ISORA

Irish Sea Offshore Racing Association

REAL BOATS RACE OFFSHORE
ISORA
2024 Offshore & Coastal Series

Notice of Race
and
General Sailing Instructions

REAL BOATS RACE OFFSHORE
ISORA
2024 Offshore & Coastal Series

IRISH SEA OFFSHORE RACING ASSOCIATION

2024

Amendment 1 – Race added to Welsh Coastal Series 17CW5 18.2
Amendment 2 – Clarify any 5 races count for Overall Championship 18.3

ISORA 2024 Main sponsor

MUSTO

Printed Sunday, 18 August 2024

MUSTO ISORA SERIES 2024
Notice of Race and General Sailing Instructions

Introduction

ISORA (Irish Sea Offshore Racing Association) is a not-for-profit members organisation responsible for offshore racing in the Irish Sea.

The Association is run by volunteers for the benefit of competitors by working in partnership with boat owners, crew, clubs, associations, and the governing bodies for boating in Ireland, Wales, and the UK.

ISORA

2024
offshore & coastal
series

ISORA Irish Sea Offshore Racing Association

Our mission is to promote the sport of offshore racing in the Irish Sea.

The MUSTO ISORA 2024 Series of races comprises the traditional Offshore Series of seven offshore races, a Coastal Series in Ireland, and a Coastal Series in Wales.

The Races are subject to change and all competitors should check the latest published schedule of races on the ISORA.org web site.

This Notice of Race (NoR) applies to all ISORA organised races and includes Rules that affect every race unless modified by the Race Specific Sailing Instruction (SSIs).

When a Rule is modified in the SSIs, it takes precedence over the Rule in this Notice of Race and General Sailing Instructions.

ORGANISING AUTHORITY.

1.1. The Organising Authority for the MUSTO ISORA 2024 Series is the National Yacht Club, Dun Laoghaire in association with Irish Sea Offshore Racing Association ISORA.

2. RULES AND REGULATIONS.

2.1. **RACING RULES OF SAILING:** Racing will be governed by the 'rules' as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS). (http://www.sailing.org/documents/racingrules/)

2.2. **NATIONAL AUTHORITY PRESCRIPTIONS:** The prescriptions of the Irish Sailing Association will apply to races starting in Ireland and those of the RYA to races started in the United Kingdom.

2.3. **CLASS IRC RULES:** IRC rules part A, B & C shall apply to IRC racing.

2.4. **2024-25 WORLD SAILING OFFSHORE SPECIAL REGULATIONS**: extract for Race Category 3 Monohulls with Life Raft will apply for all cross-channel and offshore races and Night Races. Race Category 4 will apply for Day Coastal races.

2.5. **INTERNATIONAL REGULATIONS FOR PREVENTING COLLISIONS AT SEA:** Except when changed in Sailing Instructions, the Rules of RRS Part 2 are replaced by the right-of-way Rules of IRPCAS (International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea), or by government right-of-way rules, between the times of local sunset and sunrise. A boat may take a time penalty as specified in the Sailing Instructions when she may have broken this rule while racing.

2.6. **NOTICE OF RACE:** This Notice of Race and any amendments thereto will be published on the ISORA website.

2.7. **SAILING INSTRUCTIONS:** Sailing Instructions for each race will be published on the ISORA website www.isora.org and may be emailed to competitors. In the event of conflict, the ISORA 2024 Sailing Instructions (SIs) for that specific race will prevail (this changes RRS63.7)

2.8. Any change to the Sailing Instructions will be posted on the ISORA website by 18.30hrs on the day before it will take effect, and by messaging on the Crew Manager App and the ISORA WhatsApp Group.

2.9. Appendix WP (rules for racing around waypoints) will apply when specified in the Sailing Instructions.

2.10. Structural inspections as defined in WORLD SAILING OFFSHORE SPECIAL REGULATIONS 2024-2025 rule 3.02.2 and 3.02.3 are strongly recommended, but not mandatory for 2023.

MUSTO

ISORA 2024 Main Sponsor

3. ADVERTISING

3.1. Boats may be required to display advertising chosen and supplied by the Organising Authority.

4. RESPONSIBILITY

4.1. **THE PERSON IN CHARGE:** Yacht racing can be dangerous. The attention of Persons in Charge is drawn to RRS Fundamental Rule 3: "The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone" and to Special Regulation 1.02.1 which begins: "The safety of a yacht and her crew is the sole and inescapable responsibility of the Person in Charge…."

4.2. Sailing is by its nature an unpredictable sport and therefore inherently involves an element of risk. By taking part in the event, each competitor agrees and acknowledges that:

a) 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.
b) they are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat and their other property whether afloat or ashore.
c) they accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omission.
d) their boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the event and they are fit to participate.
e) the provision of a race management team and other officials and volunteers by the event organiser does not relieve them of their own responsibilities.
f) 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.

4.3. ISORA, its sponsors, and other organising clubs accept no responsibility or liability for loss of life or injury to competitors or others, or for the loss of, or damage to, any vessel or property.

4.4. **STARTING AND CONTINUING TO RACE:** 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.

4.5. **RACE DECLARATION(S)**: No boat will be accepted as an entry unless the Person in Charge has, before the start of the race, completed the race declaration in the terms set out in NoR 21. ISORA reserves the right to require a signed declaration, in the terms set out in NoR 21, from each crew member.

4.6. **SAFETY AND LIFE SAVING EQUIPMENT**: For all Offshore Races; Competitors' attention is drawn to RRS 1.2 life-saving equipment: "Each Competitor is individually responsible for wearing a personal flotation device adequate for the conditions."

However, in Offshore Races a combined Lifejacket and Harness shall be worn when on deck: -

- Between the hours of sunset and sunrise
- When alone on deck
- When reefed
- When the true wind speed is 25 knots or above
- When the visibility is less than 1 nautical mile

See also Special Regulation 5.02

5. ELIGIBILITY – THE BOAT

5.1. Yachts shall belong to or be chartered to and be under the control of a member of a club, association or organisation affiliated to IS or RYA or other equivalent national authority.

5.2. The ISORA Races that are 'Category 3' and 'Category 3 with Life Raft' are open to all boats that have a valid IRC Certificate with STIX value not less than 23, AVS not less than 130-0.005*m (where m ins the boat's minimum sailing weight) and **Minimum SSS base number of 15** (only if series date is before 2000) and comply with Section 3 of World Sailing Offshore Regulation A.

5.3. ISORA Coastal Races that are Category 4 are open to all boats that have a valid IRC Certificate.

5.4. The Race Committee reserves the right to refuse any entry and/or to ask any boats to complete further undertaking or declarations before accepting their entry.

5.5. **IRC** – Boats shall have a rating of 0.850 or greater and will comply with IRC Rules Parts A, B, and C, except as varied in this Notice of Race or in the Sailing Instructions.

5.6. **IRC Rule 22.4.2 – Crew Numbers**: IRC Rule 22.4.2 is deleted and replaced by "The maximum number of crew that may sail aboard a yacht in Offshore Races which are Category 3, shall be the number shown on the certificate and Crew numbers for Coastal Races which are Category 4 shall be limited the number shown on the IRC Certificate plus two extra crew. There is no weight limit applied to any Race"

5.7. **Automatic and Wind-vane devices for Steering**: The use of electronic aids, including auto helms, and linked electronic devices, and automatic wind-vane devices for steering are permitted (this changes RRS 52).

5.8. **Two-Handed Class**: A Two-Handed Class within IRC will be available in all ISORA Races. Boats will be eligible for both Two-Handed and IRC Rating band class trophies. All entries must satisfy the committee that they have suitable and adequate experience and that their boat is appropriately organised for two-handed sailing.

5.9. **Spinnakers:** In all ISORA Offshore Races, which are OSR Category 3, IRC Rule 11.2 will apply and IRC Rule 21.6.1 is varied to the extent that a boat may carry one more spinnaker than shown on her current IRC certificate of area not greater than rated SPA without an increase in rating.

6. RATINGS, RATING AND CLASS CERTIFICATES:

6.1. Every boat racing shall have on board a current valid signed copy of the IRC Rating certificate.

6.2. Boats shall hold valid Rating certificate(s) on the 'Rating Deadline' and shall make a declaration to the ISORA Race Committee on choice of Primary or Secondary Certificate by the 'Rating Deadline'.

6.3. **Rating Deadline:** The 'Rating Deadline' is the latest date by which a valid Rating Certificate shall be issued to the boat and is set for ISORA at seven days before each race day.

6.4. If there is no declaration (Primary or Secondary) the ISORA Race Committee will apply the Primary ~~highest~~ rating for that boat as published on the IRC online TCC, on the 'Rating Deadline Date'.

6.5. This changes IRC rule 8.2.1(c) and applies to each race.

6.6. Boats racing under IRC are **not** required to submit a copy of their certificate to ISORA.

6.7. Changes to Ratings and Class certificates will only be accepted after the Rating Deadline in exceptional circumstances and at the discretion of the ISORA Race Committee, or because of a rating protest, or to correct a Rating Office error.

7. CLASSES

7.1. There will be racing for three classes - IRC Class Zero, Class 1 and Class 2 in the series. The splits are anticipated to be at about 1.045 and 1.000

- IRC 0 =1.070 or greater
- IRC 1 =1.010 to 1.069
- IRC 2 = 1.009 or less

7.2. Class Flags will be flown from the backstay of each competing yacht based on the breakpoints specified in the Sailing Instructions and as follows:

- IRC Class Zero boats will display Numeral Pennant 0
- IRC Class 1 boats will display Numeral Pennant 1
- IRC Class 2 boats will display Numeral Pennant 2

7.3. If fleet numbers allow, there will be a two-handed Division.

7.4. If fleet numbers allow, there will be a Silver Class. Eligibility for the Silver Fleet Division will be determined by the ISORA Committee and will be for boats with a Hull Factor 7.8 or less and DLR

220 or greater.

7.5. The ISORA Technical Committee shall always have discretion as to the classes, fleets and entries and has the right to amend at any time.

8. ELIGIBILITY – COMPETITORS

8.1. **Registration of Crew – ISORA Crew Manager App** Skippers must register the following details, for all crew members, on the ISORA Crew Manager App

- Crew Name and mobile phone number
- Shore Contact Name and phone number for each crew member contact

8.2. The information will only be used:

- for safety purposes and in an instance of an emergency.
- ~~if required in association with the ISORA Covid Protocol and Contact Tracking~~

8.3. The 'ISORA Crewmanager App' must be used to declare the finish time and to make a declaration that the race has been completed correctly.

8.4. Skippers must have the written parental consent for all crew members under the age of 18.

8.5. **FIRST AID REQUIREMENT** There are requirements for First Aid training in all Categories of Race. See OSR 6.05.

9. RACE ENTRY

9.1. Eligible boats shall enter by completing the on-line entry form which is on the ISORA web site

9.2. Entry should be completed at least 7 days before the start of the race or can be later at the discretion of the Race Committee.

9.3. The on-line entry process includes a declaration and an online payment via the ISORA PayPal Account for the appropriate fee for the race or series.

9.4. All competitors must complete the ISORA Crew Manager App See 8.1 to 8.4 above.

9.5. The Race entry fees are stated on the schedules below and on the online entry form.

9.6. No competitor is considered an official entrant into a race until all outstanding entry fees have been finalised with ISORA.

9.7. Entry to a race includes ISORA membership for the owner or skipper of the boat.

10. RACES COMBINED WITH OTHER CLUBS, ASSOCIATIONS AND ORGANISATIONS.

10.1. Some ISORA Races are combined with other Clubs, Associations and Organisations such as RORC, RDYC, NYC, CHPSC, RCYC and LYC

10.2. Where races are combined it is the skipper's responsibility to enter the race organised by the club, organisation, or association.

11. COMMUNICATIONS

11.1. All competing boats in the Offshore series must be fitted with an Automatic Identification System (AIS) in accordance with OSR 3.29.13 and it must be turned on to receive and transmit in all 'Offshore Races'.

11.2. It is recommended that competitors in the Coastal Series have an Automatic Identification System (AIS). If AIS equipment is fitted to the boat, it must be turned on to receive and transmit.

11.3. ISORA aims to have AIS compulsory for Coastal Races in 2025.

11.4. The tracker data is required for recording race finishing times and may be required when waypoint marks are used.

11.5. A boat may, without infringing RRS 41, request and receive repetition of information broadcast by the Race Committee or be told whether or not a broadcast has been made.

RRS 41 – OUTSIDE HELP: 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 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**.

12. ISORA YB TRACKER

12.1. The ISORA YB tracker system may be used to record the course of all boats entering each race. The YB tracker unit will be allocated by the Race Committee on a first come basis. The unit, if provided, must be switched on and fitted before the start of each race and must not be disabled during the race.

12.2. The YB Tracker provides race management information including a competitors finish time.

12.3. For boats fitted with the ISORA YB Tracker, the Skipper accepting the units will be responsible for the replacement cost of the unit in a situation that the unit gets lost or damaged.

12.4. Details for the collection and return of the tracking unit will be published in the Race Specific Sailing Instructions, and it is the skipper's responsibility to ensure compliance.

12.5. The race progress can be tracked by following the YB Tracking app for iPhones and Android on downloading the YB App, select the "ISORA 2024A Series". This is also available on the ISORA website.

13. SCORING

13.1. The scoring system is as follows:

- Scoring will be on a High Point basis using Sailwave.
- RRS Appendix A is changed: paragraph A4 will not apply.

13.2. The points for each race will be adjusted for the fleet size using the CHIPS3 formula as incorporated into the Sailwave race scoring program.

13.3. The Points will be multiplied by the Weighting Factor shown in the ISORA 2024 Race Schedule.

13.4. An explanation of the CHIPS 3 formula and weighting Factor can be found on the ISORA Web site

13.5. **TIE BREAKERS**: If at the end of the series the score is tied between two or more boats, each boat's race scores shall be listed in order of best to worst, and at the first point(s) where there is a difference the tie shall be broken in favour of the boats(s) with the highest score(s).

- If a tie remains between two boats, it shall be broken in favour of the boat that scores better than the other boat in more races.
- If more than two boats are tied, they shall be ranked in order of the number of times each boat scored better than another of the tied boats.
- If a tie still remains between two or more races, they shall be ranked in order of their scores in their last race.

13.6. 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).

RESULTS

14. CLASSIFICATION

14.1. There is no classification restriction (See RRS 79)

15. WAYPOINTS

15.1. Waypoints may be used as marks. If so, Rule 28 will be amended accordingly in accordance with the RYA / RORC Guidance – "Racing Around Waypoints" See website for details.

15.2. Evidence of rounding the "virtual" mark must be taken and may be requested by the Race Officer. This evidence may include:

- Photographic (iPhone/Android or similar) evidence of the yacht's GPS showing its position at the mark.
- Yacht's chart plotter track showing the yacht rounding the "virtual" mark. This must be transmittable to ISORA by email.

15.3. The onus of proof of having rounded the WAYPOINT mark will be with each competitor.

16. TRAFFIC SEPARATION SCHEMES

16.1. ISORA racecourses are occasionally set in proximity to Traffic Separation Schemes (TSS) such as Dublin Bay, Skerries, Tuskar and Isle of Man.

16.2. ISORA will, where possible, set courses to avoid the TSS.

16.3. For ISORA Races the TSS will not be areas of exclusion, except where specifically set as an excluded area in the Race Sailing Instructions.

16.4. When approaching and entering an area designated as a TSS competitors must adhere to the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea 1972, (COLREGS) [*RRS 56.2 A boat shall comply with rule 10, Traffic Separation Schemes, of the* IRPCAS.]

16.5. It is a requirement that a continuous watch on VHF channel 16 be kept at all times, special attention must be taken while near or in a TSS.

16.6. The TSS are regulated by the Coast Guard and other Authorities and competitors must, without exception, comply with the instructions received and take note of the following data and report them on their declaration form:

- side number of patrol craft and instruction received,
- position and time when starting their engines,
- position and time when shutting them off,
- weather conditions (wind, tide, visibility, etc.),
- any other relevant information.

16.7. A breach of RRS 56.2 shall not be grounds for a protest by a boat. A report by the Coast Guard or Harbour Authority that a boat has broken RRS 56.2 will result in the boat being disqualified without a hearing. This changes RRS 60.1 and A5.

17. RULE INFRINGEMENTS AND PENALTIES

17.1. **TAKING A PENALTY (RRS 44)** Unless changed by the Sailing Instructions, the Two-Turns Penalty for breaking a rule of RRS Part 2, described in RRS 44.1, shall apply.

17.2. **PENALTIES FOR INFRINGEMENTS OF OTHER RULES** Penalties for infringements of other rules will be detailed in the Sailing Instructions and may be less than disqualification.

17.3. Where the Race Committee awards a percentage scoring penalty, this shall be computed in accordance with RRS 44.3.(c).

17.4. A boat infringing in more than one incident will receive a separate penalty for each incident.

17.5. Places will be determined after the imposition of penalties or the granting of redress. Boats will be advanced to fill preceding places vacated by penalised boats. If two or more boats share the same placing after the application of penalties, the boat with the least or no penalties will be placed above boats with greater penalties. This changes RRS 44.3 & RRS A7.

17.6. Penalties taken shall be noted on the Declaration Form.

ISORA Coastal Series Sponsors

Viking Marine Irish Coastal Series
Please look at the latest news and offers from Viking Marine here

VIKING MARINE

Plas Heli Welsh Coastal Series
The Welsh National Sailing Academy and Event Centre in Pwllheli – read more about the Community Enterprise here

PLAS HELI

18. RACE AND SERIES SCHEDULES

18.1. The race schedule will be as follows subject to compliance with the regulations and guidelines of our Governing Bodies IS and RYA Cymru Wales.

18.2. Additional Race added to the Plas Heli Welsh Coastal Series bringing the series to 5 Races.

18.3. See updated Schedule on Website www.isora.org >Notice Board> Race Schedule 2024.

19. ADDITIONAL NOTES ON THE 2023 RACE PROGRAMME:

19.1. Please refer to the Sailing Instructions for each Race

19.2. The programme is built around a busy racing calendar and is aimed to provide a full series of Coastal Races in Ireland and Wales. The Offshore Series has been designed to provide a challenging series with a variety of ports and complexity.

19.3. Main influencing events which have helped us shape the programme are as follows:

- IRC Welsh Nationals Championship 17th to 19th May
- DMYC Regatta 8th June
- NYC Regatta 15th June
- Round Ireland – 22nd June
- RIYC Regatta – 29th June
- George Regatta – 6th July.
- Kings Town to Queens Town Race: 12th July
- Cork Week – 15th 19th July
- Greystones Regatta – 24th – 25th August?
- ICRA Nationals – DL – 30th August to 1st September
- J Cup – DL – 7th – 8th September
- IRC European Championship – DL 10th – 15th September

19.4. **Coastal Races** – The Race Officer will aim to set a course with a target time for the median boat of approximately 3 to 5 hours.

ISORA races are IRC Rated and Results by Sailwave

20. PRIZES

20.1. ISORA Offshore Series: To win the overall ISORA series for the Wolf's Head Trophy the points for the best 5 results out of all 2024 sailed races.

20.2. Prizes will be given as follows: Series 1st - 3rd Overall and 1st - 3rd positions per Class / Division in each race. Trophies will be awarded for Series Overall and Overall Winner of each Race, subject to number of competitors.

20.3. Viking Marine Coastal Series (Ireland) The highest total points of 4 of the 5 races scheduled of the 'Irish Coastal Race Series

20.4. Plas Heli Coastal Series (Wale/UK) The highest total points of 3 of the 4 races scheduled.

20.5. ISORA Points Series The highest total points in all races without discards.

20.6. ISORA – Best New Boat will be awarded to the boat new to ISORA with the highest total points without discards.

20.7. Team Series: Three boats Club team. The scores are taken from the Overall Results Table for all races and applying the Club's best three results in each race. (Traditionally "The Victoria Cup"). Boats can elect to sail in the Barbarian Team.

21. RACE ENTRY DECLARATION

21.1. The Person in Charge for each race shall agree to the terms of the declaration below using the online entry system.

21.2. **Race Entry Form Declaration to be signed by every Person in Charge.**

21.3. To the best of my knowledge the information I have given is accurate. I understand that Yacht Racing can be dangerous. I agree that ISORA, organising clubs, sponsors, and their agents, have no responsibility for loss of life or injury to members or others, or for the loss of, or damage to any vessel or property. I have paid particular attention to and agree to be bound by Special Regulation 1.02 and I have read and understand and where appropriate agree to be bound by ISORA NTICE OF Race 4 Responsibility. Before racing I will affect adequate and suitable insurance. Before racing I will ensure that my crew is aware of:

- the undertaking in this Declaration
- the importance of effecting appropriate personal insurance • their responsibility in rules observance, and in particular RRS 1.2 (wearing personal floatation devices adequate for the conditions). See also RORC Prescription to the World Sailing Offshore Special Regulations 5.01.5.

21.4. I agree to be bound by RRS, RYA Prescriptions and this Notice of Race including any RORC Prescriptions, World Sailing Offshore Special Regulations and other applicable rules. The boat will be available for inspection. If any alteration likely to affect the handicap or rating is made, e.g. to sails, rig, mast, ballast, trim, engine or propeller, I will notify the Rating Authority and Race Committee immediately. I will ensure that no crew member races contrary to the terms of any ban imposed by ISORA, World Sailing, or a National Authority.

21.5. I understand and agree that the information given in this race entry and also the race entry lists and results will be maintained on the Club's computer to be used for all aspects of race organisation

21.6. It is their responsibility to familiarise themselves with any risks specific to the venues or the ISORA events drawn to their attention in any rules and information produced for the venues or events and to attend any safety briefing held for the events.

21.7. All skippers must complete the race declaration and the crew list before and after each race.

22. INSURANCE

22.1. It is a condition of enter for each boat owner to have their boat adequately insured against any risk, including civil liability to third parties and to ensure that such insurance remains valid for the entirety of the Event and with a minimum cover of €3,000,000.

23. AMENDMENTS TO THE NOTICE OF RACE

23.1. This Notice of Race may be amended at any time, any amendments will be published on the ISORA website wwwisora.org

24. FURTHER INFORMATION

24.1. For further information, please contact secretary@isora.org or sailing@nyc.ie. Information will be posted on the ISORA website www.isora.org and the National Yacht Club website www.nyc.ie.

25. BREXIT

25.1. All competitors in our cross-channel races should be aware of new Rules following Brexit. Further expansion and clarification will be provided on the ISORA website and as part of the SSIs for the races affected.

ISORA 2023 RACE SPONSORS

JACK RYAN BEGGARS BUSH

HENDRICKRYAN Consulting Engineers

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Your Notes:

About ISORA - Racing
ISORA provides offshore racing in the Irish Sea and two separate Coastal Series - in Ireland and UK
OFFSHORE RACING
COASTAL RACES