



THE ROYAL WESTERN YACHT CLUB OF ENGLAND



**The ORIGINAL SINGLEHANDED
TRANSATLANTIC RACE**

O S T A R 2 0 2 0

NOTICE OF RACE

**PLYMOUTH TO NEWPORT RHODE ISLAND
SUNDAY 10th MAY 2020**

OSTAR 2020 NOTICE OF RACE

1. ORGANISATION

- 1.1 The Organising Authority (OA) will be the Royal Western Yacht Club of England (RWYC).

2. OBJECT

- 2.1 The Race is intended to be a sporting event and to encourage the development of equipment, supplies and techniques for shorthanded ocean racing.

3. COURSE

- 3.1 The course will be from a Start Line in Plymouth Sound to a Finish Line off Newport, Rhode Island. Marks of the course will be defined in the Sailing Instructions (SI's).

4. RULES, REGULATIONS AND TEXTS IN FORCE

- 4.1 The event shall be governed by the following documents, complemented and/or modified by the SI's:
- The World Sailing (WS) Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS), except in the rules modified in NOR 4.2.
 - The WS 2018-2019 Offshore Special Regulations (OSR) Category 1 Regulations shall apply, except in the regulations modified in NOR 4.3.
 - International Rules for the Prevention of Collisions at Sea Part B (Steering & Sailing) (COLREGS).
 - Class Rules as recognised by WS.
 - The RWYC NOR and any amendments.
 - The RWYC SI's.
- 4.2 The following RRS have been modified:
- Part 2 (When Boats Meet) applies only inside the Dockyard Port of Plymouth after which they are replaced by Part B (Steering & Sailing) of COLREGS
 - Rule 41 (Outside Help) modified in NOR 14.
 - Rule 42.2 (Prohibited Actions) add (f) "repeated movements of the keel and/or mast that are not necessary for the stability of the boat."
 - Rule 42.3 (Exceptions) add (i) "oars/paddles may be used".
 - Rule 45 (Hauling Out, Making Fast, Anchoring) modified in NOR 14.
 - Rule 50.2 (Spinnaker Poles and Whisker Poles) shall not apply at any time.
 - Rule 52 (Manual Power) delete "and moveable hull appendages." Add "Boats are allowed to use electrical energy to fill and/or empty ballast tanks and/or adjust keels and/or any other system devised to increase stability".
 - Rule 61 (Protest Requirements) modified in the SI's.
 - Rule 62 (Redress) modified in the SI's.
 - Rule 63 (Hearings) modified in the SI's.
 - Rule 64 (Decisions) modified in the SI's.
- 4.3 The following WS OSR have been modified:
- Regulation 3.29.13 Add "The AIS shall have an audible alarm and shall be switched on throughout the race."
 - Regulation 4.01 "Sail Letters and Numbers" shall not apply. (NOR 12)
 - Regulation 4.10.2 Radar Target Enhancer (RTE) shall apply. Change "MoMu0" to "MoMu0,1". Add "The RTE shall be switched on throughout the race."
 - Furling Gear – Furling gear connected to structure, bowsprit or pole forward of the pulpit shall be capable of being retrieved to within the enclosure formed by the pulpit/guardrails without the necessity of the competitor leaving the enclosure formed by the pulpit/guardrails.
- 4.4 The 2019 OSR Category 1 rules shall be followed as closely as possible. Where a boat is unable to comply with a particular rule the boat may be permitted to compete at the discretion of the OA provided that an alternative measure is incorporated or embarked in the boat that provides equivalent safety and does not confer a racing advantage. In these circumstances, full details shall be submitted to the OA for approval when applying for entry.

5. DATE SCHEDULE

- 5.1 The Start of the Race will be at 1200 British Summer Time (BST) on Sunday 10th May 2020.
- 5.2 In order to qualify as a finisher, a boat shall finish not later than 2359 Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) on Thursday 18th June 2020.
- 5.3 Key Dates

1 January 2017	Qualifying cruise period starts	NOR 6.4
16 March 2020	Discounted Entry Fee period ends	NOR 7.6, 9.1
16 March 2020	Entries close	NOR 7.1
1 April 2020	Qualifying cruise period ends	NOR 6.4
1 April 2020	Submit IRC/MOCRA certificates	NOR 8.2
30 April 2020	Last date for Full Entry Fee payment	NOR 7.5
2 May 2020	Boats berthed in Plymouth	NOR 6.9
10 May 2020	1200 BST Race starts	NOR 5.1
18 June 2020	2359 EDT Race ends	NOR 5.2

6. ELIGIBILITY

- 6.1 The Skipper shall be over the age of 18 by the start date.
- 6.2 The Race is open to monohull and multihull boats with a minimum LOA of 27ft (8.23m) and a maximum LOA of 60ft (18.29m). The OA reserves the right to exclude any boat which fails to meet the criteria in NOR 4.1, 4.3 and c. IMOCA 60 Class boats shall not be accepted.
- 6.3 The Skipper shall be competent to take charge of the boat and be in possession of:
 - a. An approved Offshore Personal Survival Training Certificate in accordance with OSR 6 and App G (Training).
 - b. A National Authority approved First Aid Certificate
- 6.4 A qualifying passage of not less than 500 miles shall be made before 1st April 2020. The passage may have been undertaken at any time after 1st January 2017. The passage shall be sailed in the open sea without anchoring or putting into port. The distance shall be measured in straight lines joining not more than four points on the passage track. The passage shall be made in the boat that the Skipper intends to sail in the race, with only the Skipper on board, and without outside assistance or escort. In the event that any significant modification to the boat is made between the date of any passage and the race, a further qualifying passage shall be made. The successful completion of the OSTAR 2017 or the AZAB 2019 or the SORC Fastnet 2018 in the same boat, providing no significant modification has subsequently been made, satisfies the qualifying passage requirements.
- 6.5 The Skipper shall produce independent evidence to substantiate the qualifying passage. Charts and log extracts signed and dated by the Harbour Authorities at the beginning and end of the cruise would form such evidence.
- 6.6 In the event of an entrant being found to have made a false statement the entry will be rejected and all fees, if paid, shall be forfeit.
- 6.7 The Skipper is reminded that previous sailing experience outlined in NOR 6.4 is the minimum required. Neither the setting of this minimum nor the acceptance of an entry by the OA implies any warranty by the OA that a Skipper's experience is in fact adequate.
- 6.8 The Skipper shall have Third Party Liability insurance cover to a minimum of £3,000,000 or the foreign currency equivalent for the duration of the race.
- 6.9 All entered boats shall be berthed in Plymouth by 1800 Saturday 2nd May 2020. Registration shall be completed by 1600 Friday 8th May.

7. ENTRIES

- 7.1 A Skipper may reserve a place in the Race by completing an Entry Form and sending it to the OA together with the Booking Fee by 16th March 2020. The Booking Fee is not refundable except as in NOR **Error! Reference source not found.**
- 7.2 Entries shall be limited to a total of 60 boats. The OA reserves the right to alter this figure.
- 7.3 Entries shall be made under the nationality of the Skipper. The boat need not have been designed nor built in that country.
- 7.4 Entry Fees will be in accordance with NOR 9.1
- 7.5 All Entry Fees shall be paid by 30th April 2020.
- 7.6 A discounted Entry Fee (NOR 9.1) shall apply if all fees are paid by 16th March 2020.
- 7.7 Late entries may be accepted at the discretion of the OA.
- 7.8 An additional supplement shall apply to sponsored entries, which will be 50% of the applicable Entry Fee.
- 7.9 A sponsored boat is a boat with overt advertising of the sponsors name or logo displayed on the hull, boom or sails. A decision on whether a boat is a sponsored entry shall be made by the OA.
- 7.10 A non-sponsored competitor may display discrete acknowledgements of assistance from suppliers, clubs or well-wishers.
- 7.11 The entry application shall include:
 - a. A digital photograph of the Skipper for safety, security and publicity purposes (minimum of 1MB).
 - b. A digital photograph of the boat under sail for safety, security and publicity purposes (minimum of 1MB).
 - c. One hundred words in English each about the Skipper and the boat which may be used in the race programme, website and for publicity purposes.
 - d. A completed entry form. Where the qualifying cruise has yet to be completed, the details required in NOR 6.4 may be submitted separately but not later than 1st April 2020.
 - e. Details of any non-compliance with OSR, and the proposed measures to provide equivalent safety (see NOR 4.4).
 - f. A current IRC/MOCRA rating certificate. This may be submitted separately but not later than 1st April 2020.
- 7.12 A Skipper whose entry is rejected by the OA will be informed of the reason as soon as possible and the Entry Fees paid returned. The decision of the OA to reject an entry shall be final. In the event of rejection, payment shall be limited to the return of the Entry Fees paid.

8. CLASSES

- 8.1 Classes shall be determined by IRC / MOCRA ratings on 1st April 2020 or soon as possible after that date.
- 8.2 If there are five or more entries of the same Open or One Design Class the OA shall offer a separate class. A boat in an Open or One Design class shall not be eligible to compete in an IRC/MOCRA class. All Skippers entering an Open or

One Design class shall possess a current class certificate, a copy of which shall be submitted to the OA not later than the 1st April 2020.

9. ENTRY FEES

9.1

Length Overall	Booking Fee	Discounted Entry Fee (incl booking fee)	Full Entry Fee (incl booking fee)	Sponsored supplement
Under 30 feet	£250	£1800	£2000	50% of discounted / full entry fee
Under 35 feet	£250	£1900	£2200	
Under 40 feet	£250	£2050	£2450	
Under 50 feet	£250	£2150	£2650	
Up to 60 feet	£250	£2300	£2900	

10. ACCEPTANCE CERTIFICATES

10.1 Acceptance Certificates will be issued by 9th May 2020 to Skippers who have satisfied/completed the following requirements:

- a. Entry Form
- b. Entry Fee including additional fees if applicable is paid
- c. Qualifying Evidence
- d. Third Party Liability Insurance
- e. Declaration of compliance with WS OSR Category 1
- f. Current IRC / MOCRA / Class Certificate as appropriate
- g. Satellite Communications contact number (Satcom/Iridium) and test call
- h. Approved Offshore Personal Survival Training Certificate
- i. National authority approved First Aid Certificate
- j. Life-raft Certificate
- k. EPIRB (406) Registration Certificate
- l. VHF Ship Radio Licence
- m. Coastguard Offshore Race Information Form (completed by OA)
- n. Customs Form C1331. Pleasure craft on non-EU voyages - leaving the UK
- o. USA visas - required by all Skippers who are not US nationals
- p. Tracker contract form
- q. Financial penalties if applicable

10.2 If an acceptance certificate is not issued in accordance with NOR 10.1 by 1800 Sunday 9th May 2020, the Skipper shall not be allowed to start and his/her Entry Fee shall be forfeit.

11. PENALTIES / ALLOWANCES

11.1 Financial penalties may be applied by the OA for failure to comply with NOR 6.9 and 12.5.

11.2 Time penalties may be applied.

11.3 Time allowances may be awarded.

12. NUMBERING AND SAIL MARKING

12.1 The boat's existing sail number shall be used and displayed throughout the Race. No other number may be displayed. Numbers are to be a minimum height of 12 inches or 1/40th of the boat's overall length, whichever is the larger. The number shall be on both sides of the mainsail, overlapping headsails, the topsides port and starboard, and the deck or cabin top.

12.2 Where two boats entered in the Race have the same sail number, the OA will issue one of them with an alternative number.

12.3 Numbers on the hull shall either be painted on or applied using an approved semi-permanent system which will not be removed by the action of the sea.

12.4 All boats may be required to display the Race logo: Monohulls – on each side, Catamarans – on the outboard side of each hull, Trimarans – on each side of the centre hull. Adhesive logos may be issued to each boat on arrival in Plymouth.

12.5 All boats may be issued with Race Flags on arrival in Plymouth. These flags shall be flown at all times whilst the boat is in Plymouth, at the start, at the finish and in Newport. Failure to display Race flags may incur a financial penalty.

13. RADIOS, COMMUNICATIONS & TRACKER SYSTEMS

13.1 Skippers shall fit the satellite tracker provided by the OA. The OA shall claim payment from the competitor for the cost of the tracker if it is not returned at the end of/retirement from the Race.

13.2 Skippers shall have a satellite communication system that allows two way voice and text communication throughout the duration of the race.

13.3 All types of radio, radar and electronic aids to navigation are permitted in all classes.

14. OUTSIDE HELP

- 14.1 During the race no boat shall have material contact with another boat.
- 14.2 A boat may anchor, moor or secure to a land based structure. Persons other than the Skipper may board and stores and/or equipment may be embarked to effect repairs.
If outside help is accepted the OA shall be informed immediately when the boat has stopped racing and before the boat resumes racing.
A time penalty will be imposed by the OA if it considers a boat that has received outside help has gained a racing advantage.
- 14.3 Medical assistance by any form is allowed. The OA shall be informed immediately.
- 14.4 A Skipper may use any source of weather information that is publicly available including services that require payment. Individual weather routing is not permitted. At registration Skippers will be required to list the sources of weather information they intend to use. No other sources are permitted unless provided by the OA.

15. PRIZES

- 15.1 Prizes will be awarded in each Class on the following scale:

No of starters in each class:	3	4-6	7-11	12+
No of prizes:	1	2	3	4

- 15.2 A memento will be presented to each boat.
- 15.3 Additional prizes may be awarded by a Race Sponsor.
- 15.4 The Line Honours Skipper shall attend the Sponsor's Prize giving in Newport.
- 15.5 Prizes will be awarded at the RWYC in Autumn 2020.

16. RISK STATEMENT

- 16.1 Rule 4 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 its nature an unpredictable sport and therefore involves an element of risk. By taking part in the event, each competitor agrees and acknowledges that:
- 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;
 - They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat and their other property whether afloat or ashore;
 - They accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omissions;
 - Their boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the event and they are fit to participate;
 - The provision of a race management team, patrol boats if any, and other officials and volunteers by the organiser does not relieve them of their own responsibilities;
 - The provision of patrol boat cover is limited to such assistance, particularly in extreme weather conditions, as can be practically provided in the circumstances;
 - They are responsible for ensuring that their boat is equipped and seaworthy so as to be able to face extremes of weather; that there is a crew sufficient in experience and fitness to withstand such weather; and that the safety equipment is properly maintained, stowed and in date and is familiar to the crew

17. APPLICABLE LAW

- 17.1 These Rules shall be interpreted in accordance with the Laws of England and the OA submit, or will submit, themselves only to the jurisdiction of the Courts of England as may be necessary to permit the resolution of legal actions with regard to these Rules, the conduct and organisation of the Race.

18. MEDIA RIGHTS

- 18.1 Competitors automatically grant to the OA and any party to which it may delegate this right, without payment the right in perpetuity to make, use and show (including via the internet), any motion pictures, live, taped or filmed television or any other form of media, of or relating to the event.

19. FURTHER INFORMATION

- 19.1 For further information please visit the event website
website: www.rwyc.org/ostar/
or send email to
email: OSTAR@rwyc.org

Competitors will be temporary members of the RWYC, and they and their families and friends are invited to make full use of the RWYC bar and catering facilities during the race.

The Race Office will be open from 1000 to 1600 on Monday 4th May to Saturday 19^h May 2020.

Competitors should note that The Royal Western Yacht Club implements the RYA Racing Charter and that they will be required to undertake to sail in compliance with the Charter, which can be found at the front of the RYA rule book (Racing Rules of Sailing), on the Club website, or at www.rya.org.uk/racing/charter.

AMENDMENT 1 30 June 2018.

1. Front Cover, 5.1, 5.3. - Change start date from 25 May to 10 May
2. Change related dates
 - 2.1 5.2, 5.3 – end date from 3 July to 18 June
 - 2.2 5.3, 7.6, 9.1 – discounted entry fee period ends from 31 March to 16 March
 - 2.3 5.3, 7.1 – entries close from 31 March to 16 March
 - 2.4 5.3, 7.5 – full payment from 14 May to 30 April
 - 2.5 5.3, 6.9 – boats in Plymouth from 21 May to 2 May
 - 2.6 6.9 – registration completed from 23 May to 8 May
 - 2.7 10.1, 10.2 – acceptance certificates from 24 May to 9 May
 - 2.8 19 – race office open from 19 - 23 May to 4 - 9 May