a rule of RRS Part 2 or RRS 31, shall not be accepted from a boat that was not involved in, and did not see the incident. This changes RRS 60.4(a)(2)

2. ELIGIBILITY

- 2.1. Entries shall be by Teams, made up of GYA clubs, who are current members of the GYA.
- 2.2. Each competing Team shall enter Three (3) or four (4) boats, each in a different class, except in accordance with 2.3 below. A Team shall be made 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. For classes B, C & D, a team may enter two (2) boats that rate in the same class, whereupon the faster rated of the two boats shall be that Team's single entry in the next faster class. A single entry in a given class must remain in that class and cannot be displaced. A boat may only move up one class and shall not move down to a slower class.
- 2.4. 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 members of the GYA club the boat represents. The skipper must be a member of the club they represent for not less than ~~six-three~~ (63) 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 (electronic registration form) 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 NOR 3 Entry. 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.
- 2.5. A boat shall represent only one Yacht Club in this event.
- 2.6. Each boat shall be a monohull no less than 20 feet LOA and have a valid EZ rating certificate.
- 2.7. Each boat shall have an auxiliary propulsion system capable of propelling the boat at 3/4s of hull speed. All required equipment (fuel, battery(ies), mounting bracket) shall be carried

aboard the vessel and as appropriate, installed for ready usage. Outboard engines may be stowed below.

2.8. All registered boats must carry proof of liability insurance. This proof can be either a hard copy or a digital copy and must be available upon request.

3. ENTRY

3.1. All entry forms must be accompanied by a valid 2026 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.

3.2. Each participating GYA team shall pay \$175.00 per boat entered to participate in the GYA Challenge Cup, registration fees, forms, and crew lists must be submitted by 1830 June 18th, 2026.

3.3. Entry forms can be found on the regatta web page, <https://nextsailor.com/regatta/GYAChallengeCup2026> . Entry forms include an online form ([GYA Challenge Cup Registration Form](#)) and [Crew Lists/Individual Yacht Representation Forms](#) for each boat. The Crew Lists can be submitted electronically via the online registration form or submitted in person by 1830 June 18th, 2026.

3.4. To be considered an entry in the event, a boat shall complete all registration requirements.

4. NUMBER OF RACES

4.1. See GYA ~~Sailing Regulation~~ **Regulations for Sanctioned Events 41.5. for Race Requirements** **Two races shall be completed to constitute a series.**

4.2. The Race Committee has scheduled seven (7) races.

5. SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Thursday, June 18, 2026	1900	Briefing for Competitors, GYC Ballroom Chart Room
Friday, June 19, 2026	1155	Distance Race, Warning Signal Race #1
		Party with Live Music & Daily Trophies after Racing Complimentary Beer during protest time
Saturday, June 20, 2026	1155	Windward-Leeward Courses, Warning Signal Race #2 Back-to-Back races.
		Party with Live Live Music & Daily Trophies after Racing Complimentary Beer during Protest Time
Sunday, June 21, 2026	1055	Windward-Leeward Courses Warning Signal 1 st Race of the Day, Back-to-Back Races
		Trophy Ceremony following races (GYC Ballroom)
		Complimentary Beer during protest time
	1530	No warning signal later that than 1530

6. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

6.1. Sailing Instructions will be available at registration desk by 1900 on June 19~~8~~, 2026.

6.2. All questions regarding the sailing instructions must be submitted in writing to the ~~judges~~ **Race Committee** by placing such questions in the protest box located under the official notice board,

no later than 0900 hours, Friday June 18th, 2026. Responses, if any, will be posted on the official regatta notice board no later than 0945 hours, Friday, June 20th.

6.3. Any change to the Sailing Instructions shall be posted 60 minutes before the scheduled start of the first race of the day it will take effect, except that any change in the schedule of races shall be posted by 1900 on the day before it will take effect.

7. VENUE

Races will be conducted in the Mississippi Sound, south, east and west of the Gulfport Yacht Club.

8. Rating System **RATING SYSTEM**

8.1. Corrected times for all classes will be calculated using EZ Performance Curve Scoring (PCS) for the W/L races and EZ standard 5 wind ToT for the distance race. Boats shall only declare one valid EZ certificate for the regatta.

8.2. 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.

9. SCORING

9.1. Scoring shall use the low point system of Appendix A, except that no races shall be excluded.

9.2. **Class Places** will be determined by handicap correction per NOR ~~408~~.

9.3. Team scoring shall be in accordance with GYA Regulation 41.8. For each race, a Team's score shall be the sum of the finishing places of its best three (3) boats.

9.4. The Team with the lowest total score wins. No races shall be excluded.

9.5. Series ties shall be decided in accordance with GYA Regulation 19.9.

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

10. CLASSES

The boats will be divided into the following classes based on their 2026 Ez benchmark IR# TOD Rating:

Class	Ez-EZ IR#
A	None-609.9
B	610.0-649.9
C	650.0-689.9
D	690.0-None

11. RISK STATEMENT

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 to race is hers alone.' By participating in this event each competitor agrees and acknowledges that sailing is a potentially dangerous activity with inherent risks. These risks include strong winds and rough seas, sudden changes in weather, failure of equipment, boat handling errors, poor seamanship by other boats, loss of balance on an unstable platform and fatigue resulting in increased risk of injury. Inherent in the sport of sailing is the risk of permanent, catastrophic injury or death by drowning, trauma, hypothermia or other causes. 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.

12. SAFETY

12.1. All boats shall comply with United States Coast Guard and Mississippi State safety equipment regulations and Section D (Responsibility, Safety, and Compliance) of the GYA Regulations for Sanctioned Events.

- 12.2. 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.
- 12.2.1. Safety While Racing
- 12.2.2. [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 with each crewmember wearing their PFD. They shall continue to do so until their sail/bow number is verbally acknowledged by the RC.
- 12.2.3. [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.
- 12.2.4. [NP] [DP] A boat whose preparatory signal has not been made shall keep clear of the starting area and of all boats whose preparatory signal has been made.
- 12.2.5. Support Vessels
- 12.2.6. 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 other safety equipment required by law.
- 12.2.7. [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.
- 12.2.8. Support persons shall declare which boat or boats to which they are attached and shall carry liability insurance. Proof of insurance shall be provided if requested by the OA. Vessels shall comply with local laws and regulations regarding their operation.
- 12.2.9. 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.
- 12.2.10. Under all circumstances, support vessels are expected to assist any boat in danger.
- 12.2.11. A boat shall report for a safety inspection when asked to do so by the RC or Protest Committee.

13. TROPHIES

Trophies shall be awarded per GYA Regulations Section L ~~404~~1.9.

14. FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACTS

For questions regarding this event, please contact:

Regatta Chair: Christie Yoste, 228-365-3698

Gayle Weatherly, 228-863-2637

Principal Race Officer: Michael G. Hage, 228-697-8880

Yacht Club Contact Information:

Gulfport Yacht Club

800 East Pier, Gulfport, MS 39501

(228) 863-6796

Registration : Online -

<https://nextsailor.com/regatta/GYAChallengeCup2026>