



NOTICE OF RACE

ROLEX

FASTNET RACE 2025



ROLEX FASTNET RACE

SATURDAY 26 JULY 2025

FIRST WARNING SIGNAL 1300



R O L E X F A S T N E T R A C E . C O M

DEFINITIONS

Class	the term <i>Class</i> includes IRC, Class 40, IMOCA, Ultim, Ocean 50 and MOCRA rating systems and the Admirals Cup and Double Handed Classes
Closing Date	is the date after which a late entry fee may be charged
Competitor	a <i>Competitor</i> is any sailor competing in the race
Documents Page	can be found at: www.sailracehq.com
High Points System	the boats are ranked in order of points scored. Highest points score wins
Rating Deadline	Is the latest date that a Rating or <i>Class</i> Certificate shall be issued to a boat
SailraceHQ	the RORC online system for boat entry and crew management. www.sailracehq.com

TERMINOLOGY

A term used in the sense stated in the definitions is printed in italics (for example *Class*).

Cover photo: ROLEX/Kurt Arrigo



Photo: Paul Wyeth/pwpictures.com

ORGANISING AUTHORITY

The Organising Authority is the Royal Ocean Racing Club (RORC) in association with the Yacht Club de Cherbourg and the Royal Yacht Squadron.

1 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Date		Event	
Wednesday 15 January 2025	1000	Application for Entry Opens	www.rolexfastnetrace.com
Friday 31 January	1200	Successful IRC Applications Announced	www.rolexfastnetrace.com
Fri 27 June	1700	<i>Closing Date</i> (late entry fee applies from this date)	
Friday 4 July	1200	<i>Rating deadline</i> IRC and MOCRA and all other <i>Class Certificates</i> . By this date all IRC boats must declare either using their Primary or Secondary IRC Certificates.	No more rating changes after this point
Monday 21 July	1000	Registration opens in Cowes	RORC Clubhouse, Cowes
Wednesday 23 July	1000	Registrations opens in Hamble	Fairview Sailing, Port Hamble Marina
Thursday 24 July	1800	Crew presentation & show, Race Village	La Plage Verte, Cherbourg
Thursday 24 July	2000	Crew party	RORC Clubhouse, Cowes
Friday 25 July	1400	Press Conference & Skipper Interviews	RORC Clubhouse, Cowes
Friday 25 July	1600	Skippers and Weather Briefing	RORC Clubhouse, Cowes
Saturday 26 July	1000	Race Village Opens	La Plage Verte, Cherbourg
Saturday 26 July	1300	First Warning Signal	Cowes
Friday 1 August	1800	Main Prize-giving	La Plage Verte, Cherbourg
Friday 1 August	1900	Crew Party with free Happy Hour & Live Music	La Plage Verte, Cherbourg
Saturday 2 August	1700	Race Village Closes	La Plage Verte, Cherbourg



2 RULES AND REGULATIONS

- 2.1** The rules as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS).
- 2.2** The following National Authority (RYA) prescriptions will apply; rules 4, 6, 67, 86.3 and 88.2. ([https://www.sailing.org/tools/documents/NationalPrescriptionsGBR-\[26794\].pdf](https://www.sailing.org/tools/documents/NationalPrescriptionsGBR-[26794].pdf))
- 2.3** *Competitors* should note that the RORC implements the RYA Racing Charter and that they will be expected to sail in compliance with it. <https://www.rya.org.uk/racing/rules/racing-charter> .
- 2.4** In all rules governing this event;
- 2.4.1** [SP] [DP] denotes a rule for which the Race Committee or Technical Committee may apply a standard penalty without a hearing, or a discretionary penalty applied by the International Jury with a hearing (this changes RRS A5).
- 2.4.2** [NP] denotes a rule that shall not be grounds for protests by a boat and for which the International Jury may refuse to hold a hearing. This changes RRS 60.1(a) and 63.1.
- 2.5** This Notice of Race, and the terms of the contract created by the acceptance of a boat's entry in any race or event governed by this Notice of Race, shall be governed by and construed in accordance with English law. Any dispute which cannot be resolved under Part 5 of the Racing Rules of Sailing shall be referred to the exclusive jurisdiction of the English Courts.
- 2.6** The rules and regulations of appropriate One Design and/or restricted *class* rules; IRC Rules Parts A, B & C, and MOCRA Rules.
- 2.7** [DP] The World Sailing Offshore Special Regulations (OSR) Category 2, with RORC Prescriptions. When details of Special Regulations cannot be met the Committee may accept an alternative (i.e. *Class* Rules).
- 2.8** [SP] [DP] Traffic Separation Schemes (TSS), RRS Appendix TS, Version 3, Section B, applies to all TSS.
- 2.9** [SP] [DP] Appendix RV of the Racing Rules of Sailing will apply between 20:45 and 05:30 BST daily.
- 2.10** Appendix WP of The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) in which RRS 28.2 is amended to include: (d) pass between the marks or waypoints of a gate, pass or cross a line of latitude or longitude, as described in the course, from the direction of the previous mark.
- 2.11** [SP] 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 prestart side of the line, and the starting penalty shall be 120 minutes added to her elapsed time. RRS 29.1 does not apply.
- 2.12** Automatic and wind-vane devices for steering are permitted (this changes RRS 52 and amends IRC Rule 15).
- 2.13** Water Ballast;
- 2.13.1** RRS 48.1 does not apply to water used in a water ballast system declared on the IRC Certificate. This changes RRS 48.1.
- 2.13.2** Other than a genuine manual galley or marine toilet pump and the scoop valves or pump(s) that are part of a certified/rated water ballast system or engine intake, no other scoop valves or pumps shall be connected in any way or form capable of taking onboard seawater.

3 NOTICE OF RACE AND SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 3.1** This Notice of Race and any amendments to the Notice of Race. Where there is a conflict between any translated Notice of Race and the Notice of Race, the version written in English shall prevail.
- 3.2** Sailing Instructions will be posted on the Official Notice Board before 5 July 2025.
- 3.3** Where there is a conflict between the Notice of Race and the Sailing Instructions; the Sailing Instructions shall prevail. This changes RRS 63.5 (c).

- 3.4 For Admirals Cup Entries only** - in the event of a discrepancy between the Admiral's Cup Notice of Race (NoR AC) and the Rolex Fastnet Race Notice of Race (NoR RFR) the NoR RFR takes precedence with the exception of NoR AC 1.11, 1.14, 3.4, 7, 11.3,11.4, this changes RRS 63.5 (c).
- 3.5 For Admirals Cup Entries only** - in the event of a discrepancy between the SI AC and the Rolex Fastnet Race Sailing Instructions (SI RFR) the SI RFR take precedence.

4 COMMUNICATION

- 4.1** The Official Notice Board will be online at www.sailracehq.com
- 4.2** All boats shall be equipped with a Marine VHF Transceiver of at least 25 watts of power capable of operating on VHF channels 09,16, 69, 71 and 72.
- 4.3** Communication with *Competitors* will be via the online ONB emails and WhatsApp. Additionally, the race committee may make courtesy broadcasts to *Competitors* on VHF.
- 4.4** RRS Rule 41(c) is replaced by;
- A boat shall not receive help from any outside source, except (c) help 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 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.
- By way of an example and interpretation, downloading charts, weather and/or tidal GRIB files from subscription services, or having such information passed to the boat in its pure form, is permitted but receiving messages or information which is the result of interpretation as it applies to the boat is not permitted.
- A boat may, without infringing RRS 41, request and receive repetition of information broadcast by the Race Committee or be told whether or not a broadcast has been made.

5 ELIGIBILITY - Boat

- 5.1** Boats shall provide and carry their own YB tracker, for further details and purchase options please visit www.sailracehq.com
- 5.2** The race is open to seaworthy boats which comply with the rules and regulations described in the Notice of Race and which are manned by an adequate number of experienced crew who are physically fit to face bad weather. The minimum crew on any monohull shall be two. However, no *competitor* may race contrary to the terms of a ban imposed by the RORC, a National Authority or World Sailing.
- 5.3** There is no maximum size for boats in the Rolex Fastnet Race. The minimum size for monohulls is determined by their rating. The minimum size for multihulls is 9.15 metres/30ft (LOA). The committee may make exceptions on application.
- 5.4** *Classes;*

Class	TCC Range
IRC Super Zero	1.550 and greater
IRC Zero	1.280 - 1.549
IRC One	1.090 - 1.279
IRC Two	1.046 - 1.089
IRC Three	1.010 - 1.045
IRC Four	0.850 - 1.009
MOCRA (Multihull)	1.100 and greater
IMOCA	N/A
Class 40	N/A
Admirals Cup*	1.100 - 1.464

* Admirals Cup Class is for boats registered in the 2025 Admirals Cup. Boats registered in the Admirals Cup will be eligible for the trophies as detailed on the event website. Admirals Cup Class boats will not race in, or be eligible for IRC Class results other than IRC Overall.



Photo: ROLEX/Studio Borlenghi

- 5.5** A Two-Handed *Class* within IRC will be available in the Rolex Fastnet Race. Boats will be eligible for both Two-Handed and IRC rating band *class* & overall trophies. Entries must satisfy the committee that they have suitable and adequate experience and that their boat is appropriately prepared for two-handed sailing.
- 5.6** The RORC may split IRC *Classes* into A and B groups, (i.e. IRC 1A, IRC 1B, IRC 2A, IRC 2B, etc.)
- 5.7** Open multihulls may race without any rating.
- 5.8** When at least six boats from a *class*, which races “level” and is recognised by the RORC, take part in the race, a *class* result may be provided. With prior permission from the RORC, certain *classes* may be allowed to race under *class* rules within RORC racing (e.g. Class 40, IMOCA, Figaro).
- 5.9** Rule 22.4.2 Crew Number/Weight is deleted and replaced by: The maximum number of crew that may sail onboard a boat shall be the number shown on the IRC certificate, there is no weight limit.
- 5.10** The RORC reserves the right to amend the *class* splits in the light of 2025 data before the start of the race.
- 5.11** All boats need to satisfy the requirements set out in OSR Section 3 unless their *Class* rules override OSR Section 3, if *Class* Rules have overridden OSR Section 3, boats must comply with their *Class* Rules.
- 5.12** Responsibility for compliance rests with the Person in Charge of the boat. However, the RORC will endeavor to help *Competitors* to understand the OSR and reserves the right to conduct an OSR inspection on any *Competitor's* boat at any time.
- The Person in Charge shall, before the race, complete an OSR Checklist on their SailRaceHQ account and submit the form to the RORC Race Office for approval.
- 5.13** The fact that event officials may conduct inspections does not reduce the responsibilities of each *Competitor* set out in this Notice of Race.

6 ELIGIBILITY - *Competitors*

- 6.1** The Rolex Fastnet Race is not a race for novices. Every crew member must have experience of sailing a boat offshore and be prepared to encounter heavy weather. *Competitors* may be required to provide evidence of offshore experience.
- 6.1.1** At least 50% of the boat's crew (but not less than 2), including the person in charge, must have completed 300 nautical miles of RORC offshore racing on the boat entered into the race. The qualifying miles to be completed within 12 months of the start of the Rolex Fastnet Race
- 6.2** When it is not reasonably possible to access RORC races, or in exceptional circumstances, an alternative method for qualification may be agreed by the RORC. Proposals should be lodged with the RORC as soon as possible after entry.
- 6.3** At least 30% of the boat's crew (but no less than 2), including the Person in Charge, must have completed training to Section 6 of the World Sailing Offshore Special Regulations and gained a certificate from a World Sailing approved Offshore Personal Survival Training Course. Training must have taken place within five years of the start of the race. Please note that STCW sea survival certificates are not accepted by RORC.
- 6.4** At least one crewmember shall be familiar with first aid procedures, hypothermia, drowning, cardio-pulmonary resuscitation and relevant communications systems, and in addition, one other crewmember shall have a valid first aid certificate completed within the last five years in accordance with OSR 6.05 Medical Training.
- 6.5** Crews should practice safety routines including but not limited to crew-overboard recovery, and abandonment of vessel within 12 months of the start of the race. See OSR 6.04 – Routine Training On-Board.
- 6.6** There shall be no limitations on professional crew.
- 6.7** The Organising Authority will adhere to current World Sailing recommendations effective at the close of registration regarding boats and *Competitors* from Russia and Belarus.



Photo: ROLEX/ Kurt Arrigo

7 RACE ENTRY

- 7.1** Entry opens at 1000 on Wednesday 15 January 2025.
- 7.2** A boat shall enter the race using the *SailRaceHQ* online entry system. Submission of an Entry and payment of the fee will not guarantee a place in the race; all other entry requirements must be completed to the satisfaction of the RORC.
- 7.3** 50% of the entry fee is due within 10 days of entry confirmation, with the remaining due before the *Closing Date*. The 50% paid upon entry is non-refundable unless regional restrictions mean the cancelling of the event or make participation from certain areas impossible. Payment shall be made by credit or debit card (through the online entry system or by telephone) or may be made by bank transfer. To pay by bank transfer please contact the RORC for bank details.
- 7.4** Cancellations after the *Closing Date* will be eligible for a refund of 50% of the race entry fee not including the non-refundable payment. This will be refunded to the credit or debit card used for payment. For payments made by other means, refunds will be made against a written claim received no later than 29 July 2025.
- 7.5** Cancellations after the Friday 4 July, 1200, will not be eligible for any refund.
- 7.6** If the Person in Charge fails to notify the RORC of cancellation as described above they shall pay the full fee without refund unless good reason can be shown.
- 7.7** The Organising Authority may cancel the event and reject or cancel entries at its discretion, subject to RRS 76.
- 7.8** Standard Entry Fees – shown in £ Sterling;

LOA (m)	Member*	Non-Member
Below 9.00	433	619
9.00 - 9.99	493	705
10.00 - 10.99	555	793
11.00 - 11.99	648	926
12.00 - 12.99	730	1044
13.00 - 13.99	917	1311
14.00 - 14.99	1128	1524
15.00 - 15.99	1598	1994
16.00 - 16.99	2197	2593
17.00 - 17.99	2935	3331
18.00 - 18.99	3578	3974
19.00 - 19.99	3929	4325
20.00 - 20.99	4294	4690
21.00 - 21.99	4644	5040
22.00 - 22.99	4940	5336
23.00 - 23.99	5160	5556
24.00 - 24.99	5379	5775
25.00 - 25.99	5630	6026
26.00 - 26.99	5852	6248
27.00 - 27.99	6065	6461
28.00 - 28.99	6277	6673
29.00 - 29.99	6534	6930
Boats 30m LOA and above:	£231 per metre**	£231 per metre

***Note:** A discount of 30% of the race entry fee is applied for RORC members. This discount is capped at the value of an ordinary UK member subscription (£416). ** Members discounts are applied once length is determined.



Photo: ROLEX/Studio Bortolenghi

- 7.9** Entries after the *Closing Date*, and at least 48 hours before the start, may be accepted on payment of an additional sum of half the standard entry fee. Requests for entries after the *Closing Date* will be made in writing to racing@rorc.org
- 7.10** Boats shall hold valid rating/*class* certificate(s) by the *Rating Deadline* (Friday 4 July 2025 at 1200hrs). Boats racing under IRC are not required to submit a copy of their certificate to the RORC. Boats holding other rating/*class* certificates shall submit a copy of their certificate(s) to the RORC by the *Rating Deadline*. Changes to ratings and *class* certificates will only be accepted after the *Rating Deadline* in exceptional circumstances at the discretion of the RORC and may be subject to protest. Every boat racing shall have on board a current valid signed copy of the rating and/or *class* certificate for the *class* or *classes* in which she is racing.
- Please allow sufficient time for your rating/*class* certificate to be processed and issued by the relevant authority.

8 ADVERTISING

- 8.1** Advertising is permitted in accordance with *Class Rules* and World Sailing Regulation 20.
- 8.2** [SP] [NP] Boats may be required to display advertising chosen and supplied by the Organising Authority.



Photo: ROLEX/Kurt Arrigo

9 THE COURSE

- 9.1 Cowes – Fastnet Rock – Cherbourg approximately 695 miles. Full details will be included in the Sailing Instructions.

10 INTERNATIONAL JURY, PENALTY SYSTEM AND REDRESS

- 10.1 An International Jury will be appointed in accordance with RRS Appendix N. All decisions will be final as per RRS 70.5.
- 10.2 Penalties for infringements of rules will be detailed in the Sailing Instructions.

11 SCORING

- 11.1 The scoring system will be the RORC *High Points System* as detailed in the RORC Annual Notice of Race on the Race *Documents Page* at www.sailracehq.com
- 11.2 RRS Appendix A is changed; paragraph A4 will not apply.
- 11.3 Bonus points of 25 will be awarded to all boats that complete the race.
- 11.4 A boat that is penalised under RRS 30.2 or that takes a penalty under RRS 44.3(a) shall be scored points as provided in RRS 44.3(c).
- 11.5 Boats racing in the Admirals Cup *Class* may have their results extrapolated from the scoring for the Rolex Fastnet Race and may be scored differently for the Admirals Cup as per the Admirals Cup Notice of Race.

12 BERTHING

- 12.1 There is no free berthing available in Cowes or Hamble prior to the start. *Competitors* will be responsible for any berthing costs. Space is limited, *Competitors* are strongly advised to make berthing arrangements ASAP to avoid disappointment.
- 12.2 Free berthing is available at Port Chantereyne, Cherbourg from Wednesday 23 July 2025
- 12.3 IRC & MOCRA - Upon arrival, *Competitors* will be directed to a berth in Cherbourg. The RORC will provide free berthing until Saturday 2 August at 1200. Berthing beyond 1200 on Saturday 2 August is subject to availability and boats are liable for any further berthing fees. For boats finishing after 1200 on Saturday 2 August RORC will provide free berthing for 48 hrs. after arrival.
- 12.4 [NP] [DP] For the Ultime, IMOCA, Class 40 and Ocean 50 classes, the winner of each *class* shall be berthed in Port Chantereyne marina, Cherbourg when the runner-up finishes the race. The winner and the runner-up shall both be in Port Chantereyne marina, Cherbourg when the third participant in each *class* finishes the race, and representatives from the first three boats in each *class* shall be at their respective prize-giving. RORC will provide free berthing for these boats for 48hrs after arrival

13 [DP] [NP] COMPETITOR DRONES

- 13.1 *Competitors'* support team or their representatives shall not fly drones over the shore base/marina or over the race area during race days without complying with local legislation and without prior written approval by the Organising Authority. The approval granted at the sole discretion of the Organising Authority may impose limitations on where and when drones may fly.
- 13.2 At any time, the risk and responsibility for flying any drone is with the person flying the Drones and images made shall be shared with the Organising Authority, Race Committee, International Jury, or *Competitors* at reasonable request.

14 RIGHTS TO USE NAMES & LIKENESSES

- 14.1 *Competitors* automatically grant the Organising Authority and event sponsors, without payment, the right in perpetuity to make, use and show any motion pictures, still pictures and live, taped, or filmed television of or relating to the event.

15 PRIVACY STATEMENT

- 15.1** The personal information you provide to the Organising Authority and event sponsors will be used to facilitate your participation in the event. If you have agreed to be bound by the Racing Rules of Sailing and other rules that govern the event (the rules), the legal basis for processing that personal information is a contract. If the rules do not bind you, the legal basis for processing that information is a legitimate interest. Your personal data will be stored and used in accordance with the Organising Authority's privacy policy. When required by the rules, personal information may be shared with the RYA, your national authority and/or World Sailing. The results of the event and the outcome of any hearing or appeal may be published.

16 INSURANCE

- 16.1** Each participating boat shall ensure that their boat is adequately insured against all third-party claims.

17 RISK STATEMENT

- 17.1** Rule 3 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 nature, an unpredictable sport and, therefore, inherently involves an element of risk. By taking part in the event, each *Competitor* agrees and acknowledges that:
- 17.1.1** 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;
 - 17.1.2** They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat, and their other property, whether afloat or ashore;
 - 17.1.3** They accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omissions;
 - 17.1.4** Their boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the event, and they are fit to participate;
 - 17.1.5** The provision of a race management team, patrol boats, if any and other officials and volunteers by the event organiser does not relieve them of their own responsibilities;
 - 17.1.6** The provision of patrol boat cover if any, is limited to such assistance, particularly in extreme weather conditions, as can practically be provided in the circumstances;
 - 17.1.7** It is their responsibility to familiarise themselves with any risks specific to this venue or this event drawn to their attention in any rules or information produced for the venue or event and to attend any safety briefing held for the event.
 - 17.1.8** 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.
- 17.2** The RORC, its sponsors and other organising clubs, accept no responsibility or liability for loss of life or injury to members or others, or for the loss of, or damage to, any vessel or property.
- 17.3** The Race Committee will make starting signals unless in their opinion it is manifestly unsafe for any of the boats entered to remain in the vicinity of the starting line. Each boat shall exercise her responsibility under RRS Fundamental Rule 3 and decide whether or not to start or to continue to race.
- 17.4** The 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 the Person in Charge and crew being excluded from future races and renders a boat liable to disqualification.

18 RACE TROPHIES AND PRIZES

- 18.1** A complete list of trophies is available on the race website. The interpretation of the terms of award for all trophies and prizes will be made by the Race Committee, whose decision is final. When no boat qualifies to win a particular trophy the Race Committee may, at its discretion, award it otherwise.

19 PRIZE-GIVING

The main prize-giving will be held at 1800 on Friday 1 August in Cherbourg and details of the prizegiving will be in the Sailing Instructions. An earlier prizegiving may be held for Line Honours (Monohull & Multihull), Ocean 50 & IMOCA classes in Cherbourg. RORC medallions may be presented at RORC Cowes clubhouse at a future date. All *Competitors* are welcome.

NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

(Notices are for information only and do not rank as part of this Notice of Race).

Race Office (Cowes) 1000 - 1800 Monday 21 July until Friday 25 July.

RORC Cowes Clubhouse
The Parade
Cowes
Isle of Wight
PO31 7QU

Tel: +44 (0) 1983 295 144

Email: racing@rorc.org

Website: www.rorc.org

RORC Rolex Fastnet Race

Minisite: www.rolexfastnetrace.com

Entry System: www.sailracehq.com

Race Office (Cherbourg) 1000 - 1800 Tuesday 22 July until Saturday 2 August.

RORC Representative:

c/o Yacht Club de Cherbourg

Port Chantereyne

50100, Cherbourg.

Tel: +33 2 33 94 28 05

Hamble Tracker Collection 1000 - 1800 Wednesday 23 July until Friday 25 July.

Fairview Sailing Ltd

Port Hamble

Satchell Lane

Hamble-le-Rice

Southampton

SO31 4QD

Website: www.fairviewsailing.co.uk

Rating Office

Office M, Anchor House

Bath Road

Lymington

Hampshire

SO41 3YJ

Tel: +44 1590 677030

Email: info@rorcrating.com

Website: www.rorcrating.com

MOCRA Ratings

Website: www.mocra-sailing.org.uk



Photo: RORC/Arthur Daniel



CHERBOURG
en Cotentin

Terre
bleue
LE COTENTIN

LA MANCHE
LE DÉPARTEMENT

RÉGION
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