



9 AUGUST 2026



RORC



Photo: RORC / James Tomlinson

ROUND BRITAIN AND IRELAND RACE

9 AUGUST 2026

From: Cowes

To: Cowes

Organised by the
Royal Ocean Racing Club (RORC)

DEFINITIONS

Class - The term Class includes IRC, Class40, and MOCRA rating systems.

Closing Date - The date after which a late entry fee is charged.

Competitor - A Competitor is any sailor competing in the race.

Documents Page - Can be found at www.sailracehq.com

High Points System - The boats are ranked in order of points scored. Highest points score wins.

Emergency Contact - Is the person to be informed in case of emergency. The nominated Emergency Contact must be available to contact for the duration of the race and cannot be a Competitor in the race.

Rating Deadline - Is the latest date by which a valid Rating or Class Certificate shall be issued to the boat.

TERMINOLOGY

A term used in the sense stated in the definitions is printed in italics (for example *Class*).

ORGANISING AUTHORITY

The Organising Authority is the Royal Ocean Racing Club (RORC)

1 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
Monday 3 November 2025	Entry Opens	www.sailracehq.com
Thursday 23 July 2026	Closing Date / Rating Deadline	
Wednesday 5 August 2026	Registration Opens	RORC Clubhouse, Cowes
Saturday 8 August 2026	Skipper's Briefing	RORC Clubhouse, Cowes
Sunday 9 August 2026	First Warning Signal	

RULES AND REGULATIONS

- 2.1 The rules as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS).
- 2.2 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>)
- 2.3 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> .
- 2.3 In all rules governing this event;
- 2.3.1 The notation '[DP]' in a rule in the Notice of Race (NoR) means that the penalty for a breach of that rule may, at the discretion of the Jury, be less than disqualification.
- 2.3.2 The notation '[NP]' in a rule in the NoR means that a breach of this rule shall not be grounds for protest by a boat. This changes RRS 60.1.
- 2.3.2 The notation '[SP]' in a rule in the NoR means that for a breach of this rule a standard penalty may be applied by the Race Committee without a hearing. This changes RRS 60.1, 63.2(a) and A5
- 2.4 This NoR, and the terms of the contract created by the acceptance of a boat's entry in any race or event governed by this NoR, 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.
- 2.5 [DP] The World Sailing Offshore Special Regulations Category 1, and RORC Prescriptions. When details of Special Regulations cannot be met the Committee may accept an alternative.
- 2.6 The rules and regulations of appropriate One Design and/or Class rules, IRC Rules Parts A, B & C and MOCRA Rules will apply.
- 2.8 [SP] [DP] RRS Appendix TS (Traffic Separation Schemes Version 4), Section B applies to all TSS's. The penalty for infringements will be detailed in the SI.
- 2.9 RRS Appendix WP.
- 2.10 [SP] [DP] Appendix RV of the Racing Rules of Sailing will apply between local sunrise and sunset and in reduced visibility.
- 2.11 Automatic and wind-vane devices for steering are permitted (this changes RRS 52 and amends IRC Rule 15).
- 2.12 Water Ballast;
- 2.12.1 RRS 48.1 does not apply to water used in a water ballast system declared on the IRC Certificate. This changes RRS 48.1.
- 2.12.2 Other than a genuine manual galley or marine toilet pump and the scoop valves or pump(s) that are part of a certified/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.
- 2.13 A spare mainsail may be on board but shall not be used unless the racing mainsail is damaged beyond repair. The use of the spare mainsail must be declared on the Race Declaration.
- 2.14 In accordance with GBR Rule Authority prescription published on www.rorcrating.com IRC Rule 21.6.1 is changed to the extent that a boat may carry one more spinnaker than shown on her current certificate of area not greater than rated SPA without an increase in rating.
- 2.15 IRC Rule 22.4.2 is deleted and replaced by: "The maximum number of crew that may sail aboard a boat shall be the number shown on the certificate. There is no weight limit."

3 NOTICE OF RACE AND SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 3.1 This Notice of Race and any amendments to the Notice of Race. Where there is a conflict between any translated Notice of Race and the Notice of Race, the version written in English shall prevail.
- 3.2 Sailing Instructions will be posted on the Official Notice Board.
- 3.3 Where there is a conflict between the Notice of Race and the Sailing Instructions, the Sailing Instructions shall prevail. This changes RRS 63.5 (c).

4 COMMUNICATIONS

- 4.1 The online Official Notice Board (ONB) is located at www.sailracehq.com
- 4.2 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.
- 4.3 Communication with competitors will be via the online ONB emails and WhatsApp. Additionally, the race committee may make courtesy broadcasts to competitors on VHF.
- 4.4 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 / Competitor

5 ELIGIBILITY -THE BOAT

- 5.1 [DP] Boats shall provide and carry their own YB tracker, for further details and purchase options please visit <https://www.ybtracking.com/>.
- 5.2 The race is open to seaworthy boats which comply with the rules and regulations described in the Notice of Race and which are manned by an adequate number of experienced crew who are physically fit to face bad weather. The minimum crew on shall be two, however, no person may race contrary to the terms of a ban imposed by the RORC, a National Authority or World Sailing.
- 5.3 There is no maximum size for boats in the Round Britain and Ireland Race.
The minimum size for monohulls is determined by their rating, and their AVS & STIX numbers. The minimum size for multihulls is 9.15 metres/30ft (LOA) with a minimum MOCRA rating of 1.100.
The committee may make exceptions on application.
- 5.4 Classes
- 5.4.1 The Class splits for IRC will be announced after the Closing Date
- 5.4.2 [NP] The RORC reserves the right to amend the class splits in the light of 2026 data before the start of the race.
- 5.5 The minimum number of crew aboard a boat is two. A Two-Handed Class within IRC may be available in the Round Britain and Ireland Race. Boats may be eligible for both Two-Handed and IRC rating band class trophies.
- 5.6 Class40's with a valid 2026 Class Certificate. Class40's may be eligible for IRC Class and Two-Handed Class within IRC providing a valid IRC certificate is obtained.
- 5.7 The Organizing Authority has the final say over any interpretation of the criteria for entry.
- 5.8 Boats shall hold valid 2026 rating/class certificate(s) on the Rating Deadline. Changes to ratings and class certificates will only be accepted after the Rating Deadline in exceptional circumstances at the discretion of the RORC. Every boat racing shall have on board a current valid signed copy of the 2026 rating and/or class certificate for the Class or Classes in which she is racing.
- 5.9 All boats Automatic Identification System (AIS) Transponder shall transmit the name of the boat rather than just the MMSI number. Competitors shall use their best endeavours to ensure that their AIS Transponder is switched on (transmitting and receiving) at a minimum of every 5 minutes throughout the race.
- 5.10 Every boat is required to carry a satellite communications with the ability for audio calls for the race. The telephone numbers shall be lodged with the RORC.
- 5.11 Responsibility for compliance rests with the Person in Charge of the boat. However, the RORC will endeavour to help Competitors to understand the OSR and reserves the right to conduct an OSR inspection on any competitors boat at any time.
- 5.12 Stability and Safety
- 5.12.1 All monohulls and multihulls shall comply with the stability requirements detailed in World Sailing Offshore Special Regulations 3.04.
- 5.12.2 A monohull with a series date after 2009 of less than 24 m (78'-9") LH shall have a World Sailing/ ISAF building plan review certificate issued from an organisation recognised by World Sailing.
- 5.12.3 Monohulls - OSR 3.02.3 - Structural Inspection of a boat shall be completed by a qualified person both internally (maybe in the water) and externally (out of the water). The purpose of this inspection is to identify and report to the Owner the condition of the keel and keel structure observed during this inspection.

6 ELIGIBILITY - COMPETITORS

- 6.1 [NP] [SP] An Offshore Crew list complete with full Emergency Contact details shall be supplied to the RORC by means of the RORC online entry system (www.sailracehq.com) by the 26th July 2026. The RORC will hold full details of each competitor and Emergency Contact for the race.
- 6.2 The Round Britain and Ireland Race is not a race for novices. Every competitor must have experience of sailing a boat offshore and be prepared to encounter heavy weather. Competitors may be required to provide evidence of offshore experience.
- 6.2.1 The minimum experience requirements are 500 nautical miles of offshore racing or equivalent passage(s). The experience requirement shall be completed on the boat entering into the race, by a minimum of 50% of the crew (but no fewer than two) including the Person in Charge, and within 18 months of the start of the race. A Service Yacht may qualify similarly or submit written authority from her service establishment.
- 6.2.2 A proposal to meet the experience qualification shall be lodged for agreement by the RORC as soon as possible after entry.

- 6.3 Personal Offshore Training and Medical Training.
- 6.3.1 At least 30% of the boat's crew (but no fewer than two), including the Person in Charge, shall have completed training to Section 6 of the World Sailing Offshore Special Regulations and gained a certificate from a World Sailing approved Offshore Personal Survival Training Course. Training shall have taken place within 5 years of the start of the race.
- 6.3.2 At least two members of the boat's crew shall hold an in-date certificate of a First Aid Training Course. The course shall comply with OSR 6.05.2 and have been completed within 5 years of the start of the race. The qualifications of Doctors, Paramedics or similarly trained medical professionals will be accepted, provided they are familiar with the topics of OSR Appendix H.

7 RACE ENTRY

- 7.1 Entry opens on 3 November 2025.
- 7.2 A boat shall enter the race using the SailRaceHQ online entry system. Submission of an Entry and payment of the fee will not guarantee a place in the race; all other entry requirements must be completed to the satisfaction of the RORC.
- 7.3 50% of the entry fee is due within 10 days of entry confirmation, with the remaining due before the Closing Date. Payment shall be made by credit or debit card (through the online entry system or by telephone) or may be made by bank transfer. To pay by bank transfer please contact the RORC for bank details.
- 7.4 Cancellations before 1159hrs 19 June 2026 will be eligible for a full refund.
- 7.5 Cancellations after 1200hrs 19 June 2026 but before the Closing Date, will be eligible for a 50% refund of the race entry fee.
- 7.6 Cancellations after the Closing Date will not be eligible for a refund of the race entry fee.
- 7.7 If the Person in Charge fails to notify the RORC of cancellation as described above they shall pay the full fee without refund unless good reason can be shown.
- 7.8 The Organising Authority may cancel the event and reject or cancel entries at its discretion, subject to RRS 76.
- 7.9 Standard Entry Fees – shown in £ Sterling

LOA	MEMBER	NON-MEMBER
Below 09.00	£420	£600
9.00 - 9.99	£484	£692
10.00 - 10.99	£544	£778
11.00 - 11.99	£716	£1024
12.00 - 12.99	£900	£1286
13.00 - 13.99	£1055	£1495
14.00 - 14.99	£1517	£1957
15.00 - 15.99	£2104	£2544
16.00 - 16.99	£2827	£3267
17.00 - 17.99	£3458	£3898
18.00 - 18.99	£3802	£4242
19.00 - 19.99	£4160	£4600
20.00 - 20.99	£4504	£4944
21.00 - 21.99	£4794	£5234
22.00 - 22.99	£5009	£5449
23.00 - 23.99	£5225	£5665
24.00 - 24.99	£5471	£5911
25.00 - 25.99	£5688	£6128
Boats 26m LOA and above	£229 per metre - less £440 (members discount)	£229 per metre

*Note: A discount is available for the RORC members. The discount is capped at the value of a RORC Ordinary UK Member subscription (£440).

- 7.10 Entries after the Closing Date may be accepted on payment of an additional sum of half the standard entry fee.

8 [NP] [DP] ADVERTISING

- 8.1 Advertising is permitted in accordance with the Class Rules and World Sailing Advertising Code.
- 8.2 Boats may be required to display identification and advertising chosen and supplied by the Organising Authority.
- 8.3 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.

9 COURSE

- 9.1 The course is around Britain and Ireland (and all outlying islands except Rockall) to Starboard. The course distance is approximately 1805 nautical miles. The start and finish line are at the Royal Yacht Squadron, Cowes. Full details will be included in the Sailing Instructions.



10 PENALTIES

- 10.1 Penalties for infringements of rules will be detailed in the Sailing Instructions.

11 SCORING

- 11.1 The scoring system will be the RORC High Points System as detailed in the RORC Annual Notice of Race on the Race Documents Page at www.sailracehq.com
- 11.2 RRS Appendix A is changed; paragraph A4 will not apply.
- 11.3 Bonus points of 25 will be awarded to all boats that complete the race.
- 11.4 A boat that is penalised under RRS 30.2 or that takes a penalty under RRS 44.3(a) shall be scored points as provided in RRS 44.3(c).

12 [NP] ATTENDANCE AND BERTHING

- 12.1 All boats are required to be inspected for compliance with the OSR before the start of the Round Britain and Ireland Race. A time needs to be agreed by the Person in Charge and the RORC. No boat will be allowed to start without an inspection.

13 [DP] [NP] COMPETITOR DRONES

- 13.1 Competitors' support team or their representatives shall not fly drones over the shore base/marina or over the race area during race 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.
- 13.2 At any time, the risk and responsibility for flying any drone is with the person flying the Drones and images made shall be shared with the Organising Authority, Race Committee, Jury, or Competitors at reasonable request.

14 RIGHTS TO USE NAMES & LIKENESSES

- 14.1 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.

15 PRIVACY STATEMENT

- 15.1 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.

16 INSURANCE

- 16.1 Boats shall be adequately and suitably insured before racing

17 RISK STATEMENT

- 17.1 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:
- 17.1.1 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;
- 17.1.2 They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat, and their other property, whether afloat or ashore;
- 17.1.3 They accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omissions;

- 17.1.4 Their boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the event, and they are fit to participate;
- 17.1.5 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;
- 17.1.6 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;
- 17.1.7 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.
- 17.1.8 They are responsible for ensuring that their boat is equipped and seaworthy so as to face extremes of weather; that there is a crew sufficient in number, experience and fitness to withstand such weather; and that the safety equipment is properly maintained, stowed, in date and familiar to the crew.
- 17.2 The RORC, its sponsors and other organising clubs, accept no responsibility or liability for loss of life or injury to members or others, or for the loss of, or damage to, any vessel or property.
- 17.3 The Race Committee will make starting signals unless in their opinion it is manifestly unsafe for any of the boats entered to remain in the vicinity of the starting line. Each boat shall exercise her responsibility under RRS Fundamental Rule 3 and decide whether or not to start or to continue to race.

18 TROPHIES AND PRIZES

- 18.1 Presentation may be made for the following:

TROPHY / PRIZE	PRESENTED FOR:
John Illingworth Trophy	IRC Overall
Windward Sailing Trophy	IRC One
Robert Morris Memorial Trophy	IRC Two
Teddy Hicks Memorial Trophy	IRC Three
Greenville Collins Salvors	IRC Four
Rebel Maid Trophy	IRC Two-Handed
Lekeitio Cup	First Class40 Home
IMOCA	First IMOCA Home
RORC Medallions, IRC, Class40, MOCRA, IMOCA	

- 18.2 The Club holds the winners of trophies responsible for all damage or loss and strongly recommends that winners take out adequate insurance. Winners are responsible to get the trophy suitably engraved, and are also liable for all return carriage costs. If a trophy is returned not engraved the RORC reserves the right to charge the cost of the engraving to the winner. Trophies will be returned to the Club when requested by the Race Office.
- 18.3 The interpretation of the terms of award for all trophies and prizes will be made by the RORC Committee, whose decision is final. When no boat qualifies to win a particular trophy the Race Committee may, at its discretion, award it otherwise.

19 PRIZE GIVING

- 19.1 Details of the prizegiving will be in the Sailing Instructions

CONTACT DETAILS

UK Race Office

RORC Cowes Clubhouse
The Parade
Cowes
Isle of Wight
PO31 7QU
Tel: +44 (0) 1983 295 144
Email: racing@rorc.org
RORC Website: www.rorc.org

Rating Office

Seahorse Building
Bath Road
Lymington, Hampshire SO41 3SE
Telephone: +44 1590 677030
Fax: +44 1590 679478
Email: info@rorcrating.com
Website: www.rorcrating.com

MOCRA Ratings

Website: www.mocra-sailing.org
And
<https://sites.google.com/site/mocrarating/>



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www.rorc.org