



SAILING INSTRUCTIONS



The 42nd Edition of the Rolex Middle Sea Race is organised by the Royal Malta Yacht Club with the support of the Royal Ocean Racing Club and under the auspices of the Maltese and Italian Sailing Federations. The Organising Authority referred to in these Sailing Instructions is the Royal Malta Yacht Club.

1 GENERAL

- 1.1 Boats shall be built to a standard that complies with the requirements of Section 3 of the WS Offshore Special Regulations 2020-2021.
- 1.2 In the event of any conflict between the Notice of Race and the Sailing Instructions, the Sailing Instructions and any amendments thereto shall prevail. *This changes RRS 63.7*
- 1.3 English will be the official language used throughout the race. If there is a conflict between languages the English text will prevail.

2 NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

- 2.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the Virtual Official Notice Board (ONB) located at <https://rolexmiddlesearace.com/race/documents> and will be replicated at the Royal Malta Yacht Club (RMYC).

3 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 3.1 Any changes to the Sailing Instructions (SI) will be posted not later than 2130hrs. on Friday 22nd October, 2021.

4 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 4.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed on the mast at the Royal Malta Yacht Club up to 120 minutes before the warning signal of the first start and after that they will be displayed on a mast at the Upper Barrakka Saluting Battery, Valletta.

5 SCHEDULE

- 5.1 A technical and meteorological briefing will be held on Friday 22nd October 2021 at 1800hrs to be attended by two crew members from each participating boat. A weather forecast covering the race area and period will be prepared and presented. This may be broadcast via a live video link, as communicated to all participants.
- 5.2 The first start of the race is scheduled for Saturday 23rd October at 1100hrs. A time check will be given over VHF channel 72 at 1040hrs. There will be a sequence of starts with the warning signal for the first start scheduled to be given at 1050hrs. All times shown in the Sailing Instructions are local (UTC +2).



6 RACING PENNANTS

- 6.1 Competing boats shall display the appropriate class pennant provided by the Organising Authority according to their starting group, **ABOVE** the Rolex flag, on the backstay, or on the **PORT** backstay, in the case of twin backstays.

7 RACING AREA

- 7.1 The racing area will be the waters of the Central Mediterranean extending from the island of Malta, around the island of Sicily, the Aeolian Islands, the Egadi Islands, and the islands Pantelleria and Lampedusa.

8 THE COURSE

- 8.1 From the Start line laid in Grand Harbour between a mast, displaying a Rolex flag, at the Saluting Battery below the Upper Barrakka in Valletta and an outer distance inflatable buoy (ODM) laid off Fort St. Angelo at the Starboard end. There may be an inner distance inflatable buoy laid off the Valletta quayside which is to be left to Port at the start.

- To an inflatable Rolex buoy (Mark 1) laid off the outer breakwater end at approximate position 35° 54.16' N, 14° 31.54' E, leaving it to Port,
- To an inflatable Rolex buoy (Mark 2) laid off St. Julians, at approximate position 35° 55.65' N, 14° 30.07' E, leaving it to Starboard,
- The island of Sicily, leaving it to Port,
- The Aeolian Islands, including Strombolicchio, Stromboli, Panarea, Salina, Lipari, Vulcano, Filicudi, and Alicudi, all being left to Port,
- Levanzo and Favignana being left to Port,
- Marettimo being left to Starboard,
- Pantelleria being left to Port,
- Lampedusa being left to Port,
- to the South Comino Channel, keeping Malta to starboard and the Islands of Gozo and Comino to Port,
- to the Valletta Harbour fairway buoy at approximate position 35° 54.75' N, 14° 32.51' E, leaving it to Starboard and on to the finish line just inside the entrance to Marsamxett Harbour.

- 8.2 Attention is drawn to the following restricted areas to be complied with -

8.2.1 The Messina Traffic Separation Scheme. *See Appendix 2.*

8.2.2 The Stromboli exclusion zone. *See Appendix 3.*

- 8.3 The length of the course is approximately 606 nautical miles.

- 8.4 Other Rolex buoys may be laid in Grand and Marsamxett Harbours for promotional purposes. They are not part of the course.

9 MARKS

- 9.1 The ODM at the Start line & Marks 1 and 2 will be inflatable marks bearing the ROLEX logo.

- 9.2 The positions of the marks given in SI 8.1 are approximate. Any variation from these positions will not be grounds for redress. ***This changes RRS 62.1(a)***



10 THE START

- 10.1** The Start will be in Grand Harbour, between a mast, displaying a Rolex battle flag, at the Saluting Battery below the Upper Barrakka in Valletta and the course side of an outer distance inflatable buoy laid off Fort St. Angelo to be left to Starboard. There will be an inner distance inflatable buoy laid off the Valletta quayside which is to be left to Port.
- 10.2** The Race will be started using RRS 26 with the warning signal given 10 minutes before the starting signal. Times shall be taken from the visual signals and the absence of a sound signal shall be disregarded.

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

- 10.3** The fleet will be divided into a number of starting groups depending on entries. The warning signal for each succeeding starting group will be made with the starting signal of the preceding group.
- 10.4** Starting groups will be according to Class. The Multihull class will start first, followed by Monohull Classes 6 to 1 in descending order. Racing pennants will be given to each Entrant in the colour of its starting group.
- 10.5** 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 0900hrs. International Code Flag "D" means, "All starts are delayed indefinitely. Boats are to remain on their moorings." The first warning signal will be made 120 minutes after Code Flag "D" is lowered.
- 10.6** World Sailing Test Rule DR21-01 is applied so the Definition of **Start** is changed.

Start A boat *starts* when her hull having been entirely on the pre-start 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 her starting penalty shall be the addition of 120 minutes to her elapsed time. RRS 29.1 Will not apply and RRS A5.1 is changed.

11 THE FINISH

- 11.1** The Finish will be just inside the entrance to Marsamxett Harbour across a line between a mast, displaying a Rolex battle flag, set up on the corner of the Valletta bastions, at approximately 35° 54.14' N, 014° 30.81' E to a Mast, displaying a Rolex battle flag, on Tigné Point at approximately 35° 54.37' N, 014° 30.80' E.
- 11.2** Boats approaching the finish line are to identify themselves by calling 'Spinnaker' on VHF Channel 72 on rounding the Valletta Harbour fairway buoy. In darkness they are to illuminate their sail numbers. Note that **no sound signal** indicating a finish will be made between 2300hrs and 0600hrs. Communication will be made over the VHF Channel 72.



- 11.3** In the event that severe weather conditions prevent boats from entering Marsamxett Harbour to finish, the Race Committee reserves the right to have all boats finish by crossing an alternative finish line in the South Comino Channel formed by the following coordinates: -
- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Cirkewwa Point | 35° 59.50' N | 14° 19.80' E |
| Comino Island Point | 36° 00.30' N | 14° 19.50' E |
- If the alternative finish line is being used, the Race Committee will make every effort to advise boats by VHF Channel 72 or other means, such as SMS to the registered mobile phone.

- 11.4** **Whether the alternative finish line is being used or not, boats are required to record their own time when crossing the line described in SI 17.3 and to report this time on their post-race declaration.** A boat that fails to include this time in its declaration may not seek redress if the Race Committee fails to take this time or to identify the boat in the conditions that the alternative finish line is used. ***This changes RRS 60.1(b)***

12 TIME LIMIT

- 12.1** The Time Limit for all boats will be Friday 29th October 2021 at 1800hrs. No further finishers will be recorded after this time. ***This changes RRS 35 and A5.***

13 RULE INFRINGEMENTS AND PENALTIES

- 13.1** The penalty for breaking a rule, including a rule of Parts 1 and 2 of the RRS, is at the discretion of the International Jury. Decisions of the International Jury will be final as provided in RRS 70.5.
- 13.2** Where the International Jury awards a percentage scoring penalty, this shall be computed in accordance with RRS 44.3.(c).
- 13.3** A boat infringing in more than one incident will receive a separate penalty for each incident.
- 13.4** Places will be determined after the imposition of penalties or the granting of redress. Boats will be advanced to fill preceding places vacated by penalised boats. If two or more boats share the same placing after the application of penalties, the boat with the least or no penalties will be placed above boats with greater penalties. ***This changes RRS 44.3 & RRS A7.***
- 13.5** A boat that intends to take a One-turn or Two-turns penalty in accordance with RRS 44.1 due to an incident before rounding Mark 1, may delay taking the penalty until after she has rounded Mark 1. She shall then take the penalty in accordance with RRS 44.2. ***This changes RRS 44.2.***
- 13.6** A breach of RRS 56.2 shall not be grounds for a protest by a boat. A report by the Italian Coast Guard that a boat has broken RRS 56.2 will result in the boat being disqualified without a hearing. ***This changes RRS 60.1 and A5.***
- 13.7** When NoR 1.9 applies, the Scoring Penalty, RRS 44.3, applies and replaces the One-Turn and Two-Turns Penalty. Penalties taken shall be noted on the Declaration Form.

14 RACE CONTROL

- 14.1** Race Control will be maintained and manned continuously for the duration of the race up to the official time limit of SI 12.



15 PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

- 15.1** A boat intending to protest or request redress is requested to inform Race Control, by calling 'RACE CONTROL' on VHF Channel 72, by telephone on (+356) 2134 4554, or by mobile phone or SMS on (+356) 7902 8442, as soon as reasonably possible after finishing or retiring.
- 15.2** Protests and requests for redress or reopening may be by email. The Jury Secretary can be contacted on +356 21333109 or email rmyc@rmyc.org.
- 15.3** The protest time limit is three hours after the protesting boat finishes or retires, unless the boat finishes or retires between 1900hrs and 0700hrs, in which case the protest time limit is 1000hrs.
- 15.4** Notices will be posted on the Virtual Official Notice Board 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. Other than on Friday 29th October, they will be posted only between the hours of 1000hrs and 1830hrs.
- 15.5** Hearings will be held in the jury room located at the RMYC, unless a party or witness is unavoidably in a different port, in which case arrangements for the hearing will be determined by the jury.
- 15.6** Notices of protests by the Race Committee, Technical Committee or International Jury will be posted on the ONB to inform boats under RRS 61.1(b).
- 15.7** The Race Committee may protest a boat for an infringement of the IRPCAS or RRS 56 based on information from any source other than a boat, unless it is from the boat itself. The protest time limit shall not apply. The person providing the information may not be available to be questioned. ***This changes RRS 60.2, 61.3 and 63.6.***
- 15.8** Protests concerning the eligibility of a boat shall be lodged at the Race Office at the Royal Malta Yacht Club by not later than Thursday 21st October at 1200hrs.

16 RETIREMENT

- 16.1** A boat that retires from the race shall advise Race Control as soon as reasonably possible by SMS, or Telephone (+356) 7902 8442, or email quoting the boat's name, sail number and the word 'retired'. She shall advise Race Control of her intentions thereafter and shall not resume racing.

17 DECLARATION FORMS

- 17.1** Persons in Charge are required to complete the race declaration form, supplied by the Organising Authority, recording the information required as well as any relevant incident that may have occurred. A separate race declaration is to be signed by all the crew.
- 17.2** Declarations Forms are to be completed, signed & delivered to Race Control within three (3) hours of crossing the Finish Line. Additionally, a photograph or scan may be sent to Race Control, Tel (+356) 7902 8442 or email, racecontrol@rolexmiddlesearace.com.

18 SCORING

- 18.1** Overall results will be produced as well as class results with each class extrapolated from the overall results.



- 18.2 The IRC Category will be scored on corrected time using the TCC time correction factor.
- 18.3 The ORC Category will be scored on corrected time using Time on Time All Purpose rating.
- 18.4 Multihulls will be scored on corrected time using the MOCRA TCF.

19 RESULTS

- 19.1 Provisional and final results will be displayed on the ONB as soon as practicable following computation. Results will also be published on the official website.
- 19.2 During the race progressive or intermediate results may be published by the Race Committee. Such results are approximate, published solely for the interest of the general public and have no bearing on, nor affect the final results of the race. Progressive or intermediate results may not form the basis of a protest or constitute grounds for redress. ***This changes RRS.62.1(a).***

20 COMMUNICATIONS

- 20.1 Boats shall contact the Finish Line by calling 'Spinnaker' on VHF channel 72, on rounding the Valletta Harbour fairway buoy.
- 20.2 Boats shall permit the installation of satellite tracking devices supplied by the Organising Authority.
- 20.3 **All boats shall keep their AIS transponders switched on and transmitting at all times while racing.**

21 RENDERING ASSISTANCE

- 21.1 A boat complying with RRS 1.1 – Helping those in Danger (except to itself or its own crew), which as a result sustains damage or depletes its stores, may accept outside assistance to make good the damage, equipment or stores. ***This changes RRS 41.***

22 TEMPORARY DISCONTINUANCE FROM RACING

- 22.1 After starting, a boat may use its engine to assist with anchoring or berthing, when taking shelter from extreme weather, when disembarking sick or injured crew who will take no further part in the race and who shall not be replaced or when attempting repairs wholly on board, provided she does not gain any significant advantage in the race. The facts and circumstances of the event shall be reported in the boat's race declaration. ***This changes RRS 45 and 48.***
- 22.2 Crew intending to continue to race may go ashore solely for the purpose of making fast and thereafter shall immediately re-embark. No outside assistance shall be accepted by the boat or the crew other than as provided for in RRS 41.
- 22.3 If the boat continues to race it shall return to the position where it started its engine and continue to race from there.
- 22.4 For the purpose of this SI 22, a boat's elapsed time shall continue to accrue and be counted from the starting signal until it finishes.



23 USE OF ENGINE

- 23.1** A boat that comes to the starting area under power and fails to stop using its engine to propel the boat before its preparatory signal shall do so before starting and shall exonerate itself after starting, by completing a One-turn penalty under sail including one tack and one gybe.
- 23.2** When a boat is compelled to use its engine to avoid a collision, or to comply with Appendix 2 - The Strait of Messina, or in a grave emergency, it shall report all the facts in its race declaration.

24 MECHANICAL POWER

- 24.1** For this race, the use of an autopilot and power winches is permitted. *This changes RRS 52.*

25 MOVEABLE BALLAST

- 25.1** 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.*

26 SAIL LIMITATIONS

- 26.1** In the IRC Category, IRC Rule 11.2 applies and a boat may carry one more spinnaker than the number stated in their IRC certificate.
- 26.2** In the ORC Category, there will be no limit on the number of rated headsails and spinnakers that may be carried in the race. This changes ORC Rating Rule 206. However, boats participating in both handicap Categories shall be limited to the sails declared in their IRC certificate as modified by SI 33.1.
- 26.3** A boat may not carry sails that they are not rated for and not allowed to use while racing. In particular, a boat rated under IRC 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.*
- 26.4** A boat may carry one spare mainsail which may only be used while racing as a genuine replacement if during the race the mainsail the boat started the race with becomes damaged beyond repair and not for the purpose of improved performance. The first mainsail may not thereafter be repaired and re-used while racing. In the case that the spare mainsail is used the substitution shall be declared in the boat's race declaration describing the circumstances and giving the reasons for its use. The Person in Charge may be required to produce the damaged mainsail for inspection by the Race Committee. *This changes IRC Rule 21.1.5(e).*

27 CREW

- 27.1** In the IRC Category there will be no limit on crew weight. Boats taking part in both ORC and IRC Categories will remain limited to the crew weight stated on their ORC certificate. *This changes IRC rule 22.4.2.*
- 27.2** Boats shall notify the Race Committee of any crew changes before the start of the race.