

THE OCEAN SPRINGS YACHT CLUB HOUSE RULES

Revised April 20, 2025

INTRODUCTION

The following rules apply to all Club property, including but not limited to: Clubhouse, swimming pool, pergola, pier, and waterfront area. The rules are intended to provide an equitable and reasonable basis for maximum utilization of OSYC facilities for the enjoyment of OSYC Members.

House Rules are voted upon by the OSYC Board of Governors. If there are any concerns or recommended changes to the House Rules, Members are encouraged to contact a Flag Officer or to submit proposals to the Board. House Rules may be enforced by the General Manager, the Manager on Duty, the Flag Officers, or the Board of Governors. Penalties for violating the House Rules may include immediate removal from the premises, suspension, termination of Membership, or any other action deemed necessary to enforce the House Rules.

To the extent that there is any conflict between the House Rules and the Bylaws, the Bylaws control. Interpretation of the House Rules shall be at the discretion of the Board of Governors.

The OSYC House Rules are divided into the following sections:

I. DEFINITIONS

II. GENERAL RULES

III. GUEST POLICIES

IV. OSYC LOUNGE RULES

V. CLUB USE AND CLUB RENTAL RULES

VI. POOL & PERGOLA RULES

VII. BOAT AND WATERFRONT RULES

I. DEFINITIONS

1. **In-town guests:** Guests of Members who occupy a permanent residence in Harrison or Jackson County as much as one month out of every year.
2. **Out-of-town guests:** Guests of Members such as houseguests who are visiting in the area for a short period. They must not be residents of Harrison or Jackson County and the duration of their visit must be less than one month.
3. **Reciprocal Guests:** Visitors to OSYC who are bona fide Members of another Yacht Club that extends reciprocal Member privileges to OSYC Members.
4. **Members:** When the term Member is used in these rules, it should be taken to mean a Member in good standing.

5. **Member not in good standing** refers to any Member whose account is 30 days or greater in arrears.
6. **Member's children:** Children under the age of 21 or who are bona fide dependents of Members; e.g., still attending school.

II. GENERAL RULES

1. Bar or Dining Room tabs are to be settled and closed daily. A 20% gratuity will be added to all house charges unless the Member closes out his/her tab with a different gratuity amount or elects to waive the gratuity. Members who desire house charging privileges are required to maintain a valid automated clearing house (ACH) debit form or may settle their account monthly.
 - a. Members not in good standing (account 30 days or more in arrears) may not charge at OSYC or any other club who allows reciprocal charging privileges.
2. With the exception of the swimming pool while a lifeguard is on duty which is addressed under pool and pergola rules below, or while enrolled in a Club sponsored camp or class, children under the age of twelve (12) are not permitted on the premises during normal Club business hours unless they are under the direct supervision of their Member or Member's spouse.
3. If Members desire that their children (twelve (12) years of age or older) visit the Club without the Member or spouse present, the Member must request an OSYC Membership identification card for each child from the General Manager. Parents are required to fill out an emergency contact information form, to be updated annually, or when any significant information changes.
4. Children (age 12 and older) of Members may bring guests (age 12 and older), including in-town guests, providing said children have proper identification, and parents ensure guest compliance with all house rules. Children under age 12 require parental supervision unless attending a Club-sponsored class. For swim parties, sailing events, etc., Members may arrange for a larger number of guests by contacting the General Manager or Flag Officers in advance. Note that fees may apply for large groups or for guest pool access.
5. During hours of darkness when Club operations are closed, children are not permitted on premises unless accompanied and directly supervised by a Member or Member's spouse.
6. State ABC rules prohibit bringing beer or any outside alcoholic beverages onto Club property. All alcohol consumed on OSYC property must be purchased from OSYC unless a legal exception applies.
7. Members, their guests, or sponsored groups, may not personally profit from the arrangement of private parties at OSYC.
8. OSYC will give preference to doing business with Member-owned businesses when doing so is financially advantageous to OSYC.

9. Members who wish to register a complaint about facilities or services should do so by notifying the General Manager or Flag Officers. If no satisfaction is obtained, then the matter can be brought before the Board of Governors via the Commodore.
10. Shoes and shirts/tops are required inside the Clubhouse, and shoes are recommended at all times while on OSYC property.
11. Management has the right to control the volume at all times of music, televisions, radios, etc. at all functions, whether club sponsored, or private parties.
12. Management has the exclusive right to control the Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning systems of the Club. Members and Guests will not adjust the thermostat and should advise management if adjustment is desired.
13. No one may post any signs, notices, photos, paper or objects on the walls of the Clubhouse without first obtaining the General Manager or Flag Officers' approval.
14. No wet clothing is allowed inside the Clubhouse except to enter the restrooms via the exterior entrance doors for the purpose of using the restrooms, and/or cleaning up, and changing clothes.
15. Animals are not permitted inside the building or the pool area. Animals will be permitted on upper decks and the grassy area but must remain on a leash and under the control of the Member at all times. Member must sign a waiver, provide proof of current vaccinations, and receive a tag to be worn on collar. This privilege may be revoked pertaining to noise, aggressive behavior, or complaints by a Member of management or board Member either temporarily or permanently to be determined by Board of Governors. Members must clean up after their animals. Owners are responsible for all damages caused by their pets.
16. No Member of OSYC or his/her guest shall engage in any illegal activity while on OSYC premises.
17. Per the By-Laws, any Member whose accounts fall 30 days in arrears will have their charging privileges suspended and shall be subject to the following procedures:
 - a. Unless a waiver is approved by the Board, any Member who becomes greater than 30 days in arrears on dues or charges will be assessed a late fee of 10% of the outstanding balance each month until paid in full and will be required to sign up for and maintain a valid automated clearing house (ACH) debit form for future charges prior to returning to good standing.
 - b. Any member who becomes 60 days in arrears shall be suspended from all Club activities including sailing, pool, lounge, bar, voting and holding office, and any other activities using the facility.
 - c. Any Member who becomes greater than 90 days in arrears on dues or charges will be subject to immediate termination of membership. Furthermore, the Member will be subject to collection actions which may include: adverse credit reporting, attorneys' fees, and any other action permitted under the law.

18. The Club will not be responsible for loss or damage to personal property left by Members or their guests. The Club will also not be responsible for any supplies sent (shipped) to the Club for private use.
19. No fighting, bullying, harassment or abuse will be tolerated at the Club. Any Member or their guest who engages in such conduct will be asked to leave the Club for the day and the matter will be referred to the General Manager or Board of Governors for further action consistent with these Rules and the Bylaws and may affect Membership standing.
20. Employees will be treated with respect; no Member has the authority to harass, abuse, chastise, or otherwise instruct an employee. If a problem occurs, refer the matter to the General Manager or the highest Flag Officer present. If neither the General Manager nor a Flag Officer is present, refer the matter to the General Manager or Flag Officers as soon as practical.
21. If an employee of the Club requests that a Member or Guest leave the Club, the Member or guest must comply. Failure to comply will be considered trespassing. If the Member disputes the employee's request to leave the Club, the Member may report the conduct to the Commodore or the Flag Officers for further review.

III. GUEST POLICIES

1. Members and/or Member spouses may bring in-town guests providing such visits are not on a recurring basis. Persons meeting the residency definition for in-town guests, who intend to use Club facilities on a regular basis, will be required to apply for Membership.
2. To ensure compliance with guest policies, the Flag Officers may, at their discretion, enforce guest sign-in procedures.
3. The restriction on number of visits does not apply to persons who are in a dating relationship with a single Member.
4. Members and/or Member spouses may bring out-of-town guests without restriction, providing all other house rules are complied with and the privilege is not abused.
5. Any Member sponsoring guests is responsible for debts or damages incurred by their guests.
6. If a guest is found in violation of House Rules, the guest and the sponsoring member may be referred to the Flag Officers or the Board of Governors for disciplinary action, including blacklisting of Guests and termination of membership privileges for the sponsoring member.
7. OSYC will extend privileges to a Member of any recognized yacht club, as would be extended to an OSYC Member if he/she were a guest of the visiting Member's club. However, reciprocity is a privilege that should not be abused. These visitors will be required to provide proof of membership of a yacht club.
8. Guest camping overnight may be permitted at OSYC during OSYC and OSSS hosted

regattas and at other events where overnight camping is approved by the Flag Officers. Valid registration for the hosted event is required unless prior approval is obtained from the Flag Officers or Board of Governors.

9. The Board of Governors may elect to extend temporary or permanent guest privileges to nonmembers in special circumstances. For example: visitors from non-GYA Clubs, widows of former members, etc. Such individuals will be treated as Guests of the Commodore.

IV. OSYC LOUNGE RULES

1. Members and Guests may not enter restricted areas of the Club unless permitted to by an employee of the Club or by a Board Member. This includes kitchen, the office, storage areas the area behind the bar, and any other area designated by the General Manager, the Flag Officers, or the Board.
2. Smoking and vaping are prohibited inside the Club building and within 10 feet of all Club entrances.
3. Hours of operation will be determined by the Commodore and the General Manager with the approval of the Board. Hours will be posted at the Club and on the Club Website.
4. Members not in good standing may not use club facilities until they bring their account current. A list of Members not in good standing will be maintained by the General Manager.
5. Members may be requested to show proof of Membership by any employee of the Club.
6. Guests may be required to sign in upon entry to the Club.
7. Members shall conduct themselves in an orderly fashion at all times. Members who violate Club rules will be asked to leave the Club for the day and the Member may be referred to the Flag Officers or the Board of Governors for disciplinary action.
8. Profanity will not be tolerated. Violators may be asked to make a donation to the house general funds and may be asked to leave the Club for the day.
9. Children are not allowed to sit at the bar, consistent with the laws of the State of Mississippi. The General Manager or the Board of Governors may further elect to restrict the hours where children may be allowed to sit in the upstairs bar area. Such restrictions will be announced to the membership and will be posted in the Club.
10. Equipment and furnishings of the OSYC will be respected at all times. Members are responsible for any damage caused by the member, their spouse, their guests, and their children and are expected to pay for repairs or replacement costs as assessed by the General Manager. No equipment will leave the OSYC premises without prior approval of the General Manager or the Flag Officers.
11. The Lead Bartender on duty is the custodian of the Club when no manager or the Flag

Officer is present. The Lead Bartender shall have full authority to act on behalf of the Club regarding service of alcohol. They may stop, at their discretion, serving alcohol to any individual who appears intoxicated. Members shall not argue with the bartender's decision. If a Member believes that they were treated unfairly, they should submit a complaint to the general manager or to the Flag Officers.

12. All Members are under their obligation to Membership to report any violations of House or Lounge Rules to the General Manager or Flag Officers. The proper manner of reporting suspected violations of these rules is to inform the General Manager and/or Flag Officers as soon as possible.

V. CLUB USE AND CLUB RENTAL RULES

A. Club Events Rules:

1. The Board of Governors, Social Events Committee, and the General Manager typically plan club events for the benefit of all Members. Typically, such events are planned 60 days or more in advance to allow proper planning and notification.
2. Individual Members may initiate club parties or events for the benefit of all Members provided they are not for the purpose of earning personal profit. Please discuss request with the Social Events Committee Chair and submit "Request for use of OSYC facilities" at least 30 days prior to event by written notice to the General Manager. Email is the preferred method of request and should be sent to: office@osyc.com.

B. General Rental Rules:

1. The Club will provide all alcoholic beverages at private parties. State ABC rules prohibit bringing outside alcohol on club grounds.
2. OSYC is required to meet MS state health code requirements. In order to do so, the Club will provide all food at private parties held in the dining room. Outside food may be permitted only by the Flag Officers or by the General Manager.
3. OSYC facilities will be available for rent by Members and non-Members with the following stipulations:
 - a. Members desiring to rent facilities must be in good standing.
 - b. Rental fees are to be paid in advance except as otherwise provided herein.
 - c. Facilities will be rented in the Member's name only. He/she will be present during the rental period and be held responsible for the actions of his/her guests to see that they abide by all OSYC rules. Any usage fee is to be paid in advance.
 - d. All facilities and equipment must be cleaned by the renter unless arrangements are made in advance with the General Manager (i.e. cleaning fee paid).
4. Events requested will not be considered "booked" unless and until deposit fees are paid. A paying event may bump a non-paying event up until seven days prior to the event.

5. Private events that involve opening the Club when the Club is not ordinarily open, and events that stipulate the exclusive use of any club area, i.e. the entire dining room, and/or events that require bringing in additional staff, will require payment of a fee and 30-days advance notice. General Manager and Flag Officer approval is also required.
6. A fee shall be assessed on Member or non-Member private events that include restrictions on other Members' use of the pergola, Clubhouse, dining room, pool, or downstairs bar area.
7. The General Manager will maintain a fee schedule as approved by the Board of Governors. This fee schedule should be maintained in the office and provided to Members upon request.
8. A minimum deposit of one-half of the fees (private use rental and cleaning) is required from renter at time of request to secure the facility and will be forfeited as liquidated damages if canceled within 30-days prior to the scheduled event, unless the club can rebook the same space for the same period. Remaining fees must be paid prior to the day of the event.

C. Rental or Use of Club by Members:

1. Clubhouse exterior facilities (downstairs and pergola) may be scheduled by members for personal use without charge for small personal (family-type) gatherings (less than 30 people) provided they are not for the purpose of obtaining profit and do not exclude any member access to any area of the Clubhouse or facilities. The General Manager must be notified in advance for such requests.
2. Events that include exclusive or private use of any area of the Club (pergola, downstairs or dining room) are rented on a first come, first serve basis and require approval of the General Manager or Board of Governors.
3. Members desiring to schedule a personal event at the Club for private parties should notify the General Manager as far in advance as possible to avoid conflicts with other events and to allow processing of the Request for Reservation Form through the Board of Governors, if applicable.
4. Members wishing to schedule a meeting or gathering of any "special interest group" (that is a group with one or more OSYC Members belonging to the "special interest group too) must give at least 30-days prior written notice to the General Manager and the event must be approved by the Board of Governors or Flag Officers. Fees apply.
5. Events requested by Members will not be considered "booked" unless and until fees are paid. A paying event may bump a non-paying event up until seven days prior to the event.
6. A Member may request free use of the dining room at times when the dining room is not in use for a Club event or other booked event with the following stipulations:
 - a. Free use is limited to small personal (family-type) gatherings of less than 30 people during times the club is open and the private gathering does not interfere with other

Members use and enjoyment of the club. Closing the dining room doors would be considered private use.

- b. Fees apply for room setup, linens, use of kitchen, cleanup, etc. and will be assessed to the Member unless prior arrangements are made.
7. Full payment is required by the Members for any event within 24 hours of event (48 hours for a weekend event).
8. The Member is responsible for cleanup of facilities used (including grounds). Clean up must meet the General Manager's approval or additional cleaning fees will be assessed.
9. In one calendar year, Members may book up to three events in the Dining Room or downstairs at Member's rates. For events beyond three in a calendar year, non- Member fees will apply. Exceptions may be granted by the General Manager or Board of Governors.

D. Rental by Non-Members:

1. Non-Members desiring to schedule the Clubhouse for private parties should be referred to the General Manager as far in advance as possible. Preference will be given to Members' requests and non-Members will not normally be approved more than six months in advance. A Request for Reservation Form shall be used and submitted to the General Manager, if applicable.
2. No non-Member may rent any OSYC facilities unless endorsed by a Member. The endorsing Member will personally guarantee any damages or unpaid charges and fees. If any charges are not promptly settled, they will be charged to the endorsing Member's account.
3. **Non-Member Private events may not restrict use of the upstairs bar during hours of normal operation.**
4. Renter is responsible for cleanup of facilities used (including grounds). Cleanup must meet the General Manager's approval or \$200 or more will be deducted from the deposit.
5. Selected nonprofit organizations (i.e. OSSS, etc.) as approved by the Board of Governors will be permitted use of the Club dining room for regularly scheduled meetings. These meetings will be coordinated and scheduled by the General Manager. Usage fees will be determined by the Board of Governors.

VI. POOL AND PERGOLA RULES

1. The Club at its discretion, during summer months may provide a lifeguard during designated hours. At all other times, Members assume full responsibility for the safety of their entire group, including guests.
2. Pool hours will be determined by the General Manager or Board of Governors and posted.
3. Members and their families may use pool facilities outside of regular hours when

lifeguards are not on duty. Members, however, will assume full responsibility for the safety of their entire group. To obtain a pool key/combination and to use the pool under these circumstances, the Member may be required to sign a club liability release. This is to be obtained from the General Manager or bartender and can be signed effective for the year.

4. When there is no lifeguard on duty, no person under the age of sixteen (16) shall be allowed in the pool area unless accompanied and directly supervised by a parent or guardian.
5. Members may schedule the pool and pergola for private parties. However, the party cannot exclude other Members and their guests from using the pool when the event is in progress. Non-Members may not schedule a pool party unless approved by the Board of Governors. A fee may be charged for private parties.
6. If private pool parties are scheduled during hours when lifeguards are not on duty, the Member sponsoring the party will assume full responsibility for providing a qualified lifeguard.
 - a. If greater than 10 swimmers are anticipated for a private pool party, it is the responsibility of the Member to coordinate with the General Manager and pay the hourly wage of one additional lifeguard to provide for the safety of the event. The Member must pay for the additional lifeguard even if a lifeguard is currently on duty.
7. In-town guests of Members may use the pool and pergola during regular pool hours when accompanied the Member and after registering with the lifeguard or custodian of the guest records. The Club reserves the right to limit pool use by in-town guests when, by the General Manager's determination, any in-town guest uses the pool in a manner inconsistent with the nature of these rules. A \$5.00 per person admission fee may be charged.
8. Out-of-town guests of club Members will have the same privileges as their sponsoring Member to use the pool, provided they are accompanied by that Member and pay \$5.00, as well as register. Any exception to this rule must be approved by the General Manager in consultation with the Flag Officers.
9. Children under the age of twelve (12) may use the swimming pool during regular pool hours but must be accompanied by an adult and this adult must remain in the pool area. The lifeguard however, will make decisions as to the swimming ability of all swimmers using the pool and may require children older than twelve to be accompanied by an adult.
10. All swimmers must register upon entering the pool area by use of wristband or written register; whichever is in current use.
11. Decisions regarding pool use by Members and guests will be left to the discretion of the lifeguard, Flag Officers, and/or General Manager. Repeated disregard for pool rules by individuals may result in their being temporarily suspended from using the pool.
12. Members who wish to register a complaint about facilities or services in the pool or

pergola area should do so by notifying the General Manager and/or Flag Officers. If satisfaction is not obtained, then the complaint can be registered with the Board of Governors via the Commodore.

13. All swimmers must wear proper swimwear. No cut-offs or street clothes will be permitted.
14. All tubes, rafts and air-inflated devices must be approved and judged safe by the lifeguard on duty. No Styrofoam devices are permitted in the pool.
15. No bead necklaces or bracelets are allowed in the pool.
16. No running, shoving or pushing along the pool or pergola deck will be tolerated.
17. No horseplay on the decks or in the water will be permitted.
18. No profanity will be tolerated.
19. No eating or gum chewing in the pool.
20. No smoking in or around the pool.
21. No glass containers will be allowed in the pool or pergola area. This includes private parties.
22. All Members and guests must clean up after themselves and dispose of paper and plastic containers and other waste materials brought into the pool and pergola area.
23. Suntan oil and sand must be thoroughly washed off or removed before entering the pool.
24. Animals are never allowed in the pool or on the pool deck.
25. The Flag Officers and/or the General Manager will notify parents or guardians of a child's misconduct and the Board may consider disciplinary action for the Member responsible for any child found in violation of the House Rules.
26. Repeated failure to comply with established rules by any individual will result in suspension of pool privileges by the Board of Governors via the Flag Officers.
27. No outside alcohol will be allowed at poolside or pergola area.

VII. BOAT AND WATERFRONT RULES

1. The boating and sailing programs at OSYC are operated by the Ocean Springs Sailing Squadron (OSSS), OSYC's sister non-profit boating charity. The use of all OSYC or OSSS vessels are subject to these rules in addition to other rules and regulations promulgated by OSSS.
2. To skipper any OSYC or OSSS vessel, one must be an OSYC Member or authorized by OSSS to use the vessels (i.e. high school sailor or sailing student). To skipper an OSYC or OSSS vessel, one must be a qualified sailor for each platform that one wishes to sail.
3. To be classified as a qualified sailor, the individual's ability must be known to the Fleet

Captain, and the individual must pass a competency test. The Fleet Captain will keep a list of the vessels that individuals are authorized to skipper.

4. Members or their guests using any OSYC or OSSS vessel will be held financially responsible for damage occurring to the vessel under their command. Damages estimates will be made by the Fleet Captain and will be reported to the Club Treasurer and charged to the Member's account.
5. Prior to each use to skipper any OSYC or OSSS vessel, individuals must complete and sign a float plan including a liability waiver.
6. Sails and equipment for OSYC and OSSS vessels may be obtained by qualified sailors from the Fleet Captain. The boats may be checked out for daylight use only, on a first come first serve basis, except:
 - a. When a boat is needed for an OSYC or OSSS sanctioned race or preparation for a race.
 - b. When a boat is needed for OSYC or OSSS approved instructional programs;
 - c. When another Member has reserved it. Reservations may be made through the Fleet Captain and will be honored whenever possible. If more than one Member wishes to use the boat on a given half-day, each Member will be asked to limit his use to a reasonable interval. However, no more than two such requests can be honored in a given half-day period.
 - d. When, in the opinion of the Fleet Captain, wind or sea conditions appear too severe for the boat or the crew that proposes to use it, use of OSYC and OSSS owned boats will be suspended until the weather conditions improve.
7. Private use of OSYC and OSSS power boats or R.I.B.S. is only permitted as authorized by OSSS and is generally limited to regatta support, educational programs, or other use authorized by the OSSS. Those wishing to use a power boat must be deemed qualified by the OSSS designated Power Boat Captain. All qualified users must fully comply with the operating guidelines prepared by the OSSS. All power boats must be refilled with non-ethanol gasoline.
8. Failure to clean and properly store any boat and equipment after use will result in an assessment added to the responsible Member's account to complete the required cleaning and storage. Repeated failures to complete the required cleaning, storage and paperwork will result in loss of vessel use privileges.
9. All crew Members and passengers must be a qualified swimmer. To be a qualified swimmer, individuals must be able to swim the length of the Club pool four times and remain afloat for 15 minutes.
10. All sailors must wear life preservers at all times. For OSYC and OSSS power boats, a wearable, USCG approved life preserver must be carried for every passenger.
11. All crew Members and passengers will follow the directions of the skipper.

12. All storage facilities and moorings will be assigned by the Fleet Captain. An annual fee will be paid by the individual to the OSSS. Assignments will be made for boats and equipment to OSYC Members and authorized OSSS users only. Returning Members will have priority on previously assigned spots for a designated time each year. After that time, all available spots will be offered to Members on a first come basis. In cases where multiple requests are received at the same time, Class A Members have priority over other Members. A non-Member or non-authorized user desiring short-term storage facilities or a mooring must obtain prior approval of the Fleet Captain. All boats must be registered when stored on OSYC property or controlled areas. Failure to register may result in removal of the boat from the property at the boat owner's expense.
13. The Fleet Captain will maintain a storage fee schedule approved by the OSSS.
14. The Fleet Captain must be notified of any exchanges of spot assignments.
15. Owners shall safeguard their boats and equipment necessary to discourage pilferage and vandalism. Boat storage is at the owner's risk and the OSYC and OSSS assume no responsibility for damages or theft that occur on the premises.
16. Owners are responsible for protection of their boats and equipment in the event of storms and extreme tides. The OSYC and OSSS, through the Fleet Captain, have the right to order the beach cleared and all boats removed. Owners agree to comply with evacuation orders as soon as possible. If a boat, trailer, or equipment causes damage to the Club or private property as a result of the owner's failure to evacuate their vessel, the owner shall be responsible for those damages and may be assessed to the Member's account accordingly.
17. Overnight camping at OSYC is restricted to regattas (or other OSYC/OSSS sanctioned events). Registered regatta participants may camp (subject to Board approval) on the grassy areas. All electrical tie-ups must have proper approval from the Flag Officers and may be subject to a usage fee or no less than \$25.00.
18. Any safety incidents must be reported to the Commodore and the General Manager.