



**Gulf Yachting Association
Annual Meeting
Saturday, May 3, 2025
Pensacola Yacht Club**

Call to Order – 10am GYA Commodore Alan McMillan (PYC). Thanks to everyone for coming to Pensacola Yacht Club for the Annual Meeting and Opening Regatta.

Executive Committee & Other members present: Commodore Alan McMillan (PYC), Vice Commodore Richard “Boo” Heausler (BWYC/SYC), Rear Commodore Jennifer Brune Schmidt, Immediate Past Commodore Randy Fitzpatrick Wainwright (FYC), Parliamentarian Cary Trapani (BWYC), and Secretary-Treasurer, Shannon Weatherly (PCYC)

Roll Call – 21 Clubs were present: BWYC, BucYC, DIYC, FYC, FWYC, GLYC, GYC, JYC, LFYC, LYC, MYC, NavyPYC, PCYC, PYC, PBYC, PontYC, SRYC, SYC, StABYC, SPYC and TYC - a quorum was met.

PC Commodore Shan Kirk led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PC John Mathews (PYC) led the assembly in the invocation. The following deceased commodores and sailing friends were recognized with a moment of silence: PC John Conal “Con” Lancaster, SRYC, Albert “Chip” Carpenter, SYC, Kelly Alfortish, SYC, Whitner Church, SYC, Lawrence (Larry) N. Frost Jr., SYC, George Don Williams, PBYC, Mrs. Gerry Christensen, HYC, Dr. Barbara “Babs” Bukowski, HYC, Mr. Hunter Todd, HYC, Tracey Stieffel, BWYC, Elaine Bell, BWYC, John Worrell, BWYC, Barbara Prosser PONTYC, Shelly Mattingly, MYC, Lynn Bell, MYC/GYC, Jeff Borthen, MYC, and Linda Gilliland, JYC

Introduction of all the Ex-Com members & other members as listed above.

GYA Past Commodores Recognized- Robbie Schmidt (SYC) Catherine Cromartie (FYC), Harry Chapman (BWYC), John Mathews (PYC), Shan Kirk (SYC), Thomas D. Beery (SRYC), Jimmy Ruthven (StABYC), Gary Rogers (JYC), David Bolyard (PontYC), Basil Kennedy (BWYC) and Joe Blouin (DIYC)

Conduct of the Meeting – Cary Trapani stated that we honor Robert’s Rules of order. All comments should be directed to the chair Commodore McMillan and limited to 5 minutes. Any motions made need to be stated clearly and a 2nd is required for a vote. Let’s have a great meeting.

Minutes – PC John Matthews (PYC) made a motion, seconded by PC Randy Fitzpatrick-Wainwright (FYC) to waive the reading of the minutes from the Winter Meeting January 11 at Fairhope Yacht Club and to accept, all unanimously approved.

Financial Report- Secretary-Treasurer- Shannon Weatherly (PCYC) reported account balances as of April 1, 2025:

Account Balances as of April 1, 2025:

\$29,207.51 Checking Account
\$39,337.01 Invest 1 (Trophy)
\$48,078.56 Invest 2 (GYA)
\$106,623.08 Total of all accounts

Executive Committee – Commodore McMillan reported that an ExCom meeting was held on 3/27/25 via zoom where the publication of a 2025 was discussed and approved. Please send your club’s updated information to PC Robbie Schmidt (PYC). Also, Clinton Edwards was approved as our US Sailing Championship Chairman. Additionally, the GYA Foundation is funding a GYA Opti Racing Team to go the Nationals in 2025. The Youth Committee Chair will report back on that team.

At the meeting on 5/2/25, we discussed regulation changes being submitted without 60 days' notice are currently allowed by the rules but not recommended. The Racing Rules Chair is discussing removing Section 1(d) that allows for this exception.

COMMITTEE & COUNCIL REPORTS

Racing Regulations – VC Richard “Boo” Heausler (BWYC/SYC) reported that the committee is comprised of the following: VC Boo Heausler (BWYC/SYC), PC Dave Bolyard (PontYC), PC Michael Hage (GYC), and PC John Matthews (PYC).

Boo thanks all on his committee for their time and efforts. They are recommending the bulk of changes be proposed at the Winter Meeting with proper notice. Minor changes with notice can be addressed at the Annual and Semi-Annual meetings.

2025 Proposed GYA Rule Changes – GYA Opening Regatta Meeting

Current Rule

14 Number of Races

14.1 The number of races scheduled and required to constitute a series at each event shall conform to the following:

Event	Number of Races Scheduled	Number of Races to Constitute a Series
Lipton Cup	5	2
Junior Lipton	5	1
Knost	Maximum of 5	1
Sugar Bowl	Maximum of 5	Per the OA
All Others	5	1

Proposed Rule

14.1 The number of races scheduled and required to constitute a series at each event shall conform to the following:

Event	Number of Races Scheduled	Number of Races to Constitute a Series
Lipton Cup	5	2
Junior Lipton	5	1
Knost	Maximum of 8	1
Sugar Bowl	Maximum of 5	Per the OA
All Others	5	1

Discussion:

At the request of PCYC for the Knost, to shorten the length of the races and have more quantity of races due to using the Melges 15. This will apply for the 2025 trial of the Melges 15 only.

Current Rule

17.3 Skippers

- (b) Except as provided in Regulations [19.5\(b\)](#) (Lipton Cup) and [22](#) (Sugar Bowl), a skipper shall be the helmsperson in no more than two (2) races.
- (b) No crewmember shall handle the tiller/hiking stick except for brief periods of time or in case of an emergency.

Proposed

Rule

17.3 Skippers

- (c) Except as provided in Regulations [19.5\(b\)](#) (Lipton Cup) and [22](#) (Sugar Bowl), a skipper shall be the helmsperson in no more than two (2) races.
- (c) No crewmember shall handle the tiller/hiking stick except for brief periods of time or in case of an emergency.
- (c) **For 2025 Knost only, a skipper shall be the helmsperson in no more than three (3) races.**

Discussion:

At the request of PCYC for the Knost, to shorten the length of the races and have more quantity of races due to using the Melges 15. This will apply for the 2025 trial of the Melges 15 only. This will not require more than the minimum number of people as in prior years.

Current

Rule

21.6 2025 Event

- (e) The following applies to the 2025 event only:
- (e) The 2025 event will be sailed in Melges 15s
- (e) The minimum number of persons onboard shall be two. There shall be no weight minimum.
- (e) The following GYA rules shall not apply to the 2025 event: 6 (amended for M15 class rules), 8 (amended for M15 class rules), 18
- (e) Melges class rules shall apply except for C3.1, C3.2, C3.3, this amends GYA rule 2.2

Proposed Rule

21.6 2025 Event

- (e) The following applies to the 2025 event only:
- (e) The 2025 event will be sailed in Melges 15s
- (e) **The minimum number of persons onboard shall be two. There shall be a 200 lbs weight minimum of the persons onboard while racing. This amends regulation 17.5. Competitors shall comply with regulation 17.6**
- (e) The following GYA rules shall not apply to the 2025 event: 6 (amended for M15 class rules), 8 (amended for M15 class rules), 18
- (e) Melges class rules shall apply except for C3.1, C3.2, C3.3, this amends GYA rule 2.2

Discussion:

At the request of PCYC for the Knost due to safety concerns, a weight minimum should be established.

Motion by PC John Matthews (PYC) and 2nd by PC Shan Kirk (SYC) to accept this change and all approved with none opposing.

The next change being proposed did not go out in the Notice of Meeting to all clubs so the Chair and ExCom are recommending that it be presented and voted on by a roll call vote. Offshore Chair Scott Sonnier states the reason is to increase participation of more teams. Motion by PC John Mathews (PYC) and 2nd by PC Basil Kennedy (BWYC) to approve.

Challenge Cup change:

34 GYA OFFSHORE CHALLENGE CUP

39.1 Sponsorship. The event is sponsored by the GYA Offshore Council.

39.2 Host Club and Offshore Council

(a) The host club shall be determined by the Offshore Council Executive Committee at the Winter Meeting.

(b) The host club race committee shall conduct the event.

39.3 Rating System and Classes

(a) Rating System. Races shall be sailed under the ~~ORRez~~ EZ rating system using PCS scoring.

(b) Classes. The Offshore Council Executive Committee shall establish the Class Breaks and shall review them annually.

39.4 Eligibility. Entries shall be by GYA ~~clubs~~ Teams, made up of GYA clubs, who are current General Members of the Gulf Yachting Association. Each competing ~~club team~~ 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. ~~A team may consist of one or more clubs, but each club shall be represented by only one team.~~

39.5 Number of Races. Two (2) races shall be completed to constitute a series.

39.6 Crew Eligibility Teams

(a) 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 and helmsman must be a member of the GYA 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.

(b) The penalty for noncompliance with this requirement shall be disqualification of the boat from each race in which the violation occurred.

39.7 Boats

(a) In any GYA Offshore Challenge Cup, a boat shall represent only one GYA ~~club~~/Team.

(b) Each boat, shall have a valid ~~ORRez~~ EZ rating certificate.

39.8 Scoring

(a) The Low Point System shall be used. Each ~~club's~~ Team's points for each race shall be the sum of the finishing places of the best three ~~club team~~ Team boats in the race. Within a class, boats shall not exclude any scores. The Sailing Instructions shall state details of scoring the regatta.

(b) The ~~club team~~ Team entry with the lowest total points overall shall be the GYA Offshore Challenge Cup winner.

39.9 Perpetual Trophies

(a) The winning ~~club~~ Team entry shall be awarded the Spring Hill College/Gulf Yachting Association Offshore Challenge Cup and the Offshore Challenge Cup Champion Banner.

(b) The best three-boat Team ~~team~~ entry shall be awarded the Mobile Yacht Club Trophy.

(c) The first place Class A boat shall be awarded the G. S. "Buddy" Friedrichs, Jr.

Memorial Trophy.

Roll Call vote approved the change unanimously by all BOD.

Capdevielle Committee – Paul Kleinschrodt (BucYC) reported that the committee met today and discussed the proposals from the Rules Committee and have full support of those items.

The committee discussed and has tremendous support for creating some recognition and possibly an award for the top female skipper at Liptons Championship. More to come on this topic at the next meeting.

The committee discussed the Vakaros Atlas 2 technology that is revolutionary in the yachting world. There is tremendous interest in this technology, but there are many questions regarding the management of the technology in the series. Thank you to Sam Vasquez and the GYA Foundation for their interest and participating in the discussion. More to come on this topic.

Lastly, the committee discussed and agree that Rule 19.8 needs to be revisited at the winter meeting. We will evaluate the pros and cons of this rule and present the data to the BOD at Liptons.

By-Laws – PC Catherine Cromartie (FYC)– No report.

Race Management – PC Robbie Schmidt (SYC) The Regs section C 4.2 state that the NOR must be published 2 months in advance of the event. They are going to propose this be changed to 1 month due to the inability to comply when waiting on the yearly US Sailing rules to be published. Also, there will be guidelines for hosting Lipton and Jr Lipton available soon for host clubs to use to plan these events. They may be used when hosting any GYA Championship event.

Schedule – GYA Commodore Randy Wainwright-Fitzpatrick(FYC) reported: The Capdevielle committee decided that Mardi Gras regatta for 2025 will not be rescheduled after weather caused it cancelation. There will be no penalty for NOYC, and we will try again next year.

Appeals Committee – Charles Harp (PYC) –1 appeal last year, and it was elevated to the US Sailing appeals committee, and they upheld the GYA appeals committee decision. It will be published as Appeal no. 128.

Judges – Karen Reisch (SYC)

I am honored to serve as the Administrative Judge for the Gulf Yachting Association for this year. Jim "Doc" Hunter and John Farris are members of the GYA Judge Committee.

We have a very hard working group of judges in the GYA. There are 6 of us.

For statistics:

Alabama 1 National Judge

Florida 2 Regional Judges, 1 Club Judge

Mississippi: No judges

Louisiana: 1 Regional Judge, 1 Club Judge

Texas: 3 National Judges, 2 Club Judges

We have recently lost a very active judge from Ocean Springs, Con Lancaster.

Thank you to all the judges for your time and commitment

We have submitted a list of judges for each of the Capdevielle events and it has been approved by the GYA Board. And each club has been notified who will be judging at these events. But as you can see, we are in need of more judges.

So far in 2025, the judges were scheduled for 24 events, of which 6 were cancelled or postponed due to weather. There were 585 boats registered and 94 braces held. There were 32 hearings held.;

We have reached out to other YRAs in Florida and Texas for help and a number of judges have agreed to assist. John Farris is currently developing procedures for Zoom hearings, which would require only one judge to be on site, and others available via Zoom or other electronic means. In fact, this is the model for similar systems in other areas. So you may get to meet judges from outside of the GYA. It is also helpful for the judges to gain experience outside of their areas.

Anyone who is interested in pursuing becoming a judge or recertifying if you have been a judge previously, please reach out to Jerry Thompson, our Area D Regional Administrative Judge, at trimsails@gmail.com. Jerry is an excellent resource for questions regarding both Judge and Race Officer certification. There are seminars and training opportunities all over the country and online. Be sure to check the US Sailing website for upcoming events.

The new Racing Rules of Sailing (2025-2028) is now available., from U S Sailing.

Additional announcements:

*Capt Pete Merrill has been named Judge Emeritus by USSailing at the judges meeting Wednesday night. A recognition ceremony will be held later this year at BWYC.

*Tom Duggan, US Sailing Race Management chair, has asked race officials to enforce RRS Appendix G which states that sail numbers shall be in contrast to the sail material and easily visible. He requests this to be put in the event SIs and competitors penalized for noncompliance.

*USCG and other enforcement units will penalize or fine boaters who are not using the “kill switch” attachment on their vessels.

Membership Committee – PC Shan Kirk (SYC) reported the following:

The Membership Committee for 2025 is:

Commodore Shan L. Kirk – LA (SYC)

Commodore John Matthews – FL (PYC)

Rear Commodore Jennifer B. Schmidt – MS (SYC)

I would like to welcome Ms. Patty Manhire, Navarre Beach Yacht Club, who I have had delightful conversation with, and the NBYC wishes to become a GYA Affiliate member. The Affiliate Membership Application has been forwarded to Ms. Manhire for review, and this is hopefully in process. I will provide further updates as this process continues.

Further discussion is ongoing with the Shreveport Yacht Club representatives, Shreveport, LA, on their submitted proposal for GYA General Membership. I would like to thank the Jackson Yacht Club for their sponsorship of the Shreveport Yacht Club membership proposal, and will update you further on these discussions.

On behalf of Commodore McMillan, The Executive Committee, and The GYA Board of Directors, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to Commodore Joe Blouin, representative of Davis Island Yacht Club, Mr. Michael Kayusa, representative of St. Petersburg Yacht Club, and Commodore Susan McKinnon, representative of Lakewood Yacht Club, who are with us this morning. We welcome you and hope you see what the GYA can offer to your club in the future.

GYA Foundation – PC Danny Killeen (PCYC) No report.

Trophy – PC John Mathews (PYC) asked PC Basil Kennedy to report on the Past Commodores perpetual trophy for the Lipton 4th race winner. Asking each Club to send a donation to help complete

the funding of this trophy. A donation can be made to the BW Community Sailing foundation which is a 503(c)3 which has agreed to collect and forward to the trophy committee.

Robbie reported that we now have a QR code on the trophy cases for the perpetual trophies to assist in tracking of these trophies. Scan the code to complete the form, and it will give you engraving instructions for that trophy.

Sail Measurement – William Zehner (StABYC) , No report.

US Sailing Championships – Clinton Edwards (BWYC) – No report.

Youth Committee– Scott Hartwell (FYC) reported the following:

Thank you to SYC for hosting USODA GCC on short notice.

Thank you to PYC for hosting a great UnRegatta in Open Skiffs.

C420 GCC will be at Lakewood YC 5/31-6/1 - pre race clinic at Rush Creek from 5/27-29

Sears Cup Area D Qualifier is June 6-8 at Charleston YC

J/22's - sailing 4 up out of CofC

Still working on NOR but they will have a chalk talk on Friday, racing on Sat/Sun

Junior Bridge received applications and will announce positions over social media

GYA Jr Commodore - Joe Comer V - FYC

GYA Jr Vice Comm - Jack Timberlake - BWYC

GYA Jr Rear Comm - Court Salloum - GYC

Secretary TBD

Opti GYA Team - the commodore would like to support GYA clubs or sailors who may wish to go to Opti Natls in SoCal but don't have the internal resources to support the move from their club alone.

The GYA intends to help with a coach to support them out there. There are eligibility requirements, and we are getting off to a delayed start, but feel free to come to me with any questions

Offshore Council – Scott Sonnier (SYC) thanked everyone for supporting the motion earlier. Challenge Cup is 6/20-22 at Gulfport Yacht Club and the Pensacola Race is Friday 6/27. Please spread the word at your club to get participation up. If anyone is interested in hosting the GYA Women's Handicap Championship, please let him know. He is talking with PCYC about combining it with the Knost Handicap Regatta.

PHRF/ Handicap– Kevin Blank (FWYC) reports the following:

Current committee: Kett Cummins - EZ rep Tom Beery Tommy Clark - Multihull Tim Molony - Multihull For EZ, we currently have 110 certificates in the Gulf region with another 20-25 that are in progress and should become valid soon. For Multihull, we currently have 12 certificates with 6-8 in progress. We would like to remind all commodores and fleet captains that the GYA Handicap committee is no longer issuing PHRF certificates. Clubs are welcome to continue to use the legacy PHRF numbers in their local racing, but it is up to them to determine handicaps for their fleet. If you wish to continue with a single-number handicap, the EZ certificates have a single-number time-on-distance number that works for scoring exactly the same as the PHRF numbers. We want to encourage all clubs and fleet, especially new boats to apply for EZ certificates. Any boat owner can apply for an EZ certificate by visiting regattaman.com and clicking on "Certificates", then "Apply/Renew". Lastly, for any clubs that wish to learn more about EZ Rule and how to apply it to their racing, you can visit gya.org/handicap to view some webinars on how EZ works, and I am happy to get on a video call to walk anyone through the process of setup and scoring

One Design - Susan Domagala (PYC),no report.

US Sailing Representative – Shannon Weatherly (PCYC), No Report.

Old Business- Kevin Blank asked for any boats wanting to race in Challenge Cup that do not have a current certificate, please get your application submitted asap.

New Business - Nominating Committee Chair Gary Rogers (JYC) announced his committee members PC Shan Kirk (SYC) and John Matthews (PYC) will be meeting over the next several months to select a slate for 2026.

PC Basil Kennedy (BWYC) moves that a commendation be given to the current and past Secretary/Treasurer of the GYA for a smooth transition and an excellence in performing their duties. 2nd by PC Shan Kirk (SYC) All approved.

Closing Remarks- Commodore McMillan announced the Semi-Annual meeting will be held at Buccaneer Yacht Club August 30, and the GYA Winter meeting will be at Pensacola Yacht Club January 10. The Winter meeting will be a one day event. Flag Raising at 11.

Adjourned – PC Shan Kirk (SYC) to adjourn, 2nd by PC John Matthews (PYC) and all approved. Adjourned at 10:57am

Respectfully submitted by:
Shannon Weatherly