

ROLEX MIDDLE SEA RACE 2020



41st Edition - October 2020

Royal Malta Yacht Club

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Coastal Race

1. Rules

- 1.1 The Rolex Middle Sea Race Coastal Race 2020, is organised by the Royal Malta Yacht Club, hereinafter referred to as the Organising Authority, and will be governed by the Notice of Race, by these Sailing Instructions including any appendices and amendments thereto, and except as they may be changed by these Sailing Instructions, by the following rules:
 - 1.1.1 The Rules as defined in the WS Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) 2017 – 2020.
 - 1.1.2 The WS Offshore Special Regulations 2020 - 2021 for Category 4 Races.
 - 1.1.3 IRC Rules and Regulations 2020, parts A, B and C.
 - 1.1.4 Between the official times for sunset and sunrise, which for this event are defined as Sunset 18:00 hrs and Sunrise 07:40 hrs, the Rules of Part 2 of the Racing Rules are replaced by the right of way rules of the International Regulations for the Prevention of Collisions at Sea (IRPCAS).
 - 1.1.5 In the event of conflict, the Sailing Instructions and any amendments thereto shall prevail.
 - 1.1.6 English shall be the official language used throughout the race. If there is a conflict between languages the English text will prevail.

2 ADVERTISING

- 2.1 Competitors are required to display advertising for the event sponsor in accordance with WS Regulation 20.4.1.1. Supplied Pennants and Flags include. the Rolex pennant to be flown beneath the Start Group pennant from the backstay, during the race and a Rolex battle flag is to be displayed on the forestay while berthed.

3 ENTRIES

- 3.1 IRC rated boats shall complete their registration with the Organising Authority and submit all documentation required.
- 3.2 Boats already entered in the Rolex Middle Sea Race 2020, are automatically eligible to race and need only submit an entry form for the Rolex Middle Sea Race Coastal Race 2020
- 3.3 Boats competing only in the Rolex Middle Sea Race Coastal Race 2020 must submit the following with their entry form:
 - 3.3.1 Their current measurement and rating certificates.
 - 3.3.2 Disclaimer of Liability and waiver on Photographic and media rights signed by the Person in Charge and all individual crew members, together with a crew list.

4 SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

- 4.1 Boats having a current and valid IRC rating certificate and a SSS Base Value of 10 or higher may enter the Coastal Races.
- 4.2 Participating boats shall fully satisfy the requirements of the WS Offshore Special Regulations 2020-2021 for category 4 races.

5 CLASSES

- 5.1 Participating boats shall be divided into classes as follows:
 - IRC Class 1 - TCC greater than 1.400
 - IRC Class 2 – TCC from 1.276 to 1.400
 - IRC Class 3 – TCC from 1.176 to 1.275
 - IRC Class 4 – TCC from 1.101 to 1.175
 - IRC Class 5 – TCC from 1.051 to 1.100
 - IRC Class 6 – TCC less than 1.051
- 5.2 The formation of any of the above classes is subject to a minimum of four entries. However, should there be less than four entries in a particular class, the Organizing Authority reserves the right to amalgamate the entries in another class or, at the discretion of the Organising Authority, a division may be formed with less than four entries.
- 5.3 Final information on the division of classes will be made available upon the completion of the registration of entries. Should the rating bands for the division of the fleet into classes given in 5.1 above prove to be manifestly unsuitable to the composition of the fleet of entries, the Race Committee may adjust these bands as it deems appropriate.
- 5.4 The Organising Authority reserves the right to accept entries or classes that are not listed above.

6 NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

- 6.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the virtual Official Notice Board (ONB) <https://rolexmiddlesearace.com/race/documents> and will be replicated at the Royal Malta Yacht Club. In the event of a conflict the virtual ONB will prevail.

7 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 7.1 Any changes to the Sailing Instructions will be posted not later than two (2) hours before the scheduled start of the race.

8 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 8.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed on the mast at the Royal Malta Yacht Club up to 120 minutes before the start, and after that they will be displayed on a mast set up on the Tigne' point at approximately 35° 54.37' N, 014° 30.80' E.

9 SCHEDULE

- 9.1 A briefing will be held virtually, on Tuesday 13th October at 18:00 hrs.
- 9.2 The Race will be held on Wednesday 14th October. There will be a sequence of starts with the warning signal for the first start scheduled to be given at 09:50hrs. A time check will be given over VHF channel 72 at 09:40 hrs.
- 9.3 All times shown in the sailing instructions are local (CET).

10 RACING AREA

- 10.1 The racing area will be the waters around the Islands of Malta and Gozo.

11 THE COURSES

- 11.1 The course to be sailed in the race shall be one of the following courses. The number of the course to be sailed shall be given over VHF Channel 72 after the time check at 09:40hrs

11.1.1 **Course 1** - From the start in Marsamxett Harbour, sail up to the Valletta Harbour Fairway Buoy leaving it to Starboard, then sail to the Outer Munxar East Cardinal Buoy and the Benghisa East Cardinal Buoy leaving them to Starboard, to the Island of Filfla leaving it to Port and then back to the Benghisa East Cardinal Buoy and the Outer Munxar East Cardinal Buoy and the Valletta Harbour Fairway Buoy leaving them to Port and to the finish on the same line as the start in the opposite direction. (Course length Approx. 37nm).

11.1.2 **Course 2** - From the start in Marsamxett Harbour, sail up to the Valletta Harbour Fairway Buoy leaving it to Port, then sail to and around the Island of Comino, leaving it to Port and the Islands of Gozo and Malta to Starboard, then back to the Valletta Harbour Fairway Buoy, leaving it to Starboard and on to the same line as the start in the opposite direction. When rounding Comino, the Comino West Cardinal Buoy is to be left to Port (Course length Approx. 30nm).

11.1.3 **Course 3** - From the start in Marsamxett Harbour, sail up to the Valletta Harbour Fairway Buoy leaving it to Starboard, then sail to the Outer Munxar Cardinal Buoy leaving it to Starboard, Rounding the Benghisa East Cardinal Buoy to Starboard then back to the Outer Munxar Cardinal Buoy and the Valletta Harbour Fairway Buoy leaving them to Port and to the Finish on the same line as the start in the opposite direction. (Approx. 21nm)

12 MARKS

- 12.1 The positions of the navigational buoys included in the courses are the following:

- 12.1.1 Valletta Harbour Safe water Buoy - 35Deg.54.713'N; 014Deg.32.517'E.
- 12.1.2 Outer Munxar East Cardinal Buoy - 35Deg.51.092'N; 014Deg.35.949'E.
- 12.1.3 Benghjsa East Cardinal Buoy - 35Deg.48.052'N; 014Deg.33.537'E.
- 12.1.4 Comino West Cardinal Mark - 36Deg.00.974'N; 014Deg.18.927'E.

13 THE START

- 13.1 The start will be just inside the entrance to Marsamxett Harbour across a line from a Mast, displaying a Rolex flag on Tigne' point at approximately 35°54.37'N 014°30.80'E. to a mast, displaying a Rolex flag, on the corner of the Valletta bastions, at approximately 35°54.14'N, 014°30.81'E.
- 13.2 The race will be started using Rule 26 with the warning signal given 10 minutes before the starting signal. Times will be taken from visual signals and the absence of a sound signal shall not be grounds for redress.

Signal	Flag & Sound	Minutes to Start
Warning	Group Flag (Colour) displayed with 1 sound	10
Preparatory	Code Flag 'P' Displayed with 1 sound	4
1 minute	Code Flag 'P' removed with 1 long sound	1
Starting	Group Flag removed with 1 sound	0

- 13.3 The warning signal for each succeeding starting group shall be made with or after the starting signal of the preceding group.
- 13.4 The division of the fleet into starting groups will be:-

Start Group	IRC Class	Class Colour	Scheduled First Warning
1	6	Blue	09:50
2	5	Yellow	10:00
3	4	White	10:10
4	3	Orange	10:20
5	2	Pink	10:30
6	1	Purple	10:40

- 13.5 If in the opinion of the Race Committee the conditions are such that it is manifestly unsafe for any of the boats entered to race, International Code Flag "D" will be displayed at the mast at the Royal Malta Yacht Club at 08.00hrs. International Code Flag "D" means, "The start is delayed indefinitely. Boats are to remain on their moorings." The warning signal will be made 120 minutes after Code Flag "D" is lowered.

14 RECALLS

- 14.1 Boats on the course side of the start line at their starting signal, will be recalled in accordance with RRS 29.2, in addition, the Race Committee may attempt to signal these boats' sail numbers on VHF CH.72. Failure to transmit and/or receive will not be grounds for redress.
- 14.2 When, having been entirely on the pre-start side of the starting line at or before her warning signal, a boat is on the course side of the starting line at her starting signal and she fails to start correctly, she will be given a 30% scoring penalty calculated in accordance with RRS 44.3(c). *This changes RRS 28.1, A4.2 and A5.*

15 THE FINISH

- 15.1** The Finish will be just inside the entrance to Marsamxett Harbour across a line between a mast, displaying a Rolex flag on Tigne' point at approximately 35° 54.37' N, 014° 30.80' E. to a Mast, displaying a Rolex flag set up on the corner of the Valletta bastions, at approximately 35° 54.14' N, 014° 30.81' E

16 TIME LIMIT

- 16.1** The Time Limit for the race shall be 17:30 hrs. for all boats. This changes RRS 35.

17 RULE INFRINGEMENTS AND PENALTIES

- 17.1** The International Jury may impose any penalty it deems fit for an infringement of any instruction or rule which forms part of these Sailing Instructions. For an infringement of any rule of the RRS including a rule of part 2 the International Jury may apply a scoring or time penalty instead of disqualification, as it considers appropriate. This changes RRS 64.

18 PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

Due to COVID-19 the jury will be remote from the RMYC this year. Protests and requests for redress will be managed electronically, and hearings will be held by video conference, with parties and witnesses using their own devices where possible (tablets or laptops preferred to phones due to screen size).

There will be a Jury Secretary at the RMYC, Claudia Villani, who will facilitate the process at the club, be the point contact for boats, and be available for help. Claudia can be contacted on claudia@myc.org or +356 21 333109. The video conference system to be used is Zoom, which can be downloaded at <https://zoom.us/>.

- 18.1** Boats intending to protest are to inform the Race Committee by calling 'Spinnaker' on VHF CH.72 or by phone on mobile +356 79028442 immediately after finishing.
- 18.2** Protests and requests for redress shall be submitted by email to the Jury Secretary (*this changes RRS 61.3 and 62.2*) within the appropriate time limit.
- 18.3** The protest time limit is one hour after a boat finishes or retires, unless the boat finishes or retires.
- 18.4** Notices will be posted, on virtual Official Notice Board (ONB) where a link to <https://jurydecisions.herokuapp.com> is found, after the protest time limit, to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses. For incidents in the racing area, they will be posted after the protest time limit for the last party to the hearing to finish.

19 RETIREMENT

- 19.1** Boats retiring from a race are to report their retirement and intentions thereafter, to Race Control by calling Race Control on VHF channel 72 or by mobile phone. Once a boat has retired and reported this retirement, she may not thereafter resume racing, and she will be recorded as DNF.

20 SCORING

- 20.1 The Low Point Scoring System of RRS Appendix A shall apply. Overall results will be produced as well as class results with each class scored separately.
- 20.2 Boats shall be scored on corrected time using the TCC.

21 COMMUNICATIONS

- 21.1 Boats are to advise 'Spinnaker' on VHF channel 72 when about to round the Valletta Harbour Fairway Buoy before the finish in Marsamxett Harbour.
- 21.2 A boat may receive help from an outside source 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. This changes RRS Rule 41.c

22 MECHANICAL POWER

- 22.1 In this race the use of an autopilot and power winches is permitted. This changes RRS 52.
- 23 Only those boats whose rating certificates have been computed taking into consideration movable ballast are allowed to move this and only this ballast. This changes RRS 51

24 SAIL LIMITATIONS

- 24.1 Boats may not carry sails that they are not rated for and not allowed to use while racing. In particular, a spare mainsail may not be carried and boats rated with a single furling headsail and a storm jib with or without a heavy weather jib may not carry any other headsail. *This changes IRC Rule 21.1.5 and 21.8.4*

25 CREW

- 25.1 There shall be no limit on crew weight. This changes IRC rule 22.4.2.

26 INTERNATIONAL JURY

- 26.1 An International Jury will be appointed according to WS RRS Appendix N. The decisions of the Jury are final and not subject to appeal.

27 PRIZES

- 27.1 Prizes will be awarded to first, second and third prizes in each class where the number of entries is five or more boats and first and second prizes where there are only four boats in a class.
- 27.2 The Malta Rolex Cup Trophy will be awarded to the overall winner on corrected time. The Royal Malta Yacht Club will retain possession of this trophy and the winning skipper will be awarded a keepsake.

28 RESPONSIBILITY

- 28.1** Boat racing can be dangerous. All those taking part in the race do so at their own risk and responsibility. The Royal Malta Yacht Club and their representatives, and any other party involved with the organization of the Rolex Middle Sea Race disclaim any and all responsibility whatsoever for loss, damage, injury or inconvenience that might occur to persons and goods, both ashore and at sea as a consequence of participation in the event. The attention of owners and Persons in Charge is drawn to RRS Fundamental Rule 4: "A Decision to Race. "The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone" and WS Offshore Special Regulation 1.02(a) which " The safety of a boat and her crew is the sole and inescapable responsibility of the person in charge....." in addition to the Owner's Responsibility and "Waiver of Liability" as stated on the entry form.
- 28.2** The owner, Person in Charge and crew will be held jointly responsible for the conduct of the boat's crew before, during and after a race. Misconduct may result in both owner and crew being excluded from future races and renders a boat liable to disqualification.
- 28.3** No boat will be accepted as an entry unless its owner or his/her representative has before the start of the race signed a declaration in the terms set out in the entry form.
- 28.4** The attention of crew members is drawn to RRS 1.2 life-saving equipment...."Each competitor is individually responsible for wearing personal buoyancy adequate for the conditions".
- 28.5** Each boat shall exercise her responsibility under RRS Fundamental Rule 4 and decide whether or not to start or to continue to race.
- 28.6** As part of the registration process, each owner, skipper and individual participating crewmember will be required to sign a declaration accepting the following disclaimer of liability:

I agree to be bound by World Sailing Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) 2017-2020, by the Sailing Instructions, the Notice of Race and all other rules and regulations referred to in these documents. I agree that the sole and inescapable responsibility for the nautical qualities of any yacht participating in the Rolex Middle Sea Race Coastal Race 2020, her rigging, the safety equipment on board and the competence, behavior and dress of her crew is that of the Owner/Charterer of the yacht.

I also agree to take any and all responsibility for all damages whatsoever caused to third persons or their belongings, to myself or to my belongings, ashore and at sea as a consequence of my participation in the regatta, and hereby relieve from any responsibility, and agree to indemnify on a full indemnity basis and hold harmless, the ROYAL MALTA YACHT CLUB, their servants, agents and sponsors (in particular but not only ROLEX S.A. and affiliated companies) and their representatives in respect of any claim arising therefrom.

I am acquainted with RRS Part 1 Fundamental Rule 4: Decision to Race. "The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone".

In any case, I agree that the ROYAL MALTA YACHT CLUB, their servants, agents and sponsors (in particular but not only ROLEX S.A. and affiliated companies) and their representatives 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.

29 PHOTOGRAPHS AND TV RIGHTS

29.1 Competitors give absolute right and permission for any photograph and video footage taken of themselves or the yacht they are sailing during the event, to be published in any media whatsoever, for either editorial or advertising purposes or to be used in press information.

29.2 As part of the registration process, each owner, skipper and individual participating crewmember will be required to sign a declaration accepting the following media release and waiver of rights:

Competitors and crew members on the competing yachts grant, at no cost, the ROYAL MALTA YACHT CLUB, ROLEX S.A. and affiliated companies the absolute right and permission to use their name, voice, image, likeness, biographical material as well as representations of the boats in any media (being television, print and internet media), including video footage, for the sole purposes of advertising, promoting, reporting and disseminating information regarding the ROLEX MIDDLE SEA RACE COASTAL RACES ("the race") and the competitors and crew members' participation in the race.

Competitors and crew members on the competing yachts also grant, at no cost, ROLEX S.A. and affiliated companies, the absolute right and permission to use their name, image, likeness, biographical material as well as representations of the boats in magazines edited by ROLEX S.A.

29.3 Competitors and crew members' name, voice, image, likeness and biographical material shall not be used by ROLEX S.A. and affiliated companies in a way which constitutes an endorsement of ROLEX's products by said Competitors and crew members, unless the relevant competitor or crew member is engaged by ROLEX S.A. or affiliated companies to endorse ROLEX's products or gives his/her prior written consent to such use.

30 INSURANCE

30.1 Each participating boat shall be insured with adequate valid third-party liability and wreck recovery insurance valid while racing.