



# Notice of Race

Including General Conditions for  
Racing

## 2018 soloFASTNET

### 1 ORGANISING AUTHORITY

- a. The organising authority is the Solo Offshore Racing Club Limited (SORC)
- b. Official notice board and website: <http://www.soloFASTNET.co.uk>
- c. The Race Committee (RC) comprises:

Rob Craigie (Race Director)      [robcc51@gmail.com](mailto:robcc51@gmail.com)      +44 7775 706 626

Nigel Colley      [nigel.deqcolley@gmail.com](mailto:nigel.deqcolley@gmail.com)      +44 7860 895 736

Kirsteen Donaldson (Race Officer [RO])      [kirsteen@jadeconsultants.co.uk](mailto:kirsteen@jadeconsultants.co.uk)      +44 7803 162 893

- d. Other contact details will be provided in the Sailing Instructions (SIs)

### 2 COURSE AND RACE SCHEDULE

- a. Course: Cowes - Fastnet Rock – Plymouth, approximately 610 NM. Details of the precise course will be in the SIs.
- b. Start: 2 June 2018, approximately 14:00.
- c. Pre-start berthing, briefing, registration, collection of trackers, etc, will be based in Cowes Yacht Haven. Post-race berthing will be in Sutton Harbour, Plymouth. Further information will be provided in the SIs and on the web site.

### 3 ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- a. Entries are accepted at the discretion of the RC.
- b. All competitors must be aged 18 years or over on 1 June 2018.
- c. Only one person shall be on board whilst racing except as required by RRS 1.1.
- a. The race is open to boats with a valid IRC Spinlock certificate. Additional classes may be provided subject to a minimum of 5 entries and at the RC's discretion.
- d. Boats must comply with World Sailing Offshore Special Regulations (OSR) Category 2 as updated in 2018. The RC may waive or modify some of these requirements; requests must be made and determined in writing. Additional procedures and/or restrictions may be prescribed. The RC reserves the right to conduct an OSR inspection on any boat at any time
- e. Each boat is required to have a Personal Locator Beacon (PLB), registered with the appropriate authority, on board while racing.

- f. The competitor must have substantial offshore shorthanded sailing experience including solo nights offshore. The race is challenging, especially for a solo skipper, requiring well developed navigation skills, practiced boat handling in both strong and light conditions and familiarity with managing the effects of fatigue and limited sleep. If you are in any doubt regarding your experience, you are encouraged to contact the RC for guidance.
- g. The boat is required to hold adequate insurance and in particular to hold insurance against third party claims in the sum of at least £2 million.
- h. Entry into and taking part in the race is conditional upon the skipper having made a declaration as set out in the Risk Statement and Declaration as part of the online entry process. It is the sole responsibility of the skipper to ensure they read, understand and agree the declaration. Mandatory documentation includes:
  - a valid IRC rating, or Class certificate if racing under Class rules;
  - a statement of relevant sailing experience;
  - a signed Risk Statement and Declaration;
  - a completed OSR check list including a signed declaration that the boat and skipper meet the requirements of World Sailing OSR Category 2 as updated in 2018;
  - a completed Race and Safety Information form.

#### **4 CLASSES & CLASS FLAGS**

- a. A SORC pennant will be provided as part of the race entry. All boats shall display this and the relevant class flag on their backstay.
- b. IRC Spinlock certificates shall have a valid date not later than 18<sup>th</sup> May 2018. No alteration in a boat's certificate will be permitted after this date except as a result of a rating protest or to correct rating office errors.
- c. According to the number of entries, the IRC fleet may be split into 2 or more classes.

#### **5 ENTRY FEES & RESERVATIONS**

- a. Entry shall be made online via the race web site.
- b. The maximum number of entries that can be accepted is 60, due to logistical limitations at the start and finish.
- c. A deposit of £100 made before 31st March 2018 reserves an entry place on a first-come basis. The entry fee balance of £275 must be made by 4<sup>th</sup> May 2018. Any entry made after 31st March 2018 will incur a late entry fee surcharge of £100 i.e. total entry fee of £475.
- d. The entry fee includes: YB Tracker, 1 night's mooring in Cowes, 2 nights' mooring in Plymouth, pre-race buffet and briefing, post-race dinner and prize giving, prizes, battle flag, shirt, memento.

## **6 RESULTS & PRIZES**

- a. Results based on corrected finish times will be given for boats racing in rated classes which have supplied a valid TCC. There will be overall IRC results as well as results by class.
- b. For boats racing under Class rules, results will be based on elapsed time.
- c. Results will be posted online as soon as possible.
- d. Prizes will be awarded to the first boat in each Class and 1<sup>st</sup> Overall in IRC.
- e. Prizes will be awarded at the after race dinner.

## GENERAL CONDITIONS

**General conditions apply and rank as Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions, as appropriate**

### 7 RULES AND REGULATIONS

Racing is governed by the following:

- a. This Notice of Race and General Conditions;
- b. The SIs, together with any amendments;
- c. The Racing Rules of Sailing 2017-20 (RRS) and RYA prescriptions ([www.rya.org.uk/racing/racingrules](http://www.rya.org.uk/racing/racingrules));
- d. From sunset to sunrise, RRS Part 2 (When Boats Meet) shall not apply and are replaced by the right of way rules of the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (IRPCAS);
- e. The IRC rules Parts A, B and C ([www.ircrating.org](http://www.ircrating.org)) or Class rules in force at the time of the race and appropriate for the Class entered;
- f. Relevant local by-laws;
- g. World Sailing OSR Category 2 for 2018-2019 and Equipment Rules of Sailing for 2017-2020 ([www.sailing.org/documents](http://www.sailing.org/documents));
- h. The RYA Racing Charter ([www.rya.org.uk/racing/charter](http://www.rya.org.uk/racing/charter));
- i. The Exoneration Penalty, Advisory Hearing and Arbitration procedures of the RYA Rules Dispute Procedure (<http://www.rya.org.uk/racing/racing-rules/Pages/racing-rules-downloads.aspx>) will be available.

### 8 CHANGES TO RULES

- a. Changes to the rules are described as appropriate within this document. Additional changes are listed below. The SIs may change other rules.
- b. RRS 55 (Trash Disposal) is changed by adding the following sentence to the rule: 'However, discarding rubber or wool bands when setting a sail is permitted'.
- c. The RO shall protest a boat if a ship, coastguard or Port Authority makes a complaint under the IRPCAS or local by-laws. This changes RRS 60.2.
- d. RRS 63.1 is changed as described in Sections 11c, 15a and 15e. A boat penalised without a hearing is entitled to one upon request.
- e. If there is conflict between the SIs and the NoR, the SIs will prevail. This changes RRS 63.7.
- f. RRS 77 does not apply. Each boat shall display a sail number or numbers as given on the entry form.

### 9 SAFETY

- a. The start may be postponed and/or the start line moved if the RO considers that this is advisable in the prevailing or forecast meteorological conditions. No decision

taken by the RC will in any way whatsoever affect or reduce the responsibility of individual skippers to decide whether to race or continue racing.

- b. The organisers may involve the authorities and emergency contact if they have concerns for the safety of any competitor. Competitors are encouraged to contact the RO if their progress is likely to give cause for concern.
- c. The RC strongly recommends that, at all times while on deck, the skipper:
  - wears a life jacket and harness
  - carries the PLB on the personTherefore, the RO will not fly flag Y (RRS 40).
- d. No anchor shall protrude over the bow while racing.
- e. Boats are encouraged to use engines to avoid safety-threatening situations; however, Section 11 Engines & Power below still applies.
- f. AIS transponders are required to be transmitting for the duration of the race.

## **10 NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS**

- a. Each boat must have the mobile phone listed on the Race and Safety Information form on board throughout the race.
- b. SIs and relevant forms (Risk Statement and Declaration; OSR check list; Race and Safety Information form) will be posted on the race website for the skipper to download and, as appropriate, complete and return to the RC.
- c. Until 1200 on the day before the race start, amendments to SIs will be posted on the race website and may also be distributed by email. If a competitor will not have access to the website it is their sole responsibility to inform the RO, which will do its best to communicate by other means.
- d. Amendments made thereafter may be sent by SMS and will be broadcast on VHF (call sign SORC race control; Channel 72 preferred, Channel 77 as back-up) before the start. Competitors will be given as much notice as is practicable.

## **11 ENGINES & POWER**

- a. Sail handling must be performed by the manpower of the skipper alone.
- b. Amending RRS 52, all types of self-steering devices are permitted.
- c. Amending RRS 42, any means of propulsion employed other than the force of the wind (including motoring and/or towing in accordance with Section 11d and 12b) must be recorded in the boat's log and declared to the RO. If any advantage is gained, the RC may impose whatever penalty it regards as appropriate, changing RRS 63.1.
- d. If a boat arrives in the start area after her preparatory signal under engine or tow, she must not start until at least 5 minutes after her start signal and at least 5 minutes after stopping her engine or dropping her tow. A boat that arrives in the starting area after completion of her start sequence may start by passing within 100 m of the position announced. Competitors shall declare use of engine or tow and late starting to the RO within 1 h of starting.

## **12 OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE**

- a. No physical contact may be made with other vessels at sea except as allowed by RRS 1.1 (Helping Those in Danger), RRS 41 (Outside Help), and b) below.
- b. During the race, a boat may put in anywhere and moor for any purpose. She may motor or be towed provided that the total result of such motoring or towing can be shown not to have advanced the boat and any such incident is recorded in the boat's log and declared to the RO. This changes RRS 45.
- c. RRS 41(c) is replaced by the following:

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 any 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 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.

## **13 YELLOW BRICK TRACKING**

- a. Each competitor is required to carry an activated and fully functioning tracker. This will be provided to each boat by the RC.
- b. The tracked positions may be used as evidence by the RC to:
  - confirm a boat's finishing time;
  - confirm that a boat completed the course correctly.

## **14 DECLARATION, RETIREMENT AND REPORTING**

- a. Competitors shall text their finish time, boat name and sail number to the RO within two hours after finishing. By sending this text, a boat is declaring that she completed the race in accordance with the rules.
- b. The RO will have access to YB Tracking and AIS data. Times observed by the RO shall have precedence over those declared by competitors.
- c. In the exceptional event that a boat is unable to complete the text declaration as described above, she may declare to the RO using other means. This declaration shall be considered valid if the RO indicates its acceptance.
- d. When retiring, the boat shall inform the RO as soon as possible using any means. The message shall include the time, the boat name, sail number, the fact that she is retiring, and her intentions regarding onward passage. This final item is for information only and no inference of responsibility for monitoring the boat's onward passage shall be assumed.

## **15 PROTESTS, PENALTIES AND REDRESS**

- a. The RC may give time allowances to boats that have temporarily suspended racing to give aid to another vessel or similar circumstances. This changes RRS 63.1.
- b. The RC may use any data at its disposal to protest a boat. This includes tracker and AIS data.
- c. Intention to protest and any penalty taken during the race shall be declared in the finishing text.
- d. If acknowledged in the finishing declaration, the penalty for infringing a rule of IRPCAS at night is 10 mins added to the boat's elapsed time. This adds to RRS 44. The provisions of RRS 44.1 still apply.
- e. Starting errors: RRS 29.1 does not apply and RRS Appendix A4.2 is amended.
  - On Course Side: if any part of a boat's hull, crew or equipment is on the course side of the starting line at her starting signal and she does not return completely to the pre-start side of the line, she will not be scored OCS but will be penalised by adding at least 10 minutes to her elapsed time plus a further 5 minutes for every whole minute early.
  - Late to starting area: see Section 11d.
- f. The protest time limit is two hours after finishing.
- g. Amending RRS 61.3, protests may be submitted to the RO by any written means including SMS and this shall constitute delivery to the race office.
- h. Penalties are at the discretion of the protest committee and may be less than disqualification. The protest committee will refer to RYA guidance on discretionary penalties in assessing penalties.

## **16 APPLICABLE LAW**

- a. These rules and conditions shall be interpreted in accordance with the laws of England and Wales. The courts of England and Wales and of no other country shall be the jurisdiction for resolution of all actions with regard to these rules and conditions and as to the conduct and organisation of the all matters relating to the races organised.
- b. Application for entry will be deemed to constitute consent to the holding of relevant personal data for the purpose of the Data Protection Act 1998.