

# RORC



## The Admiral's Cup

17th July - 1st August 2025

# NOTICE OF RACE



Photo: Matthew Dickens/imagecomms.com



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## Notice of Race

**The Organising Authority is the Royal Ocean Racing Club (RORC). The Rolex Fastnet Race is hosted in association with the Yacht Club de Cherbourg and the Royal Yacht Squadron.**

**Unless stated all times are BST.**

### 1. RULES

- 1.1. The event will be governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS).
- 1.2. The following National Authority (RYA) prescriptions will apply; rules 4, 6, 67, 86.3 and 88.2.  
<https://www.sailing.org/tools/documents/NationalPrescriptionsGBR-%5B26794%5D.pdf>
- 1.3. Competitors should note that the RORC implements the RYA Racing Charter and that they will be expected to sail in compliance with it. <https://www.rya.org.uk/racing/rules/racing-charter>.
- 1.4. In all rules governing this event;
  - 1.4.1. [SP] [DP] denotes a rule for which the Race Committee or Technical Committee may apply a standard penalty without a hearing, or a discretionary penalty applied by the International Jury with a hearing (this changes RRS A5)
  - 1.4.2. [NP] denotes a rule that shall not be grounds for protests by a boat and for which the International Jury may refuse to hold a hearing. This changes RRS 60.1(a) and 63.1.
- 1.5. This Notice of Race, and the terms of the contract created by the acceptance of a boat's entry in any race or event governed by this Notice of Race, shall be governed by and construed in accordance with English law. Any dispute which cannot be resolved under Part 5 of the Racing Rules of Sailing shall be referred to the exclusive jurisdiction of the English Courts
- 1.6. [SP] [DP] Traffic Separation Schemes, RRS Appendix TS (Traffic Separation Schemes Version 3 – Effective January 1, 2024), Section B applies to all TSS Zones on the Short Offshore Race and Rolex Fastnet Race.
- 1.7. The World Sailing Offshore Special Regulations.
  - 1.7.1. Inshore Races: OSR Category 4
  - 1.7.2. Short Offshore Race and Rolex Fastnet Race: OSR Category 2 with RORC prescriptions.  
<https://www.sailracehq.com/racedocuments>
- 1.8. Appendix WP of The Racing Rules of Sailing in which RRS 28.2 is amended to include: (d) pass between the marks or waypoints of a gate, pass or cross a line of latitude or longitude, as described in the course, from the direction of the previous mark.
- 1.9. Appendix RV of the Racing Rules of Sailing apply in reduced visibility, and in any case between 20:45 and 05:30 daily.
- 1.10. RRS 48.1 does not apply to water used in a water ballast system declared on the IRC certificate (this changes RRS 48.1).
- 1.11. Automatic and/or windvane devices for steering shall not be used.





- 1.12. Other than a genuine manual galley or marine toilet pump and the scoop valves or pump(s) that are part of a rated water ballast system or engine intake, no other scoop valves or pumps shall be connected in any way or form capable of taking onboard seawater.
- 1.13. IRC rules 2025 parts A, B and C shall apply, including the following changes: Crew numbers and weight, IRC Rule 22.4.2 Crew Number/Weight is deleted and replaced by: The maximum number of crew that may sail onboard a boat shall be the number shown on the IRC certificate, there is no weight limit.
- 1.14. Sails and sail limit:
- 1.14.1. For IRC rules 21.1.5 (d) and (e), this event is on consecutive days, yet the sails carried onboard need not remain the same for the duration of the event, but sails need to remain the same from when the boat leaves the marina berth for the first time for each day until the boat returns to the marina berth after racing or in the case of the offshore races returns to the marina after completing the race
- 1.14.2. [NP] Sails used for each day/race shall remain on board for 60 minutes after the boat returns or arrives at the marina
- 1.14.3. In addition to one heavy weather jib (HWJ), one storm jib and one trysail, Admiral's Cup 1 boats shall not measure in more than sixteen (16), and Admiral's Cup 2 boats not more than fourteen (14) sails for the event, including the Short Offshore Race and the Rolex Fastnet Race
- 1.14.4. Sails shall not be repaired ashore, modified or replaced without permission from the event Technical Committee, which may set conditions, including inspection or re-measurement. Repairs, modifications or replacements shall not result in a sail no longer complying with the IRC Certificate
- 1.14.5. IRC Rule 21.4 is amended such that all sails, irrespective of age, shall have a measurement stamp/sticker. All sail measurements shall be registered before the rating deadline defined in NoR 6.1 with a picture of the measurement stamp/sticker
- 1.14.6. All boats shall report the loss of a sail overboard during any race to the OA at the end of the race, including the reason for the loss.
- 1.15. The Offshore Races:  
For the Rolex Fastnet Race, where the Notice of Race requires additional training or equipment and requires



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- additional rules for the use of equipment, this shall be seen as part of the safety requirements for boats racing under the Admiral's Cup Notice of Race.
- 1.16. Rolex Fastnet Race, World Sailing Test Rule DR21-01 Applies. The RRS definition of "Start" is changed as follows:  
Start: A boat starts when her hull having been entirely on the pre-start side of the starting line, and having complied with rule 30.1 if it applies, any part of her hull crosses the starting line from the pre-start side to the course side either;  
(a) at or after her starting signal, or  
(b) during the last 60 seconds before her starting signal. When a boat starts in accordance with item (b) of the definition Start, she shall not return to the pre-start side of the line, and the starting penalty shall be 120 minutes added to her elapsed time. RRS 29.1 does not apply.
- 1.17. Fresh water carried onboard for the Short Offshore Race or the Rolex Fastnet Race shall be stored in:  
1.17.1. permanently fixed freshwater tank(s), and/or  
1.17.2. a maximum of two personal water bottles of 1 litre each per crew member, and  
1.17.3. the emergency water container(s) required by OSR 3.21.3.
- 1.18. When leaving the marina, there shall be no empty "tank capacity" bottles, canisters, or tanks of any sort onboard other than the permanently fixed freshwater or holding tanks and personal water bottles. Genuine permanently fixed fuel and oil tanks as well as rated water ballast tanks shall not be seen as "tank capacity" in the sense of this rule.
- 1.19. In the event of a discrepancy between the Admiral's Cup Notice of Race (NoR AC) and the Rolex Fastnet Race Notice of Race (NoR RFR) the NoR RFR takes precedence with the exception of NoR AC 1.11, 1.14, 3.4, 7, 11.3, 11.4, this changes RRS 63.7.
- 1.20. In the event of a discrepancy between the Admiral's Cup Sailing Instructions (SI AC) and the NoR AC the SI AC take precedence, this changes RRS 63.7.
- 1.21. In the event of a discrepancy between the SI AC and the Rolex Fastnet Race Sailing Instructions (SI RFR) the SI RFR take precedence.



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## 2. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

The Sailing Instructions will be published on the [www.sailracehq.com](http://www.sailracehq.com) entry portal before 5 July 2025.

## 3. COMMUNICATION

- 3.1. The online Official Notice Board (ONB) is located at [www.sailracehq.com](http://www.sailracehq.com)
- 3.2. All boats shall be equipped with a Marine VHF transceiver of at least 25 watts of power capable of operating on VHF channels 09, 16, 69, 71 and 72.
- 3.3. Communication with competitors will be via the online ONB, emails and WhatsApp. Additionally, the race committee may make broadcasts to competitors on VHF.
- 3.4. [DP] Each boat shall have at least two devices connected to the internet with WhatsApp installed.
- 3.5. Rule 41(c) is replaced by:  
A boat shall not receive help from any outside source, except (c) help in the form of information which is freely available to all boats, which shall include navigational, weather, tide or current information from any source which is available to all boats whether or not by payment of a fee or subscription, but shall not include information gathered or the subject of interpretation by, or any advice received from, any source not on board the boat and which is specific to the boat and her situation.  
By way of an example and interpretation, downloading charts, weather and/or tidal GRIB files from subscription services, or having such information passed to the boat in its pure form, is permitted but receiving messages or information which is the result of interpretation as it applies to the boat is not permitted.



Photo: RORC/Rick Tomlinson/[rick-tomlinson.com](http://rick-tomlinson.com)





Photo: RORC/Paul Wyeth/pwpictures.com

#### 4. ELIGIBILITY, CREW LIMITATIONS

- 4.1. Yacht clubs are invited to enter a two-boat team. Once entries have been accepted by the RORC Race Office boat owners and/or yacht clubs may request to reconfigure teams no later than 4 July 2025.
- 4.2. The nationality of the team will be determined by the location of the entering club.
- 4.3. [NP] Crews shall consist of at least one female crew and one crew of under 27 years old on the 19th July 2025.
- 4.4. Crews as submitted in line with 7.1 shall remain the same for the duration of the event. Any changes for sickness, injury or other exceptional circumstances, can only be approved by the Organising Authority. However, for the Rolex Fastnet Race, crew numbers may be added to, up to the certificate limit, or reduced.
- 4.5. The classes are defined in the table below:

CLASS	Min. TCC	Max. TCC	Min.LH(m)	Max.LH(m)
<b>Admiral's Cup 1</b>	1.280	1.464	13.41	17.20
<b>Admiral's Cup 2</b>	1.100	1.276	11.00	13.40

- 4.6. The OA will adhere to the current World Sailing recommendations effective on the 28 February 2025 at the close of registration regarding boats and participants from Russia and Belarus.

#### 5. ENTRY AND ENTRY FEES

- 5.1. From 1 July 2024, entries may be made online using the link on the event website <https://admiralscup.rorc.org/>
- 5.2. The Entry, completed in full shall be received by the RORC Race Office not later than noon GMT on 28 February 2025, accompanied by an entry fee of GBP 5500 per Admiral's Cup 1 boat, and GBP 4500 per Admiral's Cup 2 boat. Payment will be by the online entry system at [www.sailracehq.com](http://www.sailracehq.com).
- 5.3. If an entry is cancelled before the 31 March or rejected, the fee will be refunded, less a 10% administration charge.
- 5.4. If, on or before 1 March 2025, more than one team is entered per nation as defined in 4.2, the Organising Authority will allocate colours for identification i.e. AUS Red.
- 5.5. Late entries from 1 March 2025 may only be made if approved by the Organising Authority and the entry is accompanied by an increased entry fee of GBP 7500 for an Admiral's Cup 1 boat and GBP 6500 for the Admiral's Cup 2 boat, which is non-refundable once the entry is confirmed. The Organising Authority shall confirm or reject within 14 days of receiving the fully completed entry.
- 5.6. The entry fee includes berthing as detailed in NOR 13
- 5.7. The entry fee includes tickets to the owner's dinner (2) and crew tickets to the crew party.
- 5.8. The entry and entry fee includes the entry and entry fee of the Rolex Fastnet Race ensuring eligibility for the overall trophies of the Rolex Fastnet Race.
- 5.9. The Organising Authority may cancel the event and reject or cancel entries at its discretion, subject to RRS 76.

## 6. RATING CERTIFICATES

- 6.1. Boats shall have an endorsed IRC certificate issued by an IRC Rating Authority not later than noon on 4 July 2025. The event shall be raced based on one IRC certificate, either the primary (IRC Rule 8.2) or the secondary IRC certificate (IRC Rule 8.2.1)
- 6.2. The boat weight shall be checked using a loadcell and by a measurer agreed by a Rating Authority after the 1 June 2024 and prior to the 4 July 2025. If any changes are made to the boat following this weighing the boat shall be re-weighed or an alternative process to confirm and document the change agreed with the Rating Authority. Bulb weight as certified shall be verified by an IRC measurer appointed by an IRC Rating Authority and have documentation of any changes by an appointed measurer.

## 7. REGISTRATION, EQUIPMENT INSPECTION AND RATING PROTESTS

- 7.1. The final Crew List shall be submitted on the entry portal [www.sailracehq.com](http://www.sailracehq.com) no later than noon on 4 July 2025.
- 7.2. Final registration formalities shall be completed at the RORC Race Office by 16.00 on 18 July 2025 unless the Organising Authority approves a later time, which it will do only under exceptional circumstances. All entry requirements on [www.sailracehq.com](http://www.sailracehq.com) shall be completed by the 18 July 2025.
- 7.3. Boats will be inspected, and sails can be measured before and during the event. All boats shall be at their berth in Cowes Yacht Haven Marina no later than 18:00 on the 16 July 2025 and from 09:00 on 17 July 2025 remain at their berth and be available to the Technical Committee until the boat's inspection and measurements are completed or at such time as agreed with the Technical Committee. Boats may book inspection slots before arrival.
- 7.4. A list of boat ratings will be posted on the online ONB by 16:00 on 10 July 2025. The list will remain posted on the online ONB during the event. The Protest Time Limit for rating protests by boats will expire at 17:00 on 12 July 2025, except if relating to changes made during the event.
- 7.5. The fact that event officials may conduct inspections does not reduce the responsibilities of each competitor set out in this Notice of Race.

## 8. ADVERTISING & TRACKING

- 8.1. Advertising is permitted in accordance with the Class Rule and World Sailing Regulation 20.
- 8.2. [SP] [NP] Boats may be required to display identification and advertising chosen and supplied by the Organising Authority.
- 8.3. [DP][NP] Boats/teams intending to display advertising during the event shall state the nature of such advertising in the entry form. The Organising Authority shall approve all advertising.
- 8.4. [SP] [DP] [NP] Boats may be requested to install event-supplied trackers for the inshore races, and trackers are mandatory for the offshore races. Requests shall not be refused, nor shall the functionality of trackers be reduced in any way or form.

## 9. SCHEDULE

Date	Event	Time	Location
Monday 1 July 2024	Entry Opens	09:00	
Friday 28 February 2025	Entry Closing Date	23:59	
Saturday 1 March 2025	Late Entry Date	00:00	
Thursday 17 July 2025	Registration and Measurement	09:00	Cowes Yacht Haven
Friday 18 July 2025	Registration and Measurement	09:00	Cowes Yacht Haven
Saturday 19 July 2025	Short Offshore Race	10:30	RYS Line
Sunday 20 July 2025	Short Offshore Race cont'd		
Monday 21 July 2025	Spare Day		
Tuesday 22 July 2025	Inshore Races		
Wednesday 23 July 2025	Inshore Races		
Thursday 24 July 2025	Inshore Races		
Friday 25 July 2025	Spare Day		
Saturday 26 July 2025	Rolex Fastnet Race Start		RYS Line
Thursday 31 July 2025	Prize-giving	18:00	

- 9.1. The Schedule may be amended to race on Monday 21 or Friday 25 to allow races to be brought forward or delayed. Any changes to the schedule will be published by 1600 on the day before it will take effect.





## 10. VENUE AND RACE AREA

- 10.1. The Race Area and courses will be described in the Sailing Instructions.
- 10.2. Boats will be berthed at Cowes Yacht Haven Marina from 12:00 on 17 July 2025 and at Port Chantryne Marina after finishing the Rolex Fastnet Race.

## 11. INTERNATIONAL JURY, PENALTY SYSTEM AND REDRESS

- 11.1. An International Jury will be appointed in accordance with RRS Appendix N. All decisions will be final as per RRS 70.5
- 11.2. The standard penalty will be a 5% time penalty.
- 11.3. For the Inshore races and Short Offshore race, RRS 44.1 is changed so that the Two-Turns Penalty is replaced by the One-Turn Penalty. The penalties for the Rolex Fastnet Race will be described in the Rolex Fastnet Race Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions
- 11.4. Redress Limitations:
  - 11.4.1. Inshore Races: If granted redress the boat will be scored a place, or places, equivalent to half of the number of boats starting the series, rounded down to the nearest whole number. A boat shall not be given redress for a greater number of races than that boat completes in the Admiral's Cup inshore races. This changes RRS 60.1 (b) and RRS 62
  - 11.4.2. Once a boat has docked out to start a race after being granted redress no further redress will be granted based on the previous request. This changes RRS 62
  - 11.4.3. Rules 62.1(b) and (d) are deleted for the Short offshore Race and the Rolex Fastnet Race. This changes RRS 62
  - 11.4.4. [NP] Actions by official boats, drones or helicopters shall not be grounds for requesting redress by a boat (changes RRS 60.1(b) and 62.1(a).



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## 12. SCORING

- 12.1. The low point system of Appendix A will apply, including the following changes:
- 12.2. Three races (including one offshore race) are required to constitute a series.
- 12.3. For the purpose of the overall scoring, one inshore race will be discarded once four or more inshore races are completed.
- 12.4. The short offshore and Rolex Fastnet race will be non-discardable.
- 12.5. The short offshore will have a weighting of 2
- 12.6. The Rolex Fastnet Race will have a weighting of 3.

## 13. BERTHING, STORAGE AND HAUL-OUT RESTRICTIONS

- 13.1. The entry fee includes berthing fees from 12:00 on 16 July 2025 to 12:00 on 26 July 2025 at Cowes Yacht Haven Marina and for 48 hrs after the boat finishes, at Port Chanteryne Marina in Cherbourg, provided that RORC receives the completed entry form and entry fee before 28 February 2025. For late entries after 1 March 2025, berthing arrangements are not guaranteed. At Cowes Yacht Haven Marina, the berthing will include berthing for the teams, one support boat (>10m) and one van per team. Space for containers and extra support boats or vans can be negotiated separately with details available from the race office. The cost for electricity, water, garbage, extra support vessel berthing, parking, and handling of containers, trailers, vans or berthing of race boats for additional periods are not included in the entry fee and shall be paid directly to the Marina Offices.



Photo: RORC/Rick Tomlinson/rick-tomlinson.com





- 13.2. [DP] [NP] Boats shall not be hauled out during the event except with and according to the terms of prior written permission of the Technical Committee.
- 13.3. [DP] [NP] All boats shall be in the water from 18:00 on the 17 July 2025 and in their assigned berths if not sailing until the completion of the last race of the event, unless directed or approved by the Technical Committee for weighing, measurement, repair, and inspection purposes.

#### **14. DIVING EQUIPMENT, PLASTIC POOLS AND HULL CLEANING [DP] [NP]**

- 14.1. Hull cleaning by Harbour Authority approved divers will be allowed between 09:00 and 18.00 on 21 July and 25 July, further details will be given nearer to the start of the event.
- 14.2. Robotic cleaning apparatus and plastic pools or their equivalent shall not be used around boats whilst in the water. Swimming and/or diving for the purpose of hull cleaning, whether at Cowes Yacht Haven Marina or anywhere else, is forbidden. Diving for inspections or repairs at Cowes Yacht Haven Marina shall only take place with and according to the terms of prior written permission of the Technical Committee.

#### **15. COMPETITOR SUPPORT VESSELS [DP] [NP]**

- 15.1. Competitor support vessels shall register with the Organising Authority before the start of the first race and shall display the support vessel flag supplied at registration by the Organising Authority. Further instructions will be in the Sailing Instructions.



Photo: RORC/Rick Tomlinson/rick-tomlinson.com



## 16. COMPETITOR DRONES [DP] [NP]

- 16.1. Competitors' support team or their representatives shall not fly drones over the Admiral's Cup shore base/ marina or over the race area during training or racing days without complying with local legislation and without prior written approval by the Organising Authority. The approval granted at the sole discretion of the Organising Authority may impose limitations on where and when drones may fly.
- 16.2. At any time, the risk and responsibility for flying any drone is with the person flying the drones and images made inside the race area shall be shared with the Organising Authority, Race Committee, International Jury, or competitors at reasonable request.

## 17. RIGHTS TO USE NAMES AND LIKENESSES

- 17.1. Competitors automatically grant the Organising Authority and event sponsors, without payment, the right in perpetuity to make, use and show any motion pictures, still pictures and live, taped, or filmed television of or relating to the event.

## 18. PRIVACY STATEMENT

- 18.1. The personal information you provide to the Organising Authority and event sponsors will be used to facilitate your participation in the event. If you have agreed to be bound by the Racing Rules of Sailing and other rules that govern the event (the rules), the legal basis for processing that personal information is a contract. If the rules do not bind you, the legal basis for processing that information is a legitimate interest. Your personal data will be stored and used in accordance with the Organising Authority's privacy policy. When required by the rules, personal information may be shared with the RYA, your national authority and/or World Sailing. The results of the event and the outcome of any hearing or appeal may be published.

## 19. INSURANCE

- 19.1. Each participating boat shall ensure that their boat is adequately insured against all third-party claims.



Photo: RORC/Tim Wright/photoaction.com



## 20. RISK STATEMENT

Rule 3 of the Racing Rules of Sailing states: "The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone." Sailing is, by nature, an unpredictable sport and, therefore, inherently involves an element of risk. By taking part in the event, each competitor agrees and acknowledges that:

- 20.1. They are aware of the inherent element of risk involved in the sport and accept responsibility for the exposure of themselves, their crew and their boat to such inherent risk whilst taking part in the event.
  - 20.1.1. They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat, and their other property, whether afloat or ashore
  - 20.1.2. They accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omissions.
  - 20.1.3. Their boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the event, and they are fit to participate
  - 20.1.4. The provision of a race management team, patrol boats, if any and other officials and volunteers by the event organiser does not relieve them of their own responsibilities
  - 20.1.5. The provision of patrol boat cover if any, is limited to such assistance, particularly in extreme weather conditions, as can practically be provided in the circumstances
  - 20.1.6. It is their responsibility to familiarise themselves with any risks specific to this venue or this event drawn to their attention in any rules or information produced for the venue or event and to attend any safety briefing held for the event.

## 21. TROPHIES AND PRIZES

**Trophies and Prizes will be awarded at the discretion of the OA**

- 21.1. Admiral's Cup 1 individual boats
  - 21.1.1. 1, 2 and 3 over the combined inshore races (4 and 5 prizes added if more than 20 boats complete the first race)
  - 21.1.2. 1, 2 and 3 Channel Race (4 and 5 prizes added if more than 20 boats complete the race)
  - 21.1.3. 1, 2 and 3 Fastnet Race (4 and 5 prizes added if more than 20 boats complete the race)
  - 21.1.4. RORC Centenary trophy, best scoring boat owned and primarily helmed by a RORC member (owner driving inshore races + first hour and final 2 miles of offshores)
  - 21.1.5. The Fastnet Race overall trophies.
- 21.2. Admiral's Cup 2 individual boats
  - 21.2.1. 1, 2 and 3 over the combined inshore races (4 and 5 prizes added if more than 20 boats complete the first race)
  - 21.2.2. 1, 2 and 3 Channel Race (4 and 5 prizes added if more than 20 boats complete the race)
  - 21.2.3. 1, 2 and 3 Fastnet Race (4 and 5 prizes added if more than 20 boats complete the race)
  - 21.2.4. RORC Centenary trophy, best scoring boat owned and primarily helmed by a RORC member (owner driving inshores + first hour and final 2 miles of offshore races)
  - 21.2.5. The Fastnet Race overall trophies.
- 21.3. Team trophies:
  - 21.3.1. Admiral's Cup perpetual trophy: best scoring two-boat team (lowest combined score) Admiral's Cup keeper trophies: 1st, 2nd and 3<sup>rd</sup> two-boat team.

### Notice of Race Ends

## FURTHER INFORMATION

All Competitors will be welcome at the RORC Cowes clubhouse during the event. A full social events list will be issued with the Notice of Race, including crew parties and owners' dinner. For details of accommodation and dining facilities please contact the RORC clubhouse.

Telephone: +44 1983 293581

Email: [eventscowes@rorc.org](mailto:eventscowes@rorc.org)

Additional social arrangement details will be communicated and published to competitors using the event WhatsApp group or event noticeboard.

The RORC Race team can be contacted:

Royal Ocean Racing Club, The Disrespect, 82 High Street, Cowes, Isle of Wight. PO31 7AJ.

Tel: +44 1983 295144

Email: [racing@rorc.org](mailto:racing@rorc.org)



Photo: Matthew Dickens/imagecomms.com





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