

BYLAWS
Gulf Atlantic Yacht Club, Inc.
Adopted: April 17, 2000

I. **BACKGROUND:** Until its incorporation in 2000, the Gulf Atlantic Yacht Club (GAYC) had Bylaws that mixed procedure, rules, motivation, and Club history in order that new Club Members know why the Club did things in a certain way and Club Members of long-standing be reminded about those things. With incorporation, a somewhat more systematic set of Bylaws became necessary. For the new Bylaws to be as useful as possible, it is important to maintain that summary of motivation and Club history. That is the purpose of this Section. This Section is not governing.

Many GAYC practices developed in order to avoid the difficulties that caused the break-up of several other sailing clubs in the Gainesville area. The original Bylaws said "The philosophy was and is to 'Keep it Simple'." Dues were set low deliberately and were by family. (Provision for Associate Membership at a nominal \$1 additional per person appears to have been used only twice.) Business meetings were restricted to 30 minutes. The authorized operational expenses from dues were restricted to publication and distribution of the monthly newsletter, provision of program at monthly meetings, publication and distribution of Membership directory, and miscellaneous operational expense (postage, copy charges, bank fees, etc.) Over time the program provision was interpreted to include payment of launch fees for the Fall and Spring Picnic/Sail-ins. By policy, all other operations were to be self-supporting: cruisers were to pay for cruise expenses, racers for race expenses and so forth. In 1977 a rule was passed requiring new Club Members to purchase a Club burgee at cost. Directory advertising was approved in 1978.

The original statement of purpose was, in effect, to promote safe cruising in a congenial group. Subsequently this purpose was broadened to include support of organized day-sailing and a racing program. Other published goals were to promote sailing, community awareness and participation, boating safety, sailing education, and sharing of interest, knowledge, experience, and fellowship.

II. **PURPOSE:** GAYC's purposes are stated in its Articles of Incorporation as a not-for-profit organization. In summary, they are to support and develop Club Members' enjoyment of the sport and recreation of sailing by promoting sailboat cruising, day sailing, and racing, and, as well, promoting the sport and recreation of sailing, and buying, selling, leasing and/or renting such equipment and/or property as the Club Membership determines is needed to meet the other purposes.

III. **MEMBERSHIP:** Upon payment of the currently prescribed dues and acceptance of the purposes of the Club, a person becomes a Club Member, along with his/her immediate family if they so desire.

IV. **DUES AND THEIR USES:** Dues are set annually by simple majority vote of the Membership, according to the procedure for "Exceptions" in Section X of these Bylaws. Proceeds from dues may be used for publication and distribution of the newsletter, provision of program at monthly meetings, publication and distribution of Membership directory, and miscellaneous operational expense (postage, copy charges, bank fees, corporation fees), and basic expenses of general interest events such as a Fall or Spring picnic. Revenue from advertising in either "Sailbag" or the directory or both shall have the same limits on usage. Special interest events such as cruises and regattas must be self-supporting unless an exception is approved by explicit vote of the Membership according to the procedures listed in Section X of these Bylaws under Exceptions.

V. NEWSLETTER: The newsletter name is “Sailbag”. It is the official record of the Club. Ordinarily it shall be issued monthly and include the notes for the immediately preceding meeting.

VI. OFFICERS: Officers are the Commodore (who also serves as President of the Corporation), Vice-Commodore (Vice-President of the Corporation), Treasurer, Secretary, and a Program Director. Together they form the Board of Directors of the Corporation. The manner of their election is specified in the Articles of Incorporation: “Directors shall be elected annually at the May meeting by simple majority vote of Club Members present from a slate of nominees prepared by the incumbent Directors or their duly designated delegates and reported to the April meeting along with any additional nominations from the floor at that April meeting. Terms of office shall be one year, beginning on the first day of July. There shall be no limit on the number of consecutive terms a Club Member may serve as Director.”

VII. COMMITTEES AND THEIR CHAIRS: The Program Committee is chaired by the Program Director. As deemed appropriate and useful, the Commodore may appoint other Committees and their Chairs. Ordinarily there will be a Cruise Committee and a Racing Committee. Committee chairs are responsible for persuading Club Members to volunteer for their respective Committees.

VIII. MEETINGS OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS: The Board shall hold at least one stated meeting a year. At the written request of at least 40% (forty percent) of the current Membership, the Board shall hold a meeting to consider the topic(s) placed before it by the requestors.

IX ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CORPORATION: The Annual Meeting shall be held in May. Its purpose, in addition to election of officers (Sect. VI), shall be to receive the Annual Report of the Corporation and attend to any needed Corporation Business. All Club Members are eligible to attend and vote at the Annual Meeting. A quorum for the Annual Meeting is 15% (fifteen percent) of the current Membership.

X. BYLAW ADOPTION, REVISION, AND EXCEPTION: As specified in the Articles of Incorporation, the routine governance of the Club “shall be via Bylaws adopted by simple majority vote of Club Members present. Amendments of the Bylaws shall be proposed at least two months prior to a vote on adoption. Adoption shall be by simple majority vote of Club Members present.” Exceptions may be made for proposals presented at one meeting and endorsed for consideration by a 2/3 (two-thirds) vote of Club Members present at that meeting, followed by a vote on approval (simple majority required) at the next meeting.

XI PROCEDURE: To the extent possible, procedure shall be informal but respectful of the right of all Club Members to be heard, following the basic structure of Roberts Rules without being unduly strict nor formal.

XII. EFFECTIVE DATE AND STARTUP: These Bylaws become effective after being published for at least two months in the “Sailbag” and voted upon according to the procedures of Section X. At that point the current officers (Commodore, Vice Commodore, Treasurer, Secretary) will serve as the Board of Directors through the next June 30th and the Commodore shall name a Club Member to serve as Program Director also through the next June 30th.