



VASCO DA GAMA OCEAN RACE

DURBAN TO EAST LONDON

16 MAY 2021

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Vasco Da Gama Ocean Race

Durban to East London

Sunday 16 May 2021

Organised by Point Yacht Club and Buffalo River Yacht Club, under the auspices of South African Sailing

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

1 RULES

The regatta will be governed by:

- 1.1** The International Regulations for the Preventing Collisions at Sea (COLREGs) as applicable in terms of the Notice of Race and these Sailing Instructions.
- 1.2** The rules as defined in the World Sailing Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) (2021-2024) subject to changes made in terms of the Notice of Race and these Sailing Instructions.
- 1.3** The ORC 2020 Rules or the DRS Handicapping System, as applicable to competing Boats.
- 1.4** The Safety Equipment and Self-Scrutineering Checklist contained in Schedule 1 to the Notice of Race.
- 1.5** The SA Sailing KZN Rules governing the award of Regional Colours and Medals.
- 1.6** The South African National Small Vessel Safety Regulations.
- 1.7** The Notice of Race.
- 1.8** These Sailing Instructions
- 1.9** Part 2 of the RRS relating to “when boats meet” shall apply from the preparatory signal until two hours after the start, after which the right-of-way will be determined by the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (COLREGs).
- 1.10** The RRS are amended as follows:
 - 1.10.1** RRS 41 is amended. The services of private weather routing experts are not permitted.
 - 1.10.2** RRS 51 is amended. A boat with movable ballast shall not use movable ballast to trim the boat fore and aft.

2 ADVERTISING

- 2.1** Boats may be required to display advertising supplied by Organising Committee in accordance with World Sailing Advertising Code, Regulation 20.

3 NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

- 3.1** Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board/s located at Point Yacht Club, Durban and / or Buffalo River Yacht Club, East London.
- 3.2** Weather and communications briefings for Skippers will be held at Point Yacht Club, details of which will be posted on the Notice Board.

4 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 4.1** Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted before 19h00 SAST on 14 May 2021.

5 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 5.1** Signals made ashore will be displayed on the flagstaff at Point Yacht Club and / or Buffalo River Yacht Club.
- 5.2** When flag AP is displayed ashore, "1 minute" is replaced with "not less than 60 minutes" in the race signal AP.

6 STARTING TIME FOR RACE

The warning signal for the start of the race will be made not before 10h55 SAST on 16 May 2021. There will be one start for all competing yachts.

7 CLASS FLAGS

The class flag will be Code Flag "W" and all competing boats will start at the same time.

8 THE COURSE

The course shall be from the Start Line positioned off Vetch's Pier, to the Fairway Mark left to starboard, to the finish line in East London, as described in 12 below, a distance of approximately 300 nautical miles.

After starting the race, all boats shall leave the Fairway Mark to starboard. (Fairway Buoy - 29° 50.0' S 31° 05.6' E Iso.W. Period 2s)

9 MARKS

- 9.1** The start mark will be a yellow pillar mark.

10 THE START

- 10.1** Races will be started by using RRS 26 with the Warning Signal given 5 minutes before the starting signal.
- 10.2** The starting line shall be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the Committee Boat at the Starboard end and the start mark on the Port end.

11 RECALLS

Should an individual recall be signalled, the Race Officer will broadcast the sail number of the OCS boat/s on VHF Channel 06. This adds to RRS 29.1.

Thereafter the Race Officer will stand by on VHF Channel 06 for a period of not less than 10 minutes after the starting signal, during which time boats may confirm the sail number of the OCS boat or boats.

Failure to receive this broadcast or to make contact with the Race Officer will not constitute grounds for redress.

12 THE FINISH

The finishing line shall be between the end of the North Pier and a point on the South Pier as an extension along the North Pier.

The finish line will be located at approximately 33.03 S, 27.92 E.

13 PENALTY SYSTEM

13.1 Rule 44.1 – a two turns penalty will apply for breaking a rule of RRS, Part 2, from the time of the Preparatory signal until two hours after the start.

13.2 RRS 44.3 – a Scoring Penalty will apply for breaking the COLREGs, which shall apply from two hours after the start until such time as the last boat has finished.

13.3 A boat that has taken a penalty under 13.1 or who acknowledges an infringement under 13.2 shall make a declaration to the Race Committee, on the applicable form, within the time limit for submitting protests.

14 TIME LIMITS

The race for all yachts will end at 50 hours after the official start of the race. All yachts who have not finished at this time will be scored DNF. This changes RRS 35, A4 and A5.

The Race Committee reserves the right to extend the time limit at its discretion.

15 PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

- 15.1** Protests shall be written on forms available at the Race Office. Protest shall be delivered there within the protest time limit.
- 15.2** The “**Protest Time limit**” is 2 hours after the last boat has finished.
- 15.3** Notices will be posted as soon as possible after receipt of a protest, but in any event by no later than 30 minutes of the protest time limit, to inform competitors of hearings, and the times thereof, in which they are parties or named as witnesses. Hearings will be held in a jury room, located at Buffalo River Yacht Club. Protests hearings may be covered by means of a Zoom meeting.
- 15.4** A request for reopening a hearing shall be delivered no later than 30 minutes after the requesting party was informed of the decision that day. This changes RRS 66.
- 15.5** A request for redress from a Protest Committee decision shall be delivered no later than 30 minutes after the decision was posted.

16 SCORING & HANDICAPS

- 16.1** The Low point scoring system of Appendix A will apply to this race.

A boats corrected time will be determined by applying her handicap, as determined below, to her elapsed time.

The ORC class handicaps will be as stated on the valid ORC certificate submitted with the yachts entry.

PHRF Handicaps will be determined by the Vasco Handicapping Officer, who shall use the DRS Handicapping System and any other information he may deem necessary to determine a yachts handicap. This Class may, at the discretion of the Race Committee, be divided into two or more fleets appropriate to the size and speed of the yachts.

All applicable handicap ratings will be published on the official Notice board by 10h00 SAST on Saturday 10 May 2021. Any objections to these handicaps shall be submitted in writing to the Race Committee.

17 SAFETY

- 17.1** Yachts shall comply with the Schedule 1 – Safety Equipment and Scrutineering Check List, to the Notice of Race.
- 17.2** Each boat shall be scrutineered according to the Scrutineering Safety Equipment and Scrutineering Check List by a Safety Officer prior to the close of registration.
- 17.3** The Race Committee may further subject any boat to scrutiny, both before the start of the race and after the boat has finished the race but not after the protest time limit for the race.

18 COMMUNICATIONS

Boats will be required to communicate their position and any other information as detailed in the separate communication instruction to be issued. This communication instruction forms part of the sailing instructions.

19 PRIZES

Prizes will be awarded as detailed in the Notice of Race.

20 DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

Competitors participate in the regatta entirely at their own risk; see RRS 3, Decision to Race. Neither the Organizing Authority, nor any of its personnel, will accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after the regatta.

21 INSURANCE

Each participating boat is encouraged to carry sufficient valid third-party liability insurance to cover any liability arising during the event.

Start Line in Durban



Finish Line in East London



Buffalo River Yacht Club

