



VASCO DA GAMA OCEAN RACE 2023

NOTICE OF RACE

Vasco da Gama International Ocean Race Durban to EAST London Sunday, 30 April 2023

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

1. THE RACE

The Vasco da Gama International Ocean Race is a race from Durban, South Africa to East London, South Africa and starts on Sunday 30 April 2023. The race is organised by the Point Yacht Club and Buffalo River Yacht Club, under the auspices of South African Sailing (SAS).

2. ELIGIBILITY

2.1. The race will comprise the following fleets:

2.1.1. ORC Racing fleet for Monohull boats with valid 2023 ORC certificates.

2.1.2. PHRF fleet for Multihull yachts.

2.2. Monohull boats shall have an overall length (LOA) of not less than 9.0 metres.

2.3. Multihull boats shall have an overall length (LOA) of not less than 9.0 metres.

2.4. All boats shall have a valid Category A registration with SAS.

2.5. Should there be sufficient entries in any fleet; the Race Committee may divide that fleet into two or more classes, at its sole discretion.

2.5.1. In accordance with the World Sailing 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 SA Sailing or their Member National Authority in the case of non-South Africans. The Yacht Club name and membership details shall be stated on the entry form or crew list. Current valid South African Sailing Membership Cards or similar proof of MNA Membership in cases of non-South Africans shall be presented at Registration.

2.5.2. Entry qualification. All boats are to provide proof that the boat together with the skipper and 25% of the number of crew racing, sailed in the Vasco da Gama Ocean Race 2022. Failing this it will be necessary for the boat and 50% of the crew to complete a qualifying offshore passage of at least 80 nautical miles which includes one night at sea during the 9 months preceding the race.

3. COURSE & DATE

3.1. The ocean race will start in Durban, South Africa and finish in East London, South Africa. The race distance is approximately 300 nautical miles.

3.2. The warning signal for the fleet to start is scheduled for 09h55 SAST.

3.3. Details of the start and finish lines, plus starting and finishing instructions, will be published in the Sailing Instructions.

3.4. A "Dignitary Race" will be held in-port on Saturday, 29 April 2023 in the confines of Durban Harbour with the warning signal for the first fleet scheduled for 13h55 SAST. The purpose of the Dignitary Race is to provide advertising opportunities for the Sponsors and Public Relations opportunities for the host club as well as a systems "shake down" for competitors. Each competitor in the main race is earnestly requested to sail this race and to take dignitaries on board if so requested by the race committee. There will be prizes awarded to both the Vasco da Gama Race fleet and also to the support fleet.

4. TIME LIMIT

- 4.1. The race for all fleets will end at 54 hours after the start of the race.
- 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 International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (COLREGs) as applicable in terms of this Notice and the Sailing Instructions,
 - 5.1.2. The rules as defined in World Sailing Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) (2021 – 2024), subject to changes made in terms of this Notice & the Sailing Instructions,
 - 5.1.3. The ORC 2023 Rules Parts A, B & C or the PHRF Handicapping System, as applicable to competing boats.
 - 5.1.4. The Safety Equipment and Self Scrutineering Check List contained in Schedule 1 to this Notice of Race.
 - 5.1.5. The SA Sailing KZN Rules governing the Award of Regional Colours and Medals.
 - 5.1.6. The South African National Small Vessel Safety Regulations.
 - 5.1.7. This Notice of Race.
 - 5.1.8. The Sailing Instructions.
 - 5.1.9. The SAMSA Category “A” Safety Requirements.
 - 5.1.10. The legally binding Declaration made by the skipper on signing this events Entry Form and Scrutineering Safety Equipment Check List.
- 5.2. Part 2 of the RRS relating to ‘when boats meet’ shall apply for two hours after the start of the first fleet to start, after which the right-of-way will be determined by the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (COLREGs).

6. CHANGES TO THE RACING RULES OF SAILING

- 6.1. RRS 41: The services of private weather routing experts are not permitted.
- 6.2. RRS 51: A boat with movable ballast shall not use movable ballast to trim the boat fore and aft.
- 6.3. RRS 64.1: Scoring and/or Time Penalties may be applied at the discretion of the Protest Committee.
- 6.4. RRS 61.3: No protests may be filed later than 1 hour after the expiry of the race time limit.
- 6.5. RRS 76.1 Failure to carry and operate a tracking device or to carry and operate a camera when required may lead to a Scoring and/or Time Penalty applied at the discretion of the Protest or Race Committee.

7. ALTERNATIVE PENALTIES

- 7.1. RRS 44.1 – a Two-Turn’s 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 2 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 the COLREGS, which shall apply from 2 hours after the time of the start of the first class to start until such time as the last boat has finished.
- 7.3. The scoring penalties will be applied in accordance with the Sailing Instructions.

8. COMMUNICATIONS

- 8.1. Boats are requested to communicate their position by WhatsApp when in cell phone range. Included in the transmission should be any other interesting information, photographs and video which could be used by the Race Committee on social media.

9. RATING CERTIFICATES AND HANDICAPS

- 9.1. Boats shall have ratings and/or handicap certificates as follows:
- 9.1.1. Boats racing in the ORC Racing fleet shall have a current, valid, endorsed and signed ORC certificate. Valid ORC certificates must be lodged with the Race Secretary no later than 12h00 SAST on 21 April 2023. The Race Committee reserves the right to extend the time limit in exceptional circumstances.
- 9.1.2. Boats racing in the Catamaran fleets will be allocated a handicap by the handicap committee.
- 9.2. On showing good cause and with the prior written approval of the Race Committee, changes may be made to a boat's rating certificate up to 24 hours prior to the scheduled start of the race.
- 9.3. A list of ratings for each fleet will be published on the Official Notice Boards not later than 16h00 on 21 April 2023.
- 9.4. Any protest relating to a boat's rating shall be submitted to the Race Secretary before 16h00 on 23 April 2023.
- 9.5. 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:
- 9.5.1. In respect of boats in the ORC Fleet, the corrected time will be the elapsed time, plus any penalty time, multiplied by the relevant boat's ORC TCF. The boat with the lowest corrected time (after application of scoring penalties, if any) will be scored first.
- 9.5.2. In respect of the Multihull fleet, the corrected time will be the elapsed time, plus any penalty time, multiplied by the relevant boats TCF. The boat with the lowest corrected time (after application of scoring penalties, if any) will be scored first.

10. ORC REQUIREMENTS & CHANGES TO ORC RULES

- 10.1. ORC boats must have a current, valid, endorsed and signed 2023 ORC Certificate.
- 10.2. ORC boats must comply with the ORC 2023 Rules, save to the extent they are specifically amended or excluded in this Notice of Race or the Sailing Instructions.
- 10.3. A boat may be inspected prior to the start of the race, and at the finish, to ensure compliance with its current ORC Certificate.

11. SAFETY REQUIREMENTS AND SCRUTINY

- 11.1. Each boat shall be crewed by at least 4 persons, including the skipper.
- 11.2. The skipper must satisfy the Race Committee by the registration date that at least 1 person on board has a SAS Coastal Skipper certificate of competence or higher.
- 11.3. All boats will be scrutineered by the Race Committee to ensure compliance with the safety requirements. The skipper is obliged to ensure that he/she and at least one other member of the crew is present at the scrutiny.
- 11.4. Any yacht reported or/and found to not be compliant with any safety requirements as required in this Notice of Race will be protested by the Race Committee.
- 11.5. 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.
- 11.6. 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.
- 11.7. The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in the race or to continue racing is hers alone (RRS 3).
- 11.8. The Crew List, on the prescribed form provided together with a copy of each crew member's valid identity document, shall be submitted to the Race Secretary by 16h00 on 23 April 2023.
- 11.9. Changes to crew within 48 hours prior to the start may be permitted under exceptional circumstances, in writing, and with the express permission of the Race Committee.

12. ENTRIES

- 12.1. An entry, on the prescribed entry form, must be submitted with the relevant entry fee to the Race Secretary, Vasco da Gama Ocean Race 2023, Point Yacht Club, Durban, 4000 by not later than 16h00 SAST on Friday 7 April 2023. Late entries close at 10h00 on 21 April 2023 subject to the late entry fee being paid.
- 12.2. The standard entry fee shall be R1500.00 per boat (including owner/skipper) and R550.00 per crew member.
- 12.3. The late entry fee shall be R2000.00, payable in addition to the standard entry fee.
- 12.4. Entry Fees may be paid in cash or by bank transfer. A copy of the 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. Race golf shirts. Each entry received on or before 7 April 2023 will qualify for free race shirts for each crew member, as supplied by the main Regatta sponsor. This is subject to the crew sizes and numbers being supplied with the entry form by close of business on 7 April 2023.
Entries received after 7 April 2023 will not qualify for free race shirts.
Any omission of the Race Committee in respect of the supply of shirts will not in any way influence the results of the race.

13. ADVERTISING AND REFERENCE TO RACE

- 13.1. Advertising will be permitted in accordance with the World Sailing Advertising Code, Regulation 20.
- 13.2. The Organising Committee may require boats to display sponsor's advertising in accordance with WORLD SAILING 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:

Friday 28 April 2023	14h00 SAST to 17h00 SAST
Saturday 29 April 2023	08h00 SAST to 10h00 SAST

15. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Sailing Instructions will be issued to all entrants on completion of all registration requirements.

16. PRIZE GIVING

16.1. Prize giving for all fleets will take place not before **1800** SAST on the day the last boat crosses the line at the Buffalo Yacht Club.

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 shall be notice boards bearing the name of the Race, and shall be located at the Point Yacht Club, Durban and Buffalo River Yacht Club, East London.

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 dependents 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.

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 Special Regulations

Schedule 2 Trophies

In-port Race Sailing Instructions

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Race Office Details:

Point Yacht Club, Victoria Embankment, Durban

Tel: +27 (31) 301 4787

Email: manager@pyc.co.za

PostalAddress: 3 Maritime Place, Durban 4001

Contact details:

Chairman	Nigel Milln	083 301 8423	nigel@saol.co.za
Vice Chairman and Principal Race Officer	Ron Pet	073 232 4105	pet@glenwoodhighschool.co.za
Race Secretary	Gill Campbell	083 461 6286	gillcam@telkomsa.net.com