



2022 ROLEX MIDDLE SEA RACE SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

ORGANISED BY THE ROYAL MALTA YACHT CLUB
IN COLLABORATION WITH THE ROYAL OCEAN RACING CLUB

SATURDAY 22 OCTOBER 2022

CONTACT DETAILS

Race Committee	Coastguard	Race Office Address
Callsign "Offshore One" <u>VHF Channel 72</u> Tel: +356 21342898 Email: racecontrol@rolexmiddlesearace.com	<u>At the Start & Finish:</u> "Malta Radio" VHF Channel 16 MMSI 002150100 +356 21 257267 <u>During the Race</u> "Italian Coastguard" or "Guardia Costiera" VHF Channel 16 Tel: 1530 (in Italy) or +39 06 5908 1 Email: cgcp@pec.mit.gov.it	Royal Malta Yacht Club Ta'Xbiex Seafront Ta'Xbiex XBX 1028, Malta

**BOATS RETIRING FROM THE RACE MUST
IMMEDIATELY NOTIFY THE RACE COMMITTEE.
FAILURE TO COMPLY MAY LEAD TO EXCLUSION FROM FUTURE RACES**

**THE ATTENTION OF EVERY COMPETITOR IS DRAWN TO SPECIAL REGULATION 1.02 AND TO THE IMPORTANCE OF
HAVING SUITABLE AND ADEQUATE PERSONAL INSURANCE**

**The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone.
(RRS Fundamental Rule 3)**

All times are local (CEST/UTC+2)

The notation '[DP]' in a rule in the SI means that the penalty for a breach of that rule may, at the discretion of the International Jury, be less than disqualification.

The notation '[NP]' in a rule in the SI means that a breach of this rule shall not be grounds for protest by a boat. This changes RRS 60.1(a).

The notation '[SP]' in a rule in the SI means that for a breach of this rule a standard penalty may be applied by the Race Committee without a hearing. This changes RRS 63.1, A4 and A5

1 RULES

- 1.1 The regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS).
- 1.2 No national authority prescriptions will apply.
- 1.3 RRS part 2 rules will be replaced with the right-of-way rules of the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (IRPCAS), or government right-of-way rules if applicable; at night*. A scoring penalty (RRS 44.3) will apply for infringements under the right-of-way rules of IRPCAS. See SI 22.1.
*For the purposes of the Rolex Middle Sea Race 2022, "night" is defined as the beginning of nautical twilight fixed at 19:00 and the end of nautical twilight fixed at 06:15 the next day, to prevent confusion with regional time variations each day.
- 1.4 [DP] World Sailing's Offshore Special Regulations Category 2 with RORC Prescriptions
- 1.5 [DP] IRC Rules A, B and C, MOCRA Rules, ORC Rating System Rules and other class rules as appropriate.
- 1.6 [SP] [DP] World Sailing Test Rule DR21-01 applies. The RRS definition of "Start" is changed as follows:
Start A boat starts when her hull having been entirely on the prestart side of the starting line, and having complied with rule 30.1 if it applies, any part of her hull crosses the starting line from the pre-start side to the course side either
 - (a) at or after her starting signal, or
 - (b) during the last 60 seconds before her starting signal.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 120 minutes added to her elapsed time.
RRS 29.1 does not apply. This changes RRS A5.
- 1.7 [SP] [DP] RRS Appendix TS (Traffic Separation Schemes Version 2, Jan 2021), Section A applies to the Messina Strait TSS. The penalty for infringing RRS Appendix TS Section A shall be a 10% time penalty added to the boat's elapsed time.
- 1.8 The Notice of Race (NoR)
- 1.9 The Sailing Instructions (SI). The SI shall take precedence over the NoR. This changes RRS 63.7.

2 [DP] EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS

- 2.1 A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the Rules.

3 NOTICES TO COMPETITORS & CHANGES TO THE SI

- 3.1 All notices to competitors will be posted on the Virtual Official Notice Board (ONB) on the event website at <https://rolexmiddlesearace.com/race/documents/> and may be replicated at the Royal Malta Yacht Club (RMYC).
- 3.2 Any changes to the Sailing Instructions will be posted no later than 21:30 on Friday 21 October.
- 3.3 [DP] Competitors are reminded of their responsibility to take account of Notice to Mariners and should be particularly aware of:
 - 3.3.1 Malta Local NTM:
<https://www.transport.gov.mt/Maritime/Local-waters/Official-Notices/Notices-to-Mariners-Local-Archive-3545>
 - 3.3.2 Malta Coastal NTM:
<https://www.transport.gov.mt/Maritime/Local-waters/Official-Notices/Notices-to-Mariners-Coastal-Archive-3544>
- 3.4 [DP] the possibility of existence of a maritime exclusion zone around Stromboli which would be posted on the Official Notice Board before the start of the race.

4 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 4.1 Signals ashore will be displayed on the mast of the Royal Malta Yacht Club.
- 4.2 When Flag 'AP' is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced by 'no less than 120 minutes' in RRS Race Signals 'AP'.

5 SKIPPER'S BRIEFING

- 5.1 The Skipper's Briefing will be held on Friday, 21 October at 18:00 at the Grand Hotel Excelsior, to be attended by no more than two crew members of each boat. The event may also be broadcast, in which case a link will be available on the ONB.

6 [DP] [NP] EVENT BACKSTAY AND BATTLE FLAGS

- 6.1 All competitors will be provided with an official Rolex backstay flag that shall be flown at least 1.5m above the deck while racing.
- 6.2 Rolex Battle Flags will be provided by the Organising Authority and shall be flown from the forestay while berthed in the Race Village.

7 [DP] AIS

- 7.1 All boats shall have their AIS transponder switched on, transmitting (at least every minute) and receiving from 09:50 on Saturday 22 October and throughout the race.
- 7.2 A boat's AIS must transmit; the boat's MMSI number and current racing name.
- 7.3 Nothing shall be done to inhibit AIS transmissions.
- 7.4 Boats unable to meet these requirements shall submit comprehensive details of the reason on their Declaration Form and may be subject to protest. **The penalty for breaking this rule is at the discretion of the International Jury and may include disqualification.**

8 [DP] YB TRACKERS

- 8.1 It is mandatory for all boats to carry a YB Tracker unit for the race. The tracking can be viewed on the Rolex Middle Sea Race website rolexmiddlesearace.com
- 8.2 Nothing shall be done to inhibit YB Tracker transmissions.
- 8.3 Trackers are required to be returned within three hours of finishing or as soon as possible after retiring.
- 8.4 Competitors not returning a tracker will be liable for the full cost – approximately € 800.00

9 [DP] [NP] COMMUNICATIONS

At the Start

- 9.1 **VHF Ch.72** - The Race Committee (Callsign "Offshore One") may broadcast information on VHF Ch.72 at the start. Boats are strongly recommended to **listen** to the Race Committee until well clear of the start. Start information such as sail numbers and/or boat names of boats having been OCS and subject to the penalty in SI 1.6 may be announced approximately one minute after each start.
A boat may, without infringing RRS41 (Outside Help), request and receive repetition of information broadcast by the Race Committee or enquire whether or not a broadcast has been made.

At the Finish

- 9.2 **VHF Ch.72** - The Race Committee (Callsign "Offshore One") may broadcast information on VHF Ch.72 at the finish. Boats are strongly recommended to **listen** to the Race Committee until clear of the finish area and respond if requested to aid identification.

At all Other Times

- 9.3 **VHF Ch.16** - Boats are reminded of their legal obligation to keep a continuous watch on VHF Ch.16 throughout the race.
- 9.4 Inter-boat communication calls should when possible be on DSC or VHF Ch.16 as a calling Channel and VHF Ch.72 as a working Channel.
- 9.5 Boats with communications in addition to VHF should act as a link, taking other boats' reports on VHF and passing them to the Race Committee or Coastguard when requested or called upon to do so.
- 9.6 **Onboard Mobile** – Boats are reminded to monitor their nominated onboard mobile phone. This may be needed by the Race Committee in an emergency situation.
- 9.7 **Satellite phone, if available:** Boats which have a Satellite phone are requested to keep it operable, and especially to check it for messages frequently. If the Race Committee is unable to reach a phone, it may send a message requesting contact with the boat.
- 9.8 Competitors are reminded of the restrictions on Outside Assistance as per the NoR 9.2/9.3.

10 [DP] [NP] STARTING GROUPS/CLASS FLAGS

- 10.1 No later than the Skipper's Briefing (SI 5.1), competing boats will be assigned to starting groups. The list of starting groups and the associated racing pennant/class flag will be published on the Official Notice Board. The racing pennants will be provided by the Organising Authority and shall be displayed ABOVE the Rolex backstay flag on the backstay, or on boats with twin backstays, on the PORT backstay or shroud.

11 STARTING TIMES AND SIGNALS

- 11.1 The race will be started by using RRS 26, with the warning signal being made 10 minutes before the starting signal.
- 11.2 The first warning signal will be displayed on Saturday, 22 October at 10:50. The warning signal for each succeeding class will be made with or after the starting signal of the preceding class.
- 11.3 A time check will be provided 10 minutes before the first warning signal.
- 11.4 A list of starting groups and their planned starting times and associated signals will be made available with the list of starting groups in SI 10.1.
- 11.5 The Race Committee reserves the right to amend starting times for classes when necessary due to weather conditions or safety concerns. Only the visual signals at the start line are binding and conclusive as per RRS 26.
- 11.6 International Code Flag "G" displayed on or before the warning signal means: Marks 1 and 2 of the Course (the inflatable marks) are not in place and Mark 3 – Island of Sicily – becomes the first mark of the course.
- 11.7 Competitors are reminded that World Sailing Test Rule DR21-01 applies. See SI 1.6.

12 STARTING LINE

- 12.1 The Starting Line is detailed in Appendix A00.

13 [DP] LATE AT THE START

- 13.1 If a boat has not previously come to the starting area at her preparatory signal and comes to the starting area under power (or being towed), they shall stop their engine (or drop their tow) and complete a Two-Turns penalty as specified in RRS 44.2 before starting.
- 13.2 No penalty will be imposed for an infringement of RRS 42 for complying with SI 13.1.

14 AREAS THAT ARE OBSTRUCTIONS

- 14.1 No area is designated an obstruction.

15 THE COURSE

- 15.1 The course is detailed in Appendix A00.

16 RETIREMENTS AND NON-STARTERS

- 16.1 Retirements and non-starters shall promptly inform the Race Committee (see page 1 for contact details). It is imperative that boats that are no longer competing can be excluded from any Search & Rescue operation. **Failure to comply with this rule may lead to exclusion from future races.**

17 [DP] USE OF ENGINE

- 17.1 When a boat uses its engine for propulsion, e.g., to avoid collision, in a grave emergency, or when instructed by governing authorities such as the coast guard, VTS or harbour master, the facts shall be reported on her Declaration Form.
- 17.2 Temporary discontinuance of racing: If a boat makes fast in order to take shelter or in an emergency, the crew may temporarily leave the boat to handle her moorings. If she uses her engine for propulsion she shall, on rejoining the race, return to the spot where she began to use her engine, turn off her engine and continue to race from that spot. She shall report the circumstances on her Declaration Form. This changes RRS 45 and 48.2.
- 17.3 A boat that is secured in harbour may receive any assistance to effect repairs or take on any supplies or equipment. This changes RRS 41 and 48.1.

18 MECHANICAL POWER

- 18.1 The use of an Autopilot is permitted. This changes RRS 52.
- 18.2 [DP] The use of powered winches is permitted according to the rules in the applicable rating system.

19 TIME LIMIT

- 19.1 There is no time limit for the race.

20 THE FINISH

- 20.1 The Finish is detailed in Appendix A.

21 RACE FINISH DECLARATIONS AND RETURN OF YB TRACKER

- 21.1 After finishing, boats shall complete and submit a Declaration Form to the Race Committee, and return the YB Tracker, as soon as possible. Every member of the crew shall sign the Declaration Form. Failure to comply with this rule may result in the boat being excluded from the results.
- 21.2 When a boat retires from the race, she shall write the reasons on her Declaration Form.
- 21.3 When, after finishing the race, a boat cannot promptly deliver the Declaration Form, she shall without delay telephone the Race Committee to confirm that she has finished racing and give her time of finishing.

22 PENALTY SYSTEM

- 22.1 Scoring Penalty:
 - 22.1.1 When the right-of-way rules of IRCAS or government right-of-way rules apply (as defined in SI 1.3), a time penalty applies.
 - 22.1.2 A boat takes a time penalty by displaying a yellow flag at the first reasonable opportunity after the incident. She shall include full details of the penalty on her declaration form. Her penalty will be ten minutes added to her elapsed time for each penalty. This changes RRS 44.3(c).
- 22.2 Standard Penalties, marked [SP], shall be applied by the Race Committee as detailed in the individual rule without a hearing. This changes RRS 63.1, A4 and A5.
 - 22.2.1 Should the Race Committee consider a standard penalty to be inappropriate, it may protest the boat.
- 22.3 For Rules marked [DP], the penalty shall be at the discretion of the International Jury.
- 22.4 Breaches of SI marked [NP] shall not be grounds for protest by a boat. This changes RRS 60.1a.
- 22.5 Other Penalties
 - 22.5.1 When the International Jury decides that a boat that is party to a protest hearing has broken a rule other than RRS Part 1 and 2 and that no serious damage or injury was caused and no significant advantage has been gained, it may apply a time penalty of 10%. Should the International Jury decide that the breach was minor and unintentional it may at its discretion apply a different penalty.

23 PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

- 23.1 Protests may be written on plain paper or in an electronic message to jury@rolexmiddlesearace.com, but Protest Forms are available at the Race Office. Protests and requests for redress or reopening shall be delivered there within the appropriate time limit.
- 23.2 The protest time limit is 3 hours after the protesting boat finishes, unless she finished between 19:00 and 07:00 in which case the time limit is 11:00.
- 23.3 Notices will be posted no later than 30 minutes after the protest time limit for the last boat to finish the race.
- 23.4 The notification of a Protest by the Race or Technical Committee or by the International Jury against a boat as required under RRS 61.1(b) or (c) shall consist of a notice on the Official Notice Board.
- 23.5 Hearings will normally be held in the jury room at the RMYC. The International Jury may make other arrangements.
- 23.6 An International Jury has been appointed. Decisions made by the International Jury will not be subject to appeal under RRS 70.5.

24 SCORING

- 24.1 The Scoring System as defined in Notice of Race 13, will apply.
- 24.2 Scores within starting groups shall be calculated using the time at the applicable Finish Line of SI A3.1 or A3.2. Should the Safe Water Finish of SI A3.2 be in force for any starting group, overall results shall be calculated using the finish times at the Safe Water Finish Line for all classes.
- 24.3 The scoring abbreviation for a Standard Penalty is "SP". The Race Committee will publish a list of Standard Penalties applied on the ONB.

25 TROPHIES AND PRIZES

- 25.1 Trophies and Prizes are detailed in the Notice of Race 14.

26 RISK STATEMENT

- 26.1 Competitor's attention is drawn to the Disclaimer and Media Release & Image Rights Waiver in the Notice of Race 18 and 19. Additionally, competitors are reminded of Rule 3 of the Racing Rules of Sailing which states: "The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone."
- 26.2 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.

27 PRIZEGIVING

- 27.1 The Rolex Middle Sea Race Prizegiving will take place in the Mediterranean Conference Centre on Saturday 29 October from 12:00.

APPENDIX A THE COURSE

A1 STARTING LINE

- A1.1 The Start will be in the Grand Harbour. The starting line is formed between a mast displaying a Rolex Battle Flag at the Saluting Battery (below the Upper Barrakka) on the port end; and an inflatable buoy bearing the Rolex logo laid off Birgu/Fort Angelo on the starboard end.
- A1.2 An inner distance mark (inflatable buoy) may be laid below the Saluting Battery off the Valletta Quayside which shall be left to port.
- A1.3 [NP] [DP] Boats, whose warning signal has not yet been displayed, shall proceed to and thereafter remain South-West of a line between the Red Fairway Buoy [Q(3)R. 5s] near L-Isla to the East (35° 53'.46N 014° 30'.85E) and the Sir Paul Boffa Hospital [marked "Hospital" on charts (35° 53'.58N 014° 30'.56E)] to the West, unless they are proceeding for the first time from the course side to the pre-start side of the starting line. Care should be taken whilst manoeuvring to the pre-start side during a preceding group's start sequence, where boats may still be liable to infringe RRS 23.1.

A2 THE COURSE

- A2.1 The course, including a description of the marks, the order in which marks are to be passed, and the side on which each mark is to be left, is detailed below:

Order	Mark	Required Side	Position (WGS84) [#]	
			Latitude	Longitude
1 *	Mark 1 (inflatable mark bearing the Rolex Logo), off the Outer Breakwater *	Port	35° 54'.16N	014° 31'.54E
2 *	Mark 2 (inflatable mark bearing the Rolex Logo), off St. Julians *	Starboard	35° 55'.65N	014° 30'.07E
3	Island of Sicily (for Messina Strait, see A2.2)	Port		
4	Aeolian Islands including Strombolicchio, Stromboli, Panarea, Salina, Lipari, Vulcano, Filicudi and Alicudi	Port		
5	Levanzo and Favignana	Port		
6	Marettimo	Starboard		
7	Pantelleria	Port		
8	Lampedusa	Port		
9	Islands of Gozo and Comino (South Comino Channel)	Port		
10	Valletta Harbour Fairway Buoy	Starboard	35° 54'.75N	014° 32'.51E
	Finish (see SI A3 below)			

Distance: approximately 606nm

[#] The position of marks is approximate.

* If IC Flag G is displayed at or before the warning signal, Marks 1 and 2 are not in place and Mark 3 – Island of Sicily – becomes the first mark of the course. (See SI 11.6)

Note: Additional inflatable marks bearing the Rolex Logo may be laid in in the Grand Harbour, inside Rinella Bay/Il-Bajja Ta' Bighi for promotional purposes, with the approximate positions of 35° 53'.82N 014° 31'.37E and 35° 53'.67N 014° 31'.25E. They are not part of the course and are well clear of the approximate positions of the marks of the course.

- A2.2 For the Messina Strait TSS, RRS Appendix TS, Section A applies. Additionally, competitors shall ensure
- to maintain a continuous listening watch on VHF Channel 16.
Messina VTS is available on Channels 16, 13 and 10.
 - to transit within the Northbound Lane as far as practicable
 - to comply with instructions given by Messina VTS, if they deem it necessary to agree a safe manoeuvre. See SI 17.1 regarding the use of engine power.

A3 THE FINISH

- A3.1 Unless the Safe Water finish is in use per SI A3.2 below, the finish line runs between two masts, displaying a Rolex Battle Flag. The northern mast is set up on Tigné Point in an approx. position of 35° 54' .37N 014° 30' .80E. The southern mast is set up on the corner of Valletta Bastions in an approx. position of 35° 54' .14N 014° 30' .81E.
- A3.2 Under certain circumstances defined in SI A3.3 below, when International Code (IC) Flag "F" is displayed at Fort Tigne, a Safe Water Finish is in force. When IC Flag "F" is displayed over one or more starting group flag(s), the Safe Water Finish shall apply to that or those starting group(s) only. The Safe Water Finish Line extends for 0.5 nm from the Valletta Harbour Fairway Buoy on a bearing of 087° true, the Fairway Buoy shall be left to Starboard.
- A3.3 The Race Committee shall signal the Safe Water Finish defined in SI A3.2, if it deems finishing inside Marsamxett Harbour manifestly unsafe or unfair, e.g., in foul or severe weather or if the harbour is reported closed by the Harbour Master; or if it monitors a potential threat to the finish line potentially becoming unsafe or unfair, e.g., due to a forecast of foul or severe weather. The Race Committee shall attempt to signal the Safe Water Finish before the first boat of a starting group finishes the race.
- A3.4 At night boats are required to shine a light onto their sail numbers to help with identification.
- A3.5 All boats shall listen to "Offshore One" on **VHF Ch.72** from approximately 5 miles out.
- A3.6 "Offshore One" may ask a boat to assist with identification when finishing, especially at night.
- A3.7 **All boats are reminded to take their own finishing times, both when they pass a true bearing of 087° from, or 267° to, the Valletta Fairway Buoy and when passing the Finish line inside Marsamxett Harbour, together with the names of the boats ahead and astern, if any. Finishing times shall be written on the Declaration Form and delivered to the Race Committee as soon as possible after finishing. See Page 1 for Contact Details.**