



# ISORA

## Back to Boating Protocol



# Contents

## Contents

ISORA .....	0
Back to Boating Protocol.....	0
.....	0
Background to ISORA .....	2
Back to Boating Protocol – ISORA.....	3
Authority .....	3
The Race Management Committee .....	4
PROTOCOL – for ISORA Irish & Welsh Coastal Races.....	5
Sailing Instructions.....	8
Checklist.....	9
INITIAL PREPARATION.....	9
CREW MANAGEMENT.....	9
ON THE DAY GUIDANCE.....	9
Example Boat COVID19 Protocol .....	10
YB Trackers.....	11



## Background to ISORA

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, yacht and sailing clubs, other associations and the governing bodies for boating in Ireland, Wales and the UK.

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

ISORA is affiliated to Irish Sailing (IS), RYA and RYA Cymru Wales.





## Back to Boating Protocol – ISORA

### Authority

The ISORA General Committee has requested that the Race Management Committee consider all options to achieve a return to racing in 2020 provided this can be done safely and in compliance with governing bodies guidelines and all Governmental Regulations

The Race Management Committee has convened, consulted and concluded that ISORA should be prepared for further relaxations of regulations which will in turn allow us to return to racing in 2021, subject to compliance with the **'ISORA back to Boating Protocol'**

The Race Management Committee members are all long standing offshore sailors and understand the risks and dangers of offshore racing.

The committee members have a cross section of experience and expertise and competence to undertake the assessment of risk associated with offshore sailing.

The members must rely on the guidelines provided by the Governing Bodies in Ireland, England and Wales and regulations of the associated Governments in their respective territorial waters.

Having considered all aspects of sailing offshore and all possible consequences of this activity it is considered that a return to sailing offshore can be undertaken with a limited schedule of races provided that all competitors sign up to the 'ISORA Back To Boating Protocol'.

The protocol will impose rules for each crew member and control crew numbers.



## The Race Management Committee

Chairman – Peter Ryan [chairman@isora.org](mailto:chairman@isora.org)

Vice Chairman - Peter Dunlop [Peter\\_Dunlop@oulook.com](mailto:Peter_Dunlop@oulook.com)

Hon. Secretary - Stephen Tudor [secretary@isora.org](mailto:secretary@isora.org)

Mark H Thompson – Welsh Race Management – [mhthompson@gmail.com](mailto:mhthompson@gmail.com)



## PROTOCOL – for ISORA Irish & Welsh Coastal Races

Offshore / Coastal racing by its nature is safer for crew, as the speed of crew activity in coastal racing is less frenetic than inshore racing. All activity can be planned to prevent close encounters between crew.

A risk assessment by the race committee will take place the day before each planned race, facilitated by one of the race management committee members. This risk assessment will then confirm the race start time and course, recognising possibly reduced crew numbers.

Any amendments to the Supplemental Sailing Instructions will be issued by published Amendments on the ISORA web site and will be communicated to all competitors by text messages.

Racecourses will be set to minimise/eliminate the need for crews to sleep on boats prior to, and/or after races. 35-50-mile races will be planned within the ISORA Irish Coastal Area

To eliminate risk the start and finish process may be as follows:

- Pier Head starts (DL) (starter or tracker)
- Race Finish at Pier Head (or other mark if race shortened in accordance with SI's)
- Pwllheli Club start line.
- Finish between the Pwllheli Fairway Buoy and the Bridge at Plas Heli.

Skippers should perform a risk assessment and produce a protocol specifically for their boat. A checklist with hygiene and example safety protocol for skipper guidance is attached to this protocol.

Navigation instruments and displays, including VHF and chart plotters, to be operated by Navigators/Skipper only

A racing crew should be formed using the POD principle (a group of two or more households involved in an activity together)



IS recommend the following, which ISORA endorse as follows:

- Although no limit on numbers, pod size should be kept to a minimum, to minimise the risk
- People in the pod should practice social distancing where possible
- Pods should stay together for a minimum amount of time
- People in the pod should change position as much as possible, to minimise the proximity to another member of the pod
- Be aware of the slipstream effect and avoid being downwind of people where possible.
- People in one pod should not mix with people from another pod.

Sailing gloves are mandatory on most offshore boats – this eliminates the need for plastic gloves. Sailing gloves to be cleaned after every race.

- Standard hand sanitising to be carried out by all crew before getting on board, and at regular intervals

No bags allowed on board. All gear to be worn.

No meals prepared for all on board. Crew bring their own food for their own consumption, including flasks and drinks.

Toilet use – cleaned and sanitised after each use.

Crew must provide contact details for potential track and trace







## Sailing Instructions

These are the changes to our Sailing Instructions flowing from the Protocol

### **Eligibility and Entry**

2.3 Crew numbers shall be limited to the maximum number specified in the ISORA: Back to Boating Protocol. IRC Rule 22 4.2 shall not apply

### **Rules:**

2.5 At all times competitors will follow the ISORA: Back to Boating Protocol.

### **Schedule of races.**

7.3. The Race Officer may decide to have separate starts for each class or a group of classes. This may be announced by VHF (Channel 37 M) and flags.

7.4. The type of racing will be a long Coastal Race and the course will be announced on the Friday prior to the Race on the web site.

### **Start Line**

9.4. An alternative start may be specified between DBSC 'Pier' mark and another DBSC mark. The start line will be confirmed by text and email by Friday evening 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2020

### **Safety**

20.2. This race requires the competitor to follow the ISORA: Back to Boating Protocol.



## Checklist

**The use of this checklist is recommended to confirm the boat ready for racing.**

**This is an addition to ISORA's normal safety template [here](#)**

### INITIAL PREPARATION

- Deep clean interior/exterior with soapy water and a wipe of all galleys/heads and instruments with an anti- bacterial cleaner
- Sanitise water tanks (if relevant)
- Clean and sterilise all drinking cups. ISORA recommend crew bring their own.
- Check and sanitise lifejackets and safety equipment.
- Check/sanitise safety equipment.

### CREW MANAGEMENT

- Skippers should ensure the crew management app is updated with crew details
- Ensure crew read the ISORAs protocol and are prepared to comply.
- Ensure crew have a skipper's briefing with a discussion of sanitation and distancing protocols
- Ensure Crew aware of any local regulations (Marina/Club) that impact sailing.
- Ensure crew declare they are fit and healthy (to the skipper) with no symptoms each day.

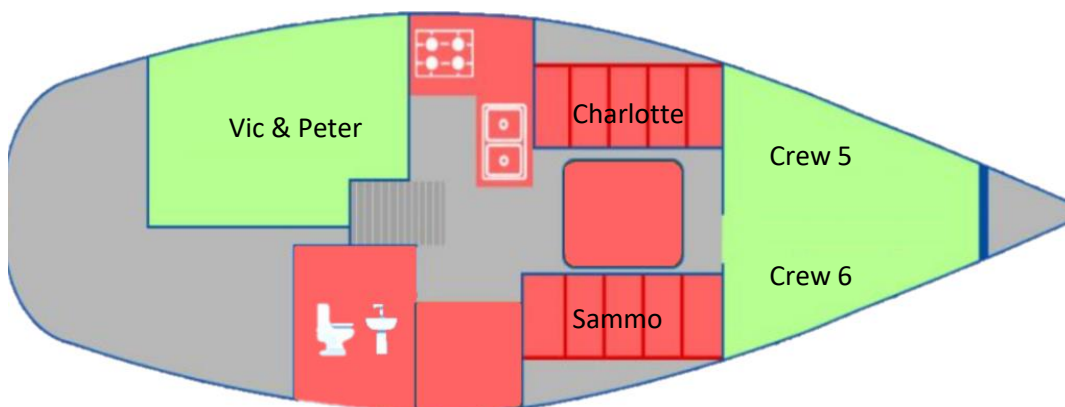
### ON THE DAY GUIDANCE

- Be aware some of your fellow competitors may be less experienced when short-handed sailing.
- If fellow competitors ask for help, please be patient, considerate and helpful.
- Weather limits may be more conservative than in the past – see ISORA protocol
- Monitor CH 17/16 at all times.
- Ensure Trackers are kept above deck when transmitting and wiped down with an anti-bacterial wipe after use.
- Be role models in complying with social distancing and ISA/ISORA protocols.

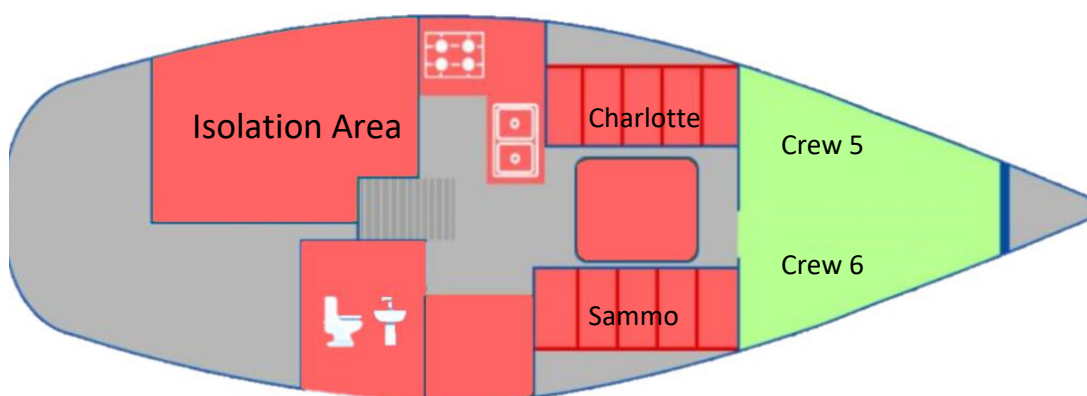
We hope that later in the season some of the protocols will be relaxed. In the meantime, stay safe and enjoy ISORA racing

## Example Boat COVID-19 Protocol

- Please ensure you have read and understand the ISORA Back to Boating Protocol.
- If you have any of the following symptoms inform the skipper: High temperature, new - continuous cough, loss or change in your sense of smell.
- Each crew member must have a documented negative COVID-19 test no earlier than 48 hours before boarding the boat.
- Subject to current government regulations, the maximum number of crew is 6.
- Crew must stay on deck where possible. On deck crew should attempt to stay 1m apart. Be aware of staying down wind of another crew member for extended periods of time.
- Each crew member has an allocated area below deck. Time in this area should be minimised.
- Face coverings must always be worn below deck. EN14683 Type II masks will be in the boats inventory. Please bag used masks and dispose of yourself once ashore.
- Only one crew should be in the red zone at any time. Except, one extra crew may go to the heads, OR the skipper / navigator may be at the chart table for a short period.
- When safe to do so, access to the forecabin should be through the front hatch.



- In the event of a crew member spending an extended time below deck, surfaces in the red zone must be wiped down before another crew member can stay below.
- In the event that a crew member develops symptoms of COVID-19, they will be isolated in the allocated isolation area. The rest of the crew must remain on deck and the boat head to port. The crew member must arrange a COVID 19 test. The boat must be cleaned.



- Safety is the responsibility of all on board, If you identify any risk area that is not addressed please discuss with the skipper.

## YB Trackers

ISORA will equip all competitors with a Yellow Brick tracker. This allows race management to set virtual waypoints and track start/finish times, without requiring committee boats or marks. It also allows all entrants to be tracked, in real time using satellite technology with no coverage issues.

By having a shore supporter tracking the race, it adds an additional safety layer.

