



NOTICE OF MEETING
Saturday, April 18, 2026
Bay Waveland Yacht Club
1 Yacht Club Drive
Bay St Louis, MS 39520
(288) 467-4592

Gulf Yachting Association

ORGANIZED 1901 – REORGANIZED 1920

TO: Commodores of General and Affiliate Members
GYA Executive Committee
GYA Past Commodores
GYA Standing Committee and Council Chairmen
GYA Coordinator of each GYA General Member Club
GYA Associate Members

The Gulf Yachting Association Annual Board of Directors Meeting, in conjunction with the Opening Regatta, will be held April 18th–19th, 2026, at the Bay Waveland Yacht Club, 1 Yacht Club Drive, Bay St. Louis, MS 39520. GYA Standing Committee Chairs and Council Chairs should submit their written reports prior to the meeting to the GYA Secretary. As some mailing and/or email contact information at each club may have changed since our last meeting, please distribute this information to the appropriate contacts at your club if applicable.

FRIDAY, April 17, 2026

1600 – 1800 Regatta Registration and Check-In 2nd Floor Lobby
1800 Executive Committee Meeting (BWYC Boardroom)

SATURDAY, April 18, 2026

0800 -1000 Regatta Registration and Check In (Under Club next to Front Door)
0800 -1000 Breakfast and Beverages (Bar)
0900 Capdevielle Committee Meeting (TBD)
0900 Offshore Council Meeting (TBD)
0930 Trophy Committee Meeting (TBD)
1000 GYA Board of Directors Meeting (Main Dining Room)
1100 Flag Raising Ceremony BWYC Flagpole and Competitors Meeting
1100-1230 Burger Bar (under Club)
1100-2000 Snack Bar open (Under Club)
1300 Warning Signal - All Classes (Back-to-back races to follow)
1700-1900 Complimentary Keg party Under the Club
1800-1900 Commodores Party- Invitation Only (Main Dining Room)

SUNDAY April 19, 2026

0800-0900 Breakfast and Beverages (Bar)
1055 Warning Signal - All Classes (Back-to-back races to follow)
1530 No Races to Start after this Time
ASAP After Racing - Trophy Presentation (Ballroom A)

GYA COMMODORES (GENERAL MEMBER CLUB COMMODORES) – As a member of the GYA Board of Directors, your club’s attendance is very important. We request that you please respond to the GYA Secretary no later than Monday, April 1st, 2026, as to if your club will have representation at the meeting, either by you personally or by a proxy (secretary@gya.org). This information will help to ensure a quorum is met so business may be conducted.

Bay Waveland Yacht Club will provide all GYA Clubs the program and schedule of events for the Opening Regatta competition for the following trophies:

- Commodore J. Gilbert Scheib Trophy
- Commodore John Dane Trophy (Masters Trophy)

If you have recently lost a member of your sailing community and would like to have them included in the silent prayer during the Board of Directors meeting, please forward names with club affiliation to the secretary (secretary@gya.org).

Please remember to wear your blue blazer and white pants for the flag raising ceremony following the board of directors' meeting. The Executive Committee looks forward to seeing everyone.

Sincerely,

Shannon Weatherly
GYA Secretary/Treasurer

2026 Proposed GYA Rule Changes – GYA Opening Regatta

Current Rule

20.1 Host Club

- (a) (Effective for the 2025 season.) The GYA club that won the previous year shall normally host in the current year. No club, however, shall host in consecutive years. If, because of this restriction, the previous year winner is not eligible to host, that club may offer hosting the current year to another GYA club. Any such awarding of an alternate host shall only be with EXCOM approval prior to the next Annual Meeting.
- (b) (Effective for the 2025 season.) In the event that a previous year winner that is eligible to host the current year elects not to, that club may offer current year hosting to any GYA club that is eligible to do so. Any such awarding of an alternate host shall only be with EXCOM approval prior to the next Annual Meeting.

Proposed Rule

20.1 Host Club

- (c) ~~(Effective for the 2025 season.)~~ The GYA club that won the previous year shall normally host in the current year. No club, however, shall host in consecutive years. If, because of this restriction, the previous year winner is not

eligible to host, that club may offer hosting the current year to another GYA club. Any such awarding of an alternate host shall only be with EXCOM approval prior to the next Annual Meeting.

- (d) ~~(Effective for the 2025 season.)~~ In the event that a previous year winner that is eligible to host the current year elects not to, that club may offer current year hosting to any GYA club that is eligible to do so. Any such awarding of an alternate host shall only be with EXCOM approval prior to the next Annual Meeting.

Current Rule

21.6 2025 Event

- (a) The following applies to the event only:
- (b) The 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 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 event only:~~
- (b) The 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 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

41 GYA OFFSHORE CHALLENGE CUP

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

41.2 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.

41.3 Rating System and Classes

- (a) Rating System. Races shall be sailed under the EZ rating system using PCS scoring.
- (b) Classes. The Offshore Council Executive Committee shall establish the Class Breaks and shall review them annually.

41.4 Eligibility. Entries shall be by Teams, made up of GYA clubs, who are current General Members of the Gulf Yachting Association. 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.

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

41.6 Crew Eligibility

- (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.

41.7 Boats

- (a) In any GYA Offshore Challenge Cup, a boat shall represent only one GYA Team.
- (b) Each boat, shall have a valid EZ rating certificate.

41.8 Scoring

- (a) The Low Point System shall be used. Each Teams points for each race shall be the sum of the finishing places of the best three 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 team entry with the lowest total points overall shall be the GYA Offshore Challenge Cup winner.

41.9 Perpetual Trophies

- (a) The winning 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 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.
- (d) The first place Class B boat shall be awarded the Commodore Thomas D. Beery, Jr. GYA Offshore Challenge Cup Class B Trophy.
- (e) The first place Class C boat shall be awarded the Commodore Bobby Bailey Trophy.
- (f) The first place Class D boat shall be awarded the Commodore Janet R. Miller-Schmidt Trophy.

Proposed Rule

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

41.2 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.

41.3 Rating System and Classes

- (a) Rating System. Races shall be sailed under the EZ rating system using **TOT or** PCS scoring.
- (b) Classes. **There shall be four (4) class divisions of decreasing speed; A, B, C, & D.** The Offshore Council Executive Committee shall establish the Class Breaks and shall review them annually.
- (c) **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.**
- (d) **Section 41.3(c) shall only apply for the 2026 event.**

41.4 Eligibility.

- (a) Entries shall be by Teams, made up of GYA clubs, who are current General Members of the Gulf Yachting Association.
- (b) Each competing Team shall enter three (3) or four (4) boats, each in a different class, except **in accordance with 40.3**
- (c) 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.**

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

41.6 Crew Eligibility

- (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 **three (3)** 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.

41.7 Boats

- (a) In any GYA Offshore Challenge Cup, a boat shall represent only one GYA Team.
- (b) Each boat, shall have a valid EZ rating certificate.
- (c) **Trapezes, hiking straps, hiking racks, droop hiking aids, movable athwartship ballast, or other hiking devices, shall not be used and are not permitted.**
- (d) **The 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.**

41.8 Scoring

- (a) The Low Point System shall be used. Each Teams points for each race shall be the sum of the finishing places of the best three 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 team entry with the lowest total points overall shall be the GYA Offshore Challenge Cup winner.

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- (c) The first place Class A boat shall be awarded the G. S. "Buddy" Friedrichs, Jr. Memorial Trophy.
- (d) The first place Class B boat shall be awarded the Commodore Thomas D. Beery, Jr. GYA Offshore Challenge Cup Class B Trophy.
- (e) The first place Class C boat shall be awarded the Commodore Bobby Bailey Trophy.
- (f) The first place Class D boat shall be awarded the Commodore Janet R. Miller-Schmidt Trophy.