

Vasco Da Gama Ocean Race

Durban to Port Elizabeth

27 April 2017



The 'Ocean Comrades' Race



Algoa Bay Yacht Club



Point Yacht Club (est. 1892)

NOTICE OF RACE

1 THE RACE

The Vasco da Gama Ocean Race is from Durban, eThekweni to Port Elizabeth, Nelson Mandela Bay, in South Africa, and starts on 27 April 2017. The race is organised by the Point Yacht Club and Algoa Bay Yacht Club, under the auspices of South African Sailing KwaZulu-Natal (SAS KZN).

2 ELIGIBILITY

- 2.1 The race will comprise the following fleets:
 - 2.1.1 IRC racing fleet for Monohull boats with a valid IRC certificate
 - 2.1.2 PHRF racing fleet for Monohull boats which do not have a valid IRC certificate
 - 2.1.3 Multihull racing fleet
 - 2.1.4 Rally Class fleet (comprising both Monohull and Multihull boats) where boats will be permitted to motor for a maximum of 8 hours per 24 hour period, commencing with the start, and where the use of autopilots will be permitted (refer 6.1 & 6.2 for changes to the RRS). Boats entering the Rally Class shall only be eligible for the trophies / prizes specifically allocated to the Rally Class fleet and shall not be eligible for any Line Honours trophies / prizes. The decision to enter the Rally Class shall be confirmed by 12h00 SAST on 25 April 2017 and cannot be made during the duration of the race.
- 2.2 A Two-Handed division will be available in each of the fleets. Boats entering in the Two-Handed division will only be eligible for the trophies / prizes specifically allocated to the Two-Handed division and shall not be eligible for any Fleet or Line Honours trophies / prizes. Boats intending to participate in two-handed division shall prove, to the satisfaction of the Race Committee by no later than 17h00 SAST on 12 April 2017 that the boat with both crew members on-board has completed a non-stop double-handed passage of at least 200 nautical miles in the 9 months preceding the start of the race. The Mossel Bay Race 2016, if sailed double-handed, shall qualify as such a passage.
- 2.3 Interclub Trophy – the first 3 boats over the line (excluding rally class boats), per club, will be scored for the purpose of awarding the Interclub Trophy. Boats are required to clearly identify the club they are sailing for on their entry form.
- 2.4 Monohull boats shall have an overall length (LOA) of not less than 9.0 metres.
- 2.5 Multihull boats shall have an overall length (LOA) of not less than 10.5 metres.
- 2.6 All boats shall have a valid Category “A” registration with South African Sailing (SAS), proof of which shall be lodged with the Race Secretary by 17h00 SAST on 12 April 2017.

- 2.7 Should there be sufficient entries in any fleet; the Race Committee may divide that fleet into two or more classes, at its sole discretion.
- 2.8 In accordance with the International Sailing Federation (ISAF) Regulation 19 (Eligibility Code), all competitors (Helmspersons and all other crew) shall be members in good standing of a Yacht Club affiliated to and in good standing with South African Sailing or their Member National Authority (MNA) in the case of non-South Africans. The Yacht Club name and membership details shall be stated on the crew list. Current valid SAS Membership Cards or similar proof of MNA Membership in cases of non-South Africans shall be presented at Registration by no later than 17h00 SAST on 25 April 2017.

3 COURSE & DATE

- 3.1 The race will start in Durban and finish in Port Elizabeth, a race distance of approximately 400 nautical miles.
- 3.2 The race will start on Thursday 27 April 2017, with the warning signal for the first fleet to start scheduled for 11h55 SAST.
- 3.3 Details of the start and finish lines, plus starting and finishing instructions, will be published in the Sailing Instructions.

4 TIME LIMIT

- 4.1 The race for all fleets will end at 12h00 SAST on 1 May 2017.
- 4.2 The Race Committee reserves the right to extend the time limit at its discretion.

5 RULES

- 5.1 The race will be governed by -
- 5.1.1 The rules as defined in The ISAF Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS), subject to changes made in terms of this Notice & the Sailing Instructions.
- 5.1.2 The IRC 2016 Rules - Parts A, B & C, as applicable to competing boats
- 5.1.3 The Safety Equipment and Scrutineering Check List contained in Schedule 1 to this Notice of Race
- 5.1.4 The SA Sailing KZN Rules governing the Award of Regional Colours and Medals
- 5.1.5 The South African National Small Vessel Safety Regulations

6 CHANGES TO THE RACING RULES OF SAILING

- 6.1 RRS 42.3(i) is amended to allow boats entered in the Rally Class Fleet to motor for a maximum of 8 hours in every period of 24 hours, the first period commencing at 12h00 SAST on 27 April 2017. Motoring time shall be logged in the boats log book and declared in the Race Declaration.
- 6.2 RRS 52 is amended to allow boats in the Rally Class fleet and the Two-Handed divisions to make use of autopilots to steer the boat during the course of the race.
RRS 61.3: No protests may be filed after 12h00 SAST on 1 May 2017.
- 6.3 RRS 41: Whilst racing a boat may retrieve data from any page of the event website, even if that page is not publicly available; the event Face Book page; or the information provided by YB Tracking in respect of the race whether available via its website, or any of its Mobile Applications. Amends RRS 41(c).



During the race a boat may obtain assistance in the form of any readily available commercial meteorological or hydrographical information regardless of cost. Amends RRS 41(c).

- 6.4 RRS 55 is changed by adding the following sentence to the rule: “However discarding elastic or wool bands when setting a sail is permitted.”

7 ALTERNATIVE PENALTIES

- 7.1 RRS 44.1 – a Two-Turns penalty will apply for breaking a rule of RRS, Part 2, from the time of the preparatory signal for the first class to start, until 4 hours after the time of the start of the first class to start.
- 7.2 RRS 44.3 – a Scoring Penalty will apply for breaking a rule of RRS, Part 2 from 4 hours after the time of the start of the first class to start until such time as the last boat has finished.
- 7.3 RRS 64.1 – Scoring Penalties may be applied at the discretion of the Protest Committee.
- 7.4 The scoring penalties will be applied in accordance with the Sailing Instructions.

8 RATING CERTIFICATES AND HANDICAPS

- 8.1 Boats shall have rating certificates and/or handicaps, as follows:
- 8.1.1 Boats racing in the IRC fleet shall have a current, valid, endorsed and signed IRC certificate. Valid IRC certificates shall be lodged with the Race Secretary by 17h00 SAST on 12 April 2017. The Race Committee reserves the right to extend the time limit in exceptional circumstances.
- 8.1.2 Boats racing in the PHRF and Multihull fleets will be allocated a PHRF handicap by the handicap committee where a TCF is issued.
- 8.1.3 Boats racing in the Rally Class Fleets will be allocated a PHRF handicap by the handicap committee where a TCF is issued.
- 8.2 On showing good cause and with the prior written approval of the Race Committee, changes may be made to a boat’s IRC rating certificate up to 12h00 SAST on 25 April 2017.
- 8.3 A list of ratings for each fleet will be published on the Official Notice Boards by 12h30 SAST on 25 April 2017.
- 8.4 Any protest relating to a boat’s rating shall be submitted to the Race Secretary, in writing, by 16h30 SAST on 25 April 2017, for consideration by the Race Committee whose decision shall be final.
- 8.5 The placing of each boat in its particular fleet shall be determined by the corrected time taken by that boat to complete the course, calculated as follows:
- 8.5.1 In respect of boats in the IRC Fleet, the corrected time will be the elapsed time, plus any penalty time, less any redress time granted, multiplied by the relevant boat’s IRC TCF. The boat with the lowest corrected time (after application of scoring penalties, if any) will be scored first.
- 8.5.2 In respect of the PHRF and Multihull fleets, the corrected time will be the elapsed time, plus any penalty time, less any redress time granted, multiplied by the relevant boats TCF. The boat with the lowest corrected time (after application of scoring penalties, if any) will be scored first.
- 8.5.3 In respect of the Rally Fleets, the corrected time will be the elapsed time, plus any penalty time, less any redress time granted, multiplied by the relevant boats TCF. The boat with the lowest corrected time (after application of scoring penalties, if

any) will be scored first.

- 8.6 Boats competing in the PHRF racing fleet for Monohull Boats, the Multihull racing fleet or the Rally Class fleet are permitted to carry a spare mainsail on board to be used as a bona fide replacement for a mainsail damaged during the race.

9 IRC REQUIREMENTS & CHANGES TO IRC RULES

- 9.1 IRC boats shall have a current, valid, endorsed and signed IRC Certificate.
- 9.2 The owner of an IRC boat shall be a member of the South African IRC Class Association (SA IRC CA) or equivalent – non South African entries who are not members of and equivalent IRC Association may apply for Temporary membership of the SA IRC CA at the prevailing rate.
- 9.3 IRC boats shall comply with the IRC 2016 Rule (applicable in the Southern Hemisphere till 31 May 2017), save to the extent they are specifically amended or excluded in this Notice of Race or the Sailing Instructions.
- 9.4 A boat may be inspected prior to the start of the race, and at the finish, to ensure compliance with its current IRC Certificate.
- 9.5 In terms of IRC Rule 11.2, Rule 21.6 is varied to the extent that a boat may carry one more spinnaker than shown on her current IRC certificate of area no greater than rated SPA without an increase in rating.
- 9.6 IRC Rule 21.1.5(e) is amended to permit a spare mainsail, carried on board, to be used as a bona fide replacement for a mainsail damaged during the race.

10 SAFETY REQUIREMENTS AND SCRUTINY

- 10.1 The Boat Information Sheet, with the required particulars of the boat, shall be submitted to the Race Secretary by 17h00 SAST on 12 April 2017.
- 10.2 Each boat, with the exception of those sailing in a Two-Handed division, shall be crewed by at least 4 persons, including the skipper.
- 10.3 The skipper shall satisfy the Race Committee, by 17h00 SAST on 12 April 2017, that at least 1 person on board has a SAS Coastal Skipper certificate of competence or higher.
- 10.4 All boats may be scrutinised by the Race Committee to ensure compliance with the Schedule 1 – Safety Equipment and Scrutineering Check List. The skipper is obliged to ensure that he/she and at least one other member of the crew are present at the scrutiny.
- 10.5 A boat which has not passed scrutiny by 12h00 SAST on 26 April 2017 may not start the event and the onus shall be on the skipper to ensure that his boat is scrutinised timeously.
- 10.6 If a boat does not comply with these regulations its entry may be rejected or it may be liable to disqualification or such other penalty as may be prescribed by the Race Committee.
- 10.7 Notwithstanding anything herein contained, the safety, management and insurance of a boat and its crew shall at all times remain the sole responsibility of her skipper, who must ensure that the boat is fully sound, thoroughly seaworthy and manned by an experienced crew who have undergone appropriate training and are physically fit to face and are capable of handling the boat in bad weather. The skipper must be satisfied as to the soundness of the hull, spars, rigging, sails and all gear. The skipper must ensure that all safety equipment is properly maintained and stowed and that all crew know where it is kept and how it is to

be used. It is the sole and exclusive responsibility of each boat to decide whether or not to start or to continue the Race and all those taking part in the Race do so at their own risk.

- 10.8 The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in the race or to continue racing is hers alone (RRS 4).

11 CREW LIST AND CLEARING OUT REQUIREMENTS

- 11.1 Currently Durban is designated as a Port of Entry into / out of South Africa and all boats leaving Durban on the race are required to clear Customs, Immigration and the Port of Durban and to meet with their requirements. To assist boats with this procedure, and to provide the organisers with the necessary information, it is essential that the following requirements are met timeously
- 11.2 The Crew List, on the prescribed form provided, together with a copy of each crew member's valid Identity Document (or passport in the case of foreign nationals), shall be submitted to the Race Secretary by 17h00 SAST on 25 April 2017.
- 11.3 Changes to crew after 17h00 SAST on 25 April 2017 may be permitted under exceptional circumstances, and only with the written permission of the Race Committee.

12 ENTRIES

- 12.1 An entry, on the prescribed entry form, shall be submitted with the relevant entry fee to the Race Secretary, Vasco da Gama Ocean Race 2017 via e-mail to gillcam@telkomsa.net and sailing@pyc.co.za by 17h00 SAST on 29 March 2017. Late entries will be accepted up to 17h00 SAST on 12 April 2017 subject to the late entry fee being paid.
- 12.2 The standard entry fee shall be R 750.00 per crew member.
- 12.3 The late entry fee shall be R 2 000.00 per boat, payable in addition to the standard entry fee.
- 12.4 Entry Fees shall be paid to the Point Yacht Club bank account as specified on the entry form. A legible copy of the deposit slip or electronic transfer advice shall accompany the entry form
- 12.5 Public Relations & Media. In the interests of public relations and the media, it will be helpful to the promotion of the race if each entry is accompanied by a brief biographical note of the owner and/or skipper which may include information on the crew and, if possible, should include photographs of the owner and/or skipper and of the boat. The Organising Committee shall be authorised to use any such information and photographs in connection with any advertising, publication, promotion, sponsorship or the like relating to the race whether in printed or electronic form or howsoever.
- 12.6 Tracking Devices. A boat may be required to carry a tracking device supplied by the Organising Authority.
- 12.7 The Organising Authority also reserves the right to place a camera on board any boat for media purposes, and all participants agree to operate such camera to the best of their ability.
- 12.8 Failure to carry and operate a tracking device or to carry and operate a camera when required may lead to the cancellation of an entry or the disqualification of the boat from the race (refer RRS 76.1)
- 12.9 In accordance with RRS 76.1 the Organising Authority may



reject or cancel the entry of a boat from the Race at its sole discretion.

13 ADVERTISING AND REFERENCE TO RACE

- 13.1 Advertising will be permitted in accordance with the ISAF Advertising Code, Regulation 20.
- 13.2 The Organising Committee may require boats to display sponsor's advertising in accordance with ISAF Regulation 20.
- 13.3 A boat shall display the race sponsor's bow decals, backstay flags and forestay flags if so supplied by the Organising Authority. Prior to her warning signal, and after finishing, a boat shall display the event flags.
- 13.4 The name of any boat, whether displaying advertising or not, must be acceptable to the Race Committee. No entry will be accepted from a boat displaying advertising or having a name which conflicts with any interests of the race sponsor, or any sub-sponsor of the event.
- 13.5 The owner and skipper of all boats shall ensure that no "ambush marketing" or "hijack signage" is carried out by or on behalf of themselves or their sponsors with reference to the event and that nothing else is done which might undermine the event, the rights of the event sponsor, or any other sponsor or participant in the event.
- 13.6 The organisers and sponsors shall be entitled to make use of any photograph, film or other form of electronic reproduction of or relating to all boats participating in the event, their owners and crew and to make use of all interviews, broadcasts and reports by any of them for any purpose relating to or arising from the event or the sponsorship thereof.
- 13.7 The skipper of a boat, if and when requested to do so, shall from time to time provide the organisers with a written or verbal report of the boat's current position or any other matter of interest, suitable for use on the radio, television and internet.
- 13.8 The entry of a boat breaching any of the provisions of this clause 13 may be rejected and any boat breaching any of these provisions may be subject to disqualification or such penalty to her corrected time as the Race Committee may deem fit.
- 13.9 If in doubt, a boat may enquire of the Organising Committee whether it infringes the provisions of any of the above advertising rules.

14 REGISTRATION

Registration shall take place at Point Yacht Club during the times as set out below, after which registration shall close:

Monday 24 April 2017	12h00 SAST to 17h00 SAST
Tuesday 25 April 2017	09h00 SAST to 17h00 SAST
Wednesday 26 April 2017	09h00 SAST to 12h00 SAST

15 SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Sailing Instructions will be made available after the closing time for late entries.

16 PRIZE-GIVING

- 16.1 Prize giving for all fleets will take place at 18h00 SAST on 1 May 2017 at the Algoa Bay Yacht Club (or any other venue and time as advised in due course).
- 16.2 Trophies and Prizes to be awarded are published as Schedule 2 to this Notice of Race.



17 OFFICIAL NOTICE BOARDS

The Official Notice Boards, bearing the name of the Race, shall be located at the Point Yacht Club (prior to the start) and the Algoa Bay Yacht Club (after the start).

18 INDEMNITY

18.1 The owner and the skipper of each boat entered shall be deemed, on the acceptance of the entry by the Race Committee, on behalf of themselves, their crew, their dependants and their sponsors to have indemnified the Organisers, the host club, the sponsors and all those involved in the running of the event against all claims of any kind arising from any injury to person or property incurred during or in connection with the event, or from any other cause arising whatsoever.

18.2 Owners and skippers are advised to obtain counter-indemnities from each member of the crews.

18.3 Specific attention is drawn to RRS Fundamental Rule 4, which states: “The responsibility for a boat’s decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone”.

19 JURISDICTION

19.1 The event, being organised from Durban, is subject to the laws of South Africa and accordingly this Notice of Race and the Sailing Instructions will be construed in accordance with such laws. All participants, owners, skippers and crews shall be deemed to have submitted to the jurisdiction of the High Court of South Africa, Durban, which alone shall have jurisdiction in regard to any legal disputes which may arise in connection with or arising from the event and a participant’s participation therein.

19.2 Owners and skippers of boats participating in the event will be responsible for ensuring that the provisions of this Notice of Race are understood and agreed by all individuals concerned and hereby indemnify the organisers, the sponsors and all those involved in the running of the event against all claims, loss or harm suffered as a result of a failure to do so.

20 ERRORS AND OMISSIONS

On good cause, the Organising Committee reserves the right to amend any of the provisions of this Notice of Race.

Attachments:

Schedule 1 Safety Equipment and Scrutineering Check List

Schedule 2 Trophy List 2017

Entry form

Boat Information Sheet

Crew List

Deadline dates and information (for information purposes only)



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Race Office Details:

Point Yacht Club, 3 Maritime Place, Durban
Tel: +27 (31) 301 4787
Fax: +27 (31) 305 1234
Email: sailing@pyc.co.za
Postal Address: P O Box 2224, Durban, 4000

Contact details:

Chairman	Richard Crockett	083 265 3885	sailing@iafrica.com
Principal Race Officer	Jimmy Melville	082 900 8573	jimmy@cyline.co.za
Race Secretary	Gill Campbell	083 461 6286	gillcam@telkomsa.net

