



OSTAR 2028

TWOSTAR 2028

NOTICE OF RACE

PLYMOUTH TO NEWPORT RHODE ISLAND
SUNDAY 7th MAY 2028

The Royal Western Yacht Club of England Ltd – Queen Anne's Battery - Plymouth PL4 0TW

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OSTAR/ TWOSTAR 2028 NOTICE OF RACE

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 in the front of the RYA rule book (Racing Rules of Sailing), on the Club website, or at <https://www.rya.org.uk/racing/rules/racing-charter>

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:
- a. The World Sailing (WS) Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS), except in the rules modified in NOR 4.2.
<https://www.sailing.org/inside-world-sailing/rules-regulations/racing-rules-of-sailing/>
 - b. The in-date WS Offshore Special Regulations (OSR) Category 1 Regulations shall apply, except in the regulations modified in NOR 4.3.
<https://www.sailing.org/inside-world-sailing/rules-regulations/offshore-special-regulations/>
 - c. International Rules for the Prevention of Collisions at Sea Part B (Steering & Sailing) (COLREGS).
 - d. Class Rules as recognised by WS.
 - e. The RWYC NOR and any amendments.
 - f. The RWYC SI's.
- 4.2 The following RRS have been modified:
- a. 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
 - b. When a boat starts in accordance with item (b) of the definition **Start**, she shall not return to the pre-start side of the line, and the starting penalty shall be: **2 hours** added to her elapsed time. This changes Rules 29.1, 30, A5.1
 - c. Rule 41 (Outside Help) modified in NOR 14.
 - d. 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."
 - e. Rule 45 (Hauling Out, Making Fast, Anchoring) modified in NOR 14.
 - f. 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".
 - g. Rule 55.2 (Spinnaker Poles and Whisker Poles) shall not apply at any time.
 - h. Rule 61 (Protest Requirements) modified in the SI's.
 - i. Rule 62 (Redress) modified in the SI's.

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- 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 current 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 7th May 2028.
- 5.2 In order to qualify as a finisher, a boat shall finish not later than 2359 Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) on Thursday 22nd June 2028.
- 5.3 Key Dates

1 January 2024	Qualifying passage period starts	NOR 6.6
1 January 2028	Discounted Entry Fee period ends	NOR 7.6, 9.1, 9.2
17 March 2028	Entries close	NOR 7.1

2 April 2028	Qualifying passage period ends	NOR 6.6
2 April 2028	Submit IRC/MOCRA certificates	NOR 7.11/ 8
2 April 2028	Last date for Full Entry Fee payment	NOR 7.5
1 May 2028	Boats berthed in Plymouth	NOR 6.11
7 May 2028	1200 BST Race starts	NOR 5.1
22 June 2028	2359 EDT Race ends	NOR 5.2

- 5.4 Race Office: The Race Office will be open from 1000 to 1600 on Wednesday 3rd May to Saturday 6th May 2028.

6. ELIGIBILITY

- 6.1 The Skipper/ Co - 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 race is open to OPEN 60 class boats built before 2009.
- 6.3 The race is open to rated boats under IRC and MOCRA Ratings and unrated boats. Unrated boats shall satisfy the Race Committee that they meet the requirements of the stability index of OSR Category 1 regulations.
- 6.4 The OA reserves the right to exclude any boat that fails to meet the criteria in NOR 4.1, 4.3 and 4.4.
- 6.5 The Skipper/ Co – 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
- 6.6 A qualifying passage of not less than 500 miles shall be made before 2nd April 2028. The passage may have been undertaken at any time after 1st January 2024. 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/ Co - Skipper will sail in the race, with only the Skipper/ Co – 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 following races in the same boat, providing no significant modification has subsequently been made, satisfies the qualifying passage requirements.

OSTAR/ TWOSRAR 2024
AZAB 2025, 2027
SORC Round the Rock Race 2024, 2026
Battle of Gotland Race 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027
Newport Bermuda Race 2024, 2026
Plymouth Fastnet 500 race 2024, 2026
Round Iceland Race 2025
- 6.7 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.
- 6.8 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.
- 6.9 The Skipper/ Co – Skipper is reminded that previous sailing experience outlined in NOR 6.6 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/ Co - Skipper's experience is in fact adequate.
- 6.10 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.
- 6.11 All entered boats shall be berthed in MDL Marina, Queen Anne's Battery, Plymouth by 1800 1st May 2028.
- 6.12 Registration shall be completed by 1600 Friday 5th May 2028.

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 17th March 2028. The Booking Fee is not refundable except as in NOR 7.11.
- 7.2 Entries shall be limited to a total of 20 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.

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- 7.5 All Entry Fees shall be paid by 2nd April 2028.
- 7.6 A discounted Entry Fee (NOR 9) shall apply if all fees are paid by 1st January 2028.
- 7.7 Late entries may be accepted at the discretion of the OA
- 7.8 Competitor may display acknowledgements of assistance from suppliers, clubs or well-wishers.
- 7.9 The entry application shall include:
- A digital photograph of the Skipper/ co- Skipper for safety, security and publicity purposes (minimum of 1MB).
 - A digital photograph of the boat under sail for safety, security and publicity purposes (minimum of 1MB).
 - One hundred words in English each about the Skipper/ Co-Skipper and the boat which may be used in the race programme, website and for publicity purposes.
 - 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 17th March 2028.
 - Details of any non-compliance with OSR Category 1, and the proposed measures to provide equivalent safety (see NOR 4.4).
- 7.10 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.
- 7.11 Should the race be postponed to a later date or should the competitor(s) be unable to start the race due to reasonable restrictions, then a full refund of fees paid can be made.

8. CLASSES

- 8.1 Classes shall be determined by IRC/ MOCRA Ratings on 10th April 2024 or as 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 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 8th of April 2024.
- 8.3 There will be a separate 'non-rated' (unrated) class where entrants can compete for line honours elapsed time records based on LOA (length overall)
- 8.4 There will be a 'Classic' race where entrants shall be boats that competed in a race date of 2008 or before.

9. ENTRY FEES

- 9.1. OSTAR – 10% discount from full figure for early entry – MUST BE PAID BY JAN 1, 2028, or it is forfeited**

Length Overall	Booking Fee	Members entry Fee (Incl booking fee)	Full Entry Fee (Incl booking fee)
Under 30 feet	£750	£2,075	£2,295
Under 35 feet	£750	£2,200	£2,420
Under 40 feet	£750	£2,325	£2,545
Under 45 feet	£750	£2,450	£2,670
Under 50 feet	£750	£2,575	£2,795
Under 55 feet	£750	£2,700	£2,920
Under 60 feet	£750	£2,825	£3,045

- 9.2. TWOSTAR and CLASSIC 10% discount from full figure for early entry – MUST BE PAID BY JAN 1, 2028, or it is forfeited**

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Length Overall	Booking Fee	Members entry Fee (Incl booking fee)	Full Entry Fee (Incl booking fee)
Under 30 feet	£750	£2,275	£2,495
Under 35 feet	£750	£2,400	£2,620
Under 40 feet	£750	£2,525	£2,745
Under 45 feet	£750	£2,650	£2,870
Under 50 feet	£750	£2,775	£2,995
Under 55feet	£750	£2,900	£3,120
Under 60 feet	£750	£3,025	£3,245

10. ACCEPTANCE CERTIFICATES

10.1 Acceptance Certificates will be issued by 7th May 2028 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 plus any authorized exemptions (NoR 4.4)
- f. Current IRC / MOCRA / Class Certificate as appropriate
- g. List of sources of weather information (NoR 14.4)
- h. Satellite Communications contact number (Satcom/Iridium) and test call
- i. Approved Offshore Personal Survival Training Certificate
- j. National authority approved First Aid Certificate
- k. Life-raft Certificate
- l. EPIRB (406) Registration Certificate
- m. VHF Ship Radio Licence
- n. Evidence of Structural (Keel and Rudder) Inspection as specified in OSR 3.02, and Appendix L carried out by a qualified person.
- o. Coastguard Offshore Race Information Form (completed by OA)
- p. Customs Form C1331. Pleasure craft on non-EU voyages - leaving the UK
- q. USA visas - required by all Skippers and Co-Skippers who are not US nationals **B1B2 ONLY – ESTA WILL NOT BE PERMITTED**
- r. Tracker contract form
- s. Financial penalties if applicable

10.2 If an acceptance certificate is not issued in accordance with NOR 10.1 by 1800 Saturday 7th May 2028, 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 6.11 and 12.4.
- 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.

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- 12.4 All boats may be issued with Race Flags on arrival in Plymouth. These flags shall be flown at all times. 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.
- 13.4 SOCIAL MEDIA updates shall be supplied to the RWYC by all competitors on each day of their race by email to ostar@rwyg.org

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. Skippers will be required to list the sources of weather information they intend to use (NoR 10.1f). 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 Race Sponsors.
- 15.4 The Line Honours Skipper shall attend the Sponsor's Prize giving in Newport.
- 15.5 Prizes will be awarded at the RWYC later in 2028 – date TBA.
- 15.6 A prize shall be awarded to the person who provides the best social media content throughout the race

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:
- 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 omissions;
 - d) Their boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the event and they are fit to participate;

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- e) 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;
- f) The provision of patrol boat cover is limited to such assistance, particularly in extreme weather conditions, as can be practically provided in the circumstances;
- g) 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. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

- 17.1 Notwithstanding any other rule and condition, the OA, Race Committee and Race Sponsors, if applicable, jointly and severally are providing this Race on the understanding that they or their representatives bear no responsibility for any loss, damage, injury, or inconvenience to boats or persons howsoever arising directly or indirectly from their rules, policy, or rulings before or during the Race or related activities.
- 17.2 By participating in the Race each skipper/ Co - Shipper agrees to release the OA, Race Committee and Race Sponsors from and against all claims, damages, costs, torts, suits at law or in equity or otherwise, arising out of or in any way relating to the Race. This release shall be binding upon each entrant and their heirs, beneficiaries, representatives, and estates of each entrant.

18. APPLICABLE LAW

- 18.1 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.

19. MEDIA RIGHTS

- 19.1 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.

20. RACE CORRESPONDENCE

- 20.1 Event Websites:

[OSTAR](#)

[TWOSTAR](#)

- 20.2 Competitors correspondence email address: ostar@rwyg.org

- 20.3 Event Facebook pages

[OSTAR & TWOSTAR:](#)

[OSTAR & TWOSTAR 2022 COMPETITORS:](#)

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