



**Gulf Yachting Association
Winter Meeting
Saturday, January 10, 2026
Pensacola Yacht Club**

Call to Order – At 1730 hours GYA Commodore Alan McMillan (PYC) called the meeting to order and introduced the PYC Commodore to welcome everyone. Commodore Cozart recognized the PYC Management team and thanked them for their service this weekend.

Introduction of the Executive Committee and Parliamentarian - Vice-Commodore Richard “Boo” Heausler (BWYC/SYC), Rear Commodore Jennifer Brune Schmidt (SYC), Past Commodore Randy Fitzpatrick-Wainwright (FYC), Parliamentarian Cary Trapani (BWYC), Secretary/Treasurer Shannon Weatherly (PCYC)

Roll Call – 21 Clubs were present: BWYC, BucYC, FYC, FWYC, GLYC, GYC< JYC, LFYC, MYC, NavyYC, PYC, NOYC, PCYC, PYC, PBYC, PontYC, PtYC, ShreveYC, SRYC, SYC, StABYC, and TYC – a quorum was met.

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

Invocation - GYA PC John Matthews (PYC) led the assembly in the invocation. The follow deceased commodores and sailing friends were recognized with a moment of silence: Kenny LaNata (TYC) Beth Hill (MYC) Jay Fenerty (NOYC) William A Hays, Jr (SYC) W. Mentz Benjamin (SYC) William A. Settoon (SYC) Frank Fazzio (SYC) Francis Royerre (SYC) Eli Tullis (SYC) Mary Stitt (PYC) Chad St. Julien (PontYC) David Carrington (MYC) David Delaney (MYC) Jack Hamlin (MYC) Robert Heitman (MYC) Gus Smith (MYC) Martin Rolan (FWYC) Bobby Primm (FWYC)

Commodore Alan McMillan asked SYC Commodore Rocky Sanchez to give an update on PC Corky Potts status. Commodore Sanchez states that Corky is stable and in a private room, but the family asks that at this time no visitors, calls or texts. They will continue to provide updates as needed, and please continue praying for his recovery.

GYA Past Commodores Recognized – Shan Kirk (SY), John Morrow (GYC/StABYC), Robbie Shmidt (SYC), David Boylard (PontYC), Thomas D. Beery (SRYC), Danny B. Killeen Jr (PCYC), Jimmy Ruthven (StABYC), Gary Rogers (JYC), Harry G. Chapman (BWYC/SYC) and John Matthews (PYC)

Conduct of the Meeting – Parliamentarian Cary Trapani stated that Robert’s Rules of order will be followed throughout the meeting. Motions may only be made by a Board of Director or a Past Commodore. All comments are to be directed to GYA Commodore Alan and time limits will be enforced.

Minutes – PC John Matthews (PYC) made a motion and 2nd be PC Gary Rogers (JYC) to waive the reading of the minutes from the Semi-Annual meeting hosted at Buccaneer Yach Club and to accept. All approved.

Financial Report- Secretary-Treasurer- Shannon Weatherly

(PCYC) reported account balances as of January 1, 2026:

\$11,284.74 checking Account
\$43,503.68 Invest 1 (Trophy)
\$53,171.17 Invest 2 (GYA)
\$107,959.59 Total of all accounts.

Executive Committee GYA Commodore Alan McMillan reports that we still are involved in an ongoing lawsuit as our Motion for Summary Judgment was denied. Also, we will have a speaker, COO Tyson Lemond of the American Majic group. Finally, The ExCom approved the increase in the stipend for Opening and Lipton Regatta host Club to \$2000 for each event.

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).

He is proposing the following rule changes:

Current Rule

1 APPLICABILITY

These regulations spell out the administration, management of, and criteria for events sanctioned by the GYA. These regulations may be amended or waived at any meeting of the Board of Directors (BOD) only by a majority vote of those members present and entitled to vote provided that the amendment:

- (a) Shall have been proposed in writing by a general member, a member of the BOD, the Executive Committee (EXCOM), a council or a standing or special committee.
- (b) Shall have been submitted to the Racing Regulations Committee for advance review as required by Article VIII, Section 8-B of the GYA Bylaws; and
- (c) Shall have been included with the notice of the meeting at which the amendment will be considered.
- (d) If (b) and (c) above are not complied with, then the vote to amend must be approved by an affirmative vote of three-fourths ($\frac{3}{4}$) of those members of the BOD present and entitled to vote

Proposed Rule

1 APPLICABILITY

These regulations spell out the administration, management of, and criteria for events sanctioned by the GYA. These regulations may be amended or waived at any meeting of the Board of Directors (BOD) only by a majority vote of those members present and entitled to vote provided that the amendment:

- (a) Shall have been proposed in writing by a general member, a member of the BOD, the Executive Committee (EXCOM), a council or a standing or special committee.
- (b) Shall have been submitted to the Racing Regulations Committee for advance review as required by Article VIII, Section 8-B of the GYA Bylaws; and

(c) Shall have been included with the notice of the meeting at which the amendment will be considered.

~~(d) If (b) and (c) above are not complied with, then the vote to amend must be approved by an affirmative vote of three-fourths (¾) of those members of the BOD present and entitled to vote~~

Current Rule

4.2 Notice of Race. Notice of Race. Clubs hosting sanctioned events shall give proper notice of the event. A Notice of Race template, written and approved by the Race Management Committee, shall be used and once posted the Notice of Race link from Regatta Network (**or other EXCOM approved website**) shall be posted on-line using the club's scheduling link to www.gya.org no later than 2 months prior to the regatta.

Proposed Rule

4.2 Notice of Race. Notice of Race. Clubs hosting sanctioned events shall give proper notice of the event. A Notice of Race template, written and approved by the Race Management Committee, shall be used and once posted the Notice of Race link from Regatta Network (**or other EXCOM approved website**) shall be posted on-line using the club's scheduling link to www.gya.org no later than **1** month prior to the regatta.

Current Rule

5.2 Judges and Protest Committees

- (a) For all events except those listed in Regulation 5.2 (b) the use of US Sailing certified judges is strongly encouraged.
- (b) For the Opening, Lipton Cup, Junior Lipton Championship (Junior Lipton), Knost Ladies Championship (Knost), GYA Race of Champions, GYA Fish Class Championship, and GYA Offshore Challenge Cup, judges shall be appointed by the GYA Administrative Judge, be approved by the ExCom and shall include a US Sailing certified judge as the Chief Judge. Judges at these events may be on the water during the event.

Proposed Rule

5.2 Judges and Protest Committees

- (a) For all events except those listed in Regulation 5.2 (b) the use of US Sailing certified judges is strongly encouraged.
- (b) For the Opening, Lipton Cup, Junior Lipton Championship (Junior Lipton), Knost Ladies Championship (Knost), GYA Race of Champions, GYA Fish Class Championship, and GYA Offshore Challenge Cup, judges shall be appointed by the GYA Administrative Judge, be approved by the ExCom and shall include a US Sailing certified judge as the Chief Judge. Judges at these events **shall** ~~may~~ be on the water during the event.

Current Rule

17.3 Skippers

- (a) 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.
- (c) For 2025 Knost only, a skipper shall be the helmsperson in no more than three (3) races.

Proposed Rule

17.3 Skippers

- (a) 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.
- (c) For ~~2025~~ Knost only, a skipper shall be the helmsperson in no more than three (3) races.

Current Rule

18 SAILS AND RIGGING

- (a) A GYA-assigned Club Burgee shall appear on each mainsail. Bow numbers shall be in accordance with class rules. The only exception shall be for boats and/or sails duly chartered from another GYA club. **Each full color Club Burgee shall measure nominally 24” tall and nominally 36” wide and shall be permanently applied to each side of the main sail. Each Burgee shall be placed immediately below the lowest batten and centered fore/aft.**

Proposed Rule

18 SAILS AND RIGGING

- (a) **A Burgee of the GYA club** shall appear on each mainsail. Bow numbers shall be in accordance with class rules. The only exception shall be for boats and/or sails duly chartered from another GYA club. **Each full color Club Burgee shall measure nominally 24” tall and nominally 36” wide and shall be permanently applied to each side of the main sail. Each Burgee shall be placed immediately below the lowest batten and centered fore/aft.**

Current Rule

19.11 Trophies

- (e) The fourth race winner shall be awarded the GYA Past Commodore’s trophy and the standard adopted keeper plaque provided by the host club

Proposed Rule

19.11 Trophies

(e) The fourth race winner shall be awarded the GYA Past Commodore's trophy and the standard adopted keeper plaque ~~provided by the host club~~

Current Rule

20.6 Trophies

The host club shall award all trophies:

- (a) The host club shall purchase the trophies required by Regulation 19.10(a).
- (b) The GYA shall purchase and provide standard plaques (not trophies) for the first, second and third place teams.

Proposed Rule

20.6 Trophies

The host club shall award all trophies:

- (a) The host club shall purchase the trophies required by Regulation 19.10(a).
- (b) The GYA shall purchase and provide standard plaques (not trophies) for the first, second and third place teams.
- (c) **The GYA flag officers shall have charge of all ceremonies that award Jr. Lipton Cup trophies. The host club commodore may serve as Master of Ceremonies.**

Current Rule

21.6 2025 Event (Knot)

- (a) The following applies to the 2025 event only:
- (b) The 2025 event will be sailed in Melges 15s
- (c) 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
- (d) 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 Boat Sailed

- (a) The following applies to the **Knot** event only:
- (b) The ~~2025~~ event will be sailed in Melges 15s
- (c) 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

- (d) 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

Current Rule

23 GYA OPENING REGATTA

23.1 Trophies. The host club shall award all trophies.

- (a) The host club shall purchase all trophies required by Regulation 16.1 except for first place.
- (b) The GYA shall purchase and provide a marker trophy for the Commodore J. Gilbert Scheib Trophy.

23.2 Perpetual Trophy. The winning club shall be awarded the Commodore J. Gilbert Scheib Trophy.

Proposed Rule

23 GYA OPENING REGATTA

23.1 Trophies. The host club shall award all trophies.

- (a) The host club shall purchase all trophies required by Regulation 16.1 except for first place.
- (b) The GYA shall purchase and provide a marker trophy for the Commodore J. Gilbert Scheib Trophy.
- (c) **The GYA flag officers shall have charge of all ceremonies that award regatta trophies. The host club commodore may serve as Master of Ceremonies.**

23.2 Perpetual Trophy. The winning club shall be awarded the Commodore J. Gilbert Scheib Trophy.

23.3 The Organizing Authority for the event will be the GYA.

Current Rule

30 GYA LASER CHAMPIONSHIP

30.1 Host Club

- (a) Gulfport Yacht Club Race Committee shall schedule and conduct the event.
- (b) Gulfport Yacht Club shall purchase and award appropriate trophies.

30.2 Eligibility. Entrants shall be members of GYA clubs.

Proposed Rule

30 GYA LASER (ILCA4, ILCA6, ILCA7) CHAMPIONSHIP

30.1 Host Club

- (a) Gulfport Yacht Club Race Committee shall schedule and conduct the event.
- (b) Gulfport Yacht Club shall purchase and award appropriate trophies **for each Class.**
- (c) **Gulfport Yacht Club shall award Perpetual Trophies and associated keeper trophies for each class and shall be maintained and housed by Gulfport Yacht Club.**

30.2 Eligibility. Entrants shall be members of GYA clubs.

Proposed Rule

39 GYA MELGES 15 CHAMPIONSHIP

- 39.1 Host Club and Schedule.** Shall be sailed annually at location and on a date approved by the BOD.
- 39.2 Eligibility.** Entrants (skippers and crews) shall be members of GYA Clubs.
- 39.3 Trophies** shall be awarded based on participation and to the top all female team.

Renumber following rules

Motion by PC John Matthews to approve all proposed rule changes. 2nd by PC Gary Rogers.

PC Harry Chapman moves to amend the motion on the Rule 21.6 to be for 2026 so would not be permanent change to Melges 13 boat. 2nd by PC John Morrow. Vote taken and Amended Motion fails.

PC John Morrow moves to amend the Motion on Rule 5.2 to keep the language in the current rule. 2nd by FWYC Commodore William Zehner and amended motion passes.

Original Motion without the 5.2 rule change is voted on and passes.

Capdevielle Committee – Paul Kleinschrodt (BucYC) reported the following:

In the 2025 Capdevielle Series, 11 regattas were sailed, Mardi Gras Regatta had a weather cancellation.

15 clubs participated in the series.

10 clubs participated in at least 50% of the regattas.

The participation rate is 9.7 clubs per event which is slightly higher than prior 5 years.

5 clubs won a Capdevielle regatta (PYC, FYC, NOYC, SYC, BWYC)

4 clubs won races at Lipton (PYC, GYC, BWYC, SYC)

FYC won the Junior Lipton

SYC won the Knost Championship

BWYC won the Lipton

The 2025 Capdevielle Champion is SYC winning first place at Opening, Spring, Weatherly, and Knost regattas.

SERIES WINNERS: 6 DIFFERENT CLUBS THE LAST 7 YEARS: BWYC, MYC, BUC, SYC, PONT, PCYC,

Regattas were on probation for 2025, Candler, Knost and Race of Champions. Knost was successful and is no longer on probation, but Candler and Race of Champions did not meet the required number of participants. We need to petition for reinstatement of Capdevielle status. PC Randy Fitzpatrick-Wainwright moves to grant reinstatement and PC John Morrow 2nd, all approved.

Motion by Commodore Hickman to endorse the use of the RaceSense system by Vakaros at the GYA Capdevielle Series events. 2nd by PC David Bolyard and motion approved.

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

Race Management – PC Robbie Schmidt (SYC) reports that the NOR/SI templates will include the language needed if the host Club is using the RaceSense system by Vakaros. If the host does not want to use the system, they can delete the language. All Capdevielle event hosts must use the NOR/SI templates on the GYA website. The Race Management Award link is on the website and needs to be completed and submitted for consideration.

Schedule – GYA Commodore Randy Wainwright-Fitzpatrick (FYC). Please complete and submit your directory information for your club, so we have current information for the directory.

Appeals Committee – Charles Harp (PYC) – 38 appeals nationwide and 6 from the GYA.

Judges – Karen Reisch (SYC) - Virtual hearings are very successful. Please remind sailors to read the rules, NOR and SI's before filing an appeal.

Membership Committee – PC Shan Kirk – No report.

GYA Foundation – PC Danny Killeen (PCYC) reported that the checking account balance is \$131,468.56. The investment account has a current net worth of \$253,893.64. The total of both accounts is \$385,362.20. Also, a Viper was donated by Richard Samuels at FWYC. It is located at BYC currently.

Trophy – PC John Mathews (PYC) reports the original Deed of Gifts are in his possession for the Commodores 4th Race winner at Lipton and the Race Management trophy and will be delivered to the Pace Library archives. They are looking for the Judge Emeritus trophy so if anyone has any information on its location, please advise.

Sail Measurement – William Zehner (StABYC) No report.

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

Youth Committee– Scott Hartwell (FYC) reported good participation at the youth events this year. We are currently focused on developing a GYA Opti team for Nationals this year by trying to have a series of clinics to train and develop potential sailors.

Offshore Council – Scott Sonnier (SYC) proposes changing the GYA Women's Handicap Champs to allow 1 male crew onboard each boat for 2026. Currently the Deed of Gift does not allow men except for assistance on land. PCYC host is requesting because they had no competitors last year and hoping this would increase participation. This did not get distributed prior to the meeting, so it will require 2/3's

vote in favor to pass. Motion by PC John Matthews and 2nd by Commodore Rocky Sanchez. Call for vote and motion fails.

The next proposal is for Challenge Cup to allow for multiple boats in a class to form a team, change the membership requirement for team members to 3 months, and all boats required to have auxiliary propulsion onboard (eliminating the Viper). Motion by Commodore William Zehner and 2nd by Commodore Rocky Sanchez, Motion fails as it did not get 2/3's vote in favor.

PHRF/ Handicap– Kevin Blank (TYC) reported that there will be webinars available to educate and inform about the RaceSense system by Vakaros. They will be on the GYA website on the handicap page and available to anyone interested.

One Design – Susan Domagala (PYC) - The Masters raced at Opening Regatta will be in the Fish Class boat this year.

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

Unfinished Business and General Orders- none.

New Business -

Nominating Chairman PC Gary Rogers (JYC) and committee members PC Shan Kirk (SYC) and PC John Matthews (PYC), We present the following officers for vote: Commodore – Richard “Boo” Heausler (BWYC/SYC);); Vice Commodore – Jennifer Brune Schmidt (SYC); Rear Commodore – Scott Hartwell (FYC); Immediate Past Commodore Alan McMillan (PYC); Secretary-Treasurer – Shannon Weatherly (PCYC). PC Gary Rogers (JYC) made a motion to approve the slate of officers as presented; seconded by PC John Morrow (GYC/StABYC), and unanimously approved.

Closing Remarks – Commodore Alan McMillan thanked all committee Chars, ExCom and Commodores for your service. It has been an honor to serve as the GYA Commodore. Also, Thanks to the Foundation Committee for funding the purchase of the RaceSense system by Vakaros for the use of the GYC Capdevielle Series.

At this time, I am turning it over to GYA Commodore Richard “Boo” Heausler. He is looking forward to serving as the GYA Commodore and to an exciting year of great competition.

PC John Morrow (GYC/StABYC) made a motion to adjourn the meeting, 2nd by PC Gary Rogers (JYC) All approved.

Adjourned – 1904 hours.

Respectfully submitted by:
Shannon Weatherly