

Gulf Yachting Association

Offshore Multihull Council

Safety Rules and Regulations

revised 09/15/08AR

1.01 Responsibility

1.01 The Safety of a yacht and her crew is the sole and inescapable responsibility of the owner, or owner's representative who must do his best to ensure that the yacht is fully found, thoroughly seaworthy and manned by an experienced crew who have undergone appropriate training and are physically fit to face bad weather. He must be satisfied as to the soundness of hull, spars, rigging, sails and all gear. He must ensure that all safety equipment is properly maintained and stowed and that the crew know where it is kept and how it is to be used.

1.02 Neither the establishment of these Special Regulations, their use by race organisers, nor the inspection of a yacht under these Special Regulations in any way limits or reduces the complete and unlimited responsibility of the owner or owner's representative.

2.01 Classification

2.01.1 Category 0 (*Not approved by the Gulf Yachting Association Offshore Multihull Council*)
Trans-oceanic races, including races which pass through areas in which air or sea temperatures are likely to be less than 5 degrees Celsius other than temporarily, where yachts must be completely self-sufficient for very extended periods of time, capable of withstanding heavy storms and prepared to meet serious emergencies without the expectation of outside assistance.

2.01.2 Category 1 (*Not approved by the Gulf Yachting Association Offshore Multihull Council*)
Races of long distance and well offshore, where yachts must be completely self-sufficient for extended periods of time, capable of withstanding heavy storms and prepared to meet serious emergencies without the expectation of outside assistance.

2.01.3 Category 2 (*Port to Port Racing along the coast in the Gulf of Mexico at night*)
Races of extended duration along or not far removed from shorelines or in large unprotected bays or lakes, where a high degree of self-sufficiency is required of the yachts.

2.01.4 Category 3 (*Distance Bay Racing into the Gulf of Mexico and back during daylight*)
Races across open water, most of which is relatively protected or close to shorelines, including races for small yachts.

2.01.5 Category 4 (*Inshore Racing or closed course Buoy Racing*)
Short races, close to shore in relatively warm or protected waters normally held in daylight.

2.02 Inspection

A yacht may be inspected at any time. If she does not comply with these Special Regulations her entry may be rejected, or she will be liable to disqualification or such other penalty as may be prescribed by the National Authority or the Race Organisers.

2.03 General Requirements

All equipment required by these Special Regulations shall...

- a) function properly
- b) be regularly checked, cleaned, and serviced
- c) when not in use be stowed in conditions in which deterioration is minimised
- d) be readily accessible
- e) be of a type, size, and capacity suitable and adequate for the intended use and size of the yacht.

3.01 Category Requirements

In addition to required USCG safety equipment, the owner shall provide, but not be limited to...

3.02 Category 2 (*Port to Port Racing along the coast in the Gulf of Mexico at night*)

- 3.02 (a) The yacht shall be sailed by a minimum Crew of four.
- 3.02 (b) Jack Lines shall be safely and soundly attached to permanent fittings on the deck.
- 3.02 (c) Foul Weather Gear and Safety Harnesses shall be provided for all crew members.
- 3.02 (d) The yacht shall have on board the following...

Marine Compass & spare (non-electric)	Soft wood plugs (boats with through-hulls and/or sea cocks)*
Two gallons emergency water	Navigational charts and devices for safe piloting
At least two fire extinguishers	Tools and spare parts
One manual bilge pump	VHF radio receiver (2 suggested, 1 required)
Two one-gallon buckets w/lanyards	USCG approved PFD w/whistle and strobe for each crew member
Anchor and rode suitable for boat	Adequate food, energy bars, and snacks to maintain crew stamina
Two Cell Phones	Water resistant flashlights with spare batteries
GPS (spare recommended)	First Aid kit and manual
50 foot heaving line	Signal device (Horn)
Man Overboard Pole with strobe, lifebuoy (horseshoe), and drogue attached - can be deployed by helmsman in twenty seconds	

3.03 Category 3 (*Distance Bay Racing into the Gulf of Mexico and back during daylight*)

- 3.03 (a) The yacht shall be sailed by a minimum Crew of three.
- 3.03 (b) The yacht shall have on board the following...

Marine Compass	Soft wood plugs (boats with through-hulls and/or sea cocks)*
Two gallons emergency water	Navigational charts and devices for safe piloting
At least two fire extinguishers	Tools and spare parts
One manual bilge pump	VHF radio receiver (2 suggested, 1 required)
Two one-gallon buckets w/lanyards	USCG approved PFD w/whistle for each crew member
Anchor and rode suitable for boat	Adequate food, energy bars, and snacks to maintain crew stamina
Cell Phone	Water resistant flashlights with spare batteries
GPS	First Aid kit and manual
50 foot heaving line	Signal device (Horn)

3.04 Category 4 (*Inshore Racing or closed course Buoy Racing*)

- 3.04 (a) The yacht shall be sailed by a minimum Crew in accordance with Class Rules..
- 3.04 (b) The yacht shall have on board the following...

Marine Compass	Soft wood plugs (boats with through-hulls and/or sea cocks)*
Two gallons emergency water	Navigational charts and devices for safe piloting
At least two fire extinguishers	Tools and spare parts
One manual bilge pump	VHF radio receiver (2 suggested, 1 required)
Two one-gallon buckets w/lanyards	USCG approved PFD w/whistle for each crew member
Anchor and rode suitable for boat	Adequate food, energy bars, and snacks to maintain crew stamina
Cell Phone	Water resistant flashlights with spare batteries
GPS	First Aid kit and manual
50 foot heaving line	Signal device (Horn)

* The plugs should be stored in safe proximity for the fitting they might serve.

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