



## Sailing Instructions

GENERAL INFORMATION (this section is for information only)

The ROUND IRELAND YACHT RACE starts at Wicklow Harbour on Saturday 20th June 2026 at 14:00 hrs. The start time is different from the notice of race.

- A. The **DEDICATED RACE CONTROL PHONE** - FOR RACING BOATS ONLY - to contact and report to the RACE CONTROL OFFICE is **(number to be added by 10/06.2026)** (Active from 17.06.2026)
- B. This number is to be used by the racing fleet for all reporting while at sea.
- C. The Race Office (RO) shall be located at Wicklow Sailing Club, South Quay, Wicklow.
- D. The attention of every competitor is drawn to RRS 1.2 and the element stating, "each competitor is individually responsible for wearing a personal flotation device adequate for the conditions." See NoR 1.10
- E. The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone. (RRS Fundamental Rule 4)
- F. English shall be the official language used throughout the race.
- G. High Water Wicklow 20th June 2026 is **16:35** (Local).

The notation (DP) in a rule in the Notice of Race (NoR) or Sailing Instructions (SI) means that the penalty for a breach of that rule may, at the discretion of the Protest Committee be less than disqualification. The notation (NP) in a rule of the NOR or SI means that a

boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule. This changes RRS 60.1

The Notation (SP) in a rule in the NOR or SI means that for a breach of this rule a standard penalty may be applied by the Race Committee without a hearing.

This changes RRS 60.1, 63.2(a) and A5

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## SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Date of First Issue 1st June 2026

### 1 RULES

- a) The organising authority (OA) of the Round Ireland Yacht Race (**RIYR**) is Wicklow Sailing Club (WSC) with the support of the Royal Ocean Racing Club (RORC) in association with the Royal Irish Yacht Club (RIYC).
- b) The race will be governed by the following rules:
- i. The Rules as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS)
  - ii. RRS part 2 rules will be replaced with the right-of-way rules of the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (IRPCAS) between local sunset and sunrise.
  - iii. The World Sailing Offshore Special Regulations (OSR) 2026 for Category 2 Races
  - iv. IRC Rule 2026, parts A, B and C.
  - v. Class 40 class rules.
  - vi. MOCRA rating rules
- c) NoR 1.8 is changed by adding new NoR 1.8(f):

Under World Sailing Test Rule DR21-01, the definition Start is changed as follows:

**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:

(SP)

- (a) at or after her starting signal, or
- (b) during the last minute before her starting signal.
- (c) when a boat starts in accordance with item (b) of the definition of start she may return to the prestart side of the line to comply with item (a) of the definition of start, but if she does not, the starting penalty shall be: 120 minutes shall be added to her elapsed time.

### 2 REGISTRATION & INSPECTION

- a) The Race Committee may inspect a boat or her equipment at any time for compliance with the Rules.
- b) Boats shall be available for inspection at Wicklow Sailing Club or Dun Laoghaire Marina not later than 10:00 hours on Thursday 18th June, 2026.
- c) NoR 13.1 is changed to read:

The race offices at WSC and RIYC will be open for registration and inspection as follows:

Date	WSC	RIYC
Wed 17 <sup>th</sup> June	10:00 to 13:00 14:00 to 17:00	10:00 to 13:00 14:00 to 17:00
Thu 18 <sup>th</sup> June	10:00 to 13:00 14:00 to 17:00	10:00 to 13:00 14:00 to 17:00

Fri 19th June	10:00 to 13:00	10:00 to 13:00
	14:00 to 16:00	14:00 to 16:00

### 3 POLLUTION

- a) Attention is drawn to the World Sailing Code of Environmentally Friendly Behaviour:

<https://www.sailing.org/tools/documents/WorldSailingCodeofEnvironmentalFriendlyBehaviour>

### 4 NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

- a) The Official Notice Board is located at Wicklow Sailing Club.
- b) A secondary general information board will be located in the Royal Irish Yacht Club.
- c) Notices may also be displayed on the RIYR portal.
- d) Changes to the Sailing Instructions will be posted on the Official Notice Board and on the event website no later than 5 hours before the scheduled start.

### 5 EVENT, BACKSTAY FLAGS / PENNANTS

- a) Boat shall display official RIYR backstay flags.
- b) Class and backstay flags shall be flown at least 1.5m above the deck.

### 6 AIS

- a) AIS transponders shall be transmitting and receiving from 11:00 on Saturday 20th June until the boat finishes or retires and returns to port.
- b) A boat's AIS transponder shall be programmed with the boat's MMSI number and current racing name.
- c) Boats shall not inhibit AIS transmissions.
- d) Any failure to receive or transmit AIS signals shall be reported on the Declaration Form (see IC 18)

### 7 YB TRACKERS

- a) Boats shall carry a YB Tracker unit while racing. The tracking can be viewed on the RIYR website: <https://www.roundireland.ie>
- b) Boats shall, at the time of registration, sign for receipt of a tracker unit. In the event of loss or failure to return the tracker, boats shall pay €800.
- c) Boats shall not inhibit YB Tracker transmissions.

## 8 CLASS FLAGS

Class Bands / Flags are as follows:

Class	TCC Range	Class Flag
IRC Z	1.275 and greater	Pennant 0
IRC 1	1.101 - 1.274	Pennant 1
IRC 2	1.051 - 1.100	Pennant 2
IRC 3	1.004 - 1.050	Pennant 3
IRC 4	0.850 - 1.003	Pennant 4
Class 5	Cruisers Hull Factor 7.5 or less	Pennant 5
Class 6	Two handed class	Pennant 6
Multihull		Pennant 7
Class 40		Class Insignia

## 9 NUMBER OF PEOPLE ON BOARD

- (a) Before leaving the dock, boats shall ensure they have an accurate crew list lodged on the online entry system [www.sailraceHQ.com](http://www.sailraceHQ.com).
- (b) The Round Ireland Yacht Race will be using WhatsApp or the Nautical Cloud Racing App to confirm your race day crew numbers and will send you a pre-race notification prior to the race. The WhatsApp message will come from our systems WhatsApp number and not the normal RIYR WhatsApp number.
- (c) once you receive the pre-race crew number declaration on WhatsApp or the Nautical Cloud Racing App, you should reply with the numerical number of crew you have on board and wait for a reply that will confirm if you have the correct number registered on your SailRace HQ account. Note that the confirmation message can take up to two minutes.
- (d) If you are not on Whatsapp, or have any issues with the reply or do not receive the message, you should text (**Number will be added before 10th June**) between 10.00 and 11.00 on the 20th of June 2026
- (e) in exceptional circumstances when the persons on board do not match the crew list as declared on the online entry system, the boat shall inform the race committee of the changes and the reasons for failing to complete SI -9.2
- (f) a boat shall not sail with a crew member whose emergency contact details has not been lodged on the online entry system before the start of the race.

## 10 COMMUNICATIONS

- a) The race committee will broadcast and receive on VHF Ch72 (**Callsign "ROUND IRELAND RACE OFFICE"**)
- b) The Race committee may broadcast information on VHF Ch72, at the start and finish of the race. Boats are strongly recommended to maintain radio watch on VHF Ch72 until clear of Wicklow Head and when approaching the finish.
- c) A boat may request and receive repetition of information broadcast by the Race committee or enquire whether or not a broadcast has been made. This changes RRS41, Outside Help.
- d) When reasonably possible, communication between boats shall use DSC, or call on VHF Ch 16 and then use Ch 72.
- e) Boats with communication in addition to VHF shall, if necessary, relay other boats communications, by passing other boats' NHF reports to the race committee or Coastguard.
- f) In addition, the Race Office may be contacted at (**Number will be added before 10th June**) or by email: [info@roundireland.ie](mailto:info@roundireland.ie)

## 11 STARTING SIGNALS

- a) Starting Signals will be made from the Committee Vessel.
- b) The first warning signal will be made at 13:50 hours on Saturday 20th June 2026.
- c) The Warning Signal will be made 10 minutes before the starting signal (10, 4, 1, 0, sequence).
- d) All Monohull Classes will start together. The warning signal will be ICF 'E'
- e) The starting signal for the Monohulls will be the warning signal for the Multihulls.
- f) All Multihull classes shall start together. The warning signal will be ICF 7.

## 12 STARTING LINE

- a) The Starting Line will be between the Lighthouse, at the end of the East Pier at Wicklow Harbour, and the main mast/ flagstaff of the Committee Boat, positioned approximately 700 metres to seaward of the pier.
- b) Boats shall start by crossing the Starting Line from North to South.
- c) The Committee Vessel will be identified by a Wicklow Sailing Club Burgee displayed from its main flagstaff.
- d) An Inner Limit Mark, a purple buoy, may be laid on or near the start line approximately 50 metres from the Lighthouse end of the East Pier. Boats shall leave this Inner Limit Mark to starboard when starting and shall not sail between this mark and the lighthouse at anytime.
- e) An Orange mark may be laid on or near the start line, near to the Committee Vessel. Boats shall not sail between this mark and the committee vessel.

### 13 RECALLS and STARTING PENALTIES

- a) Rule 30.1 ('Round the Ends' rule) applies to all boats except that:  
 In accordance with item (b) of the definition Start (as changed by SI1(c)), a boat that crosses the start line from the pre-start side of the starting line of the course side in the last minute before her starting signal has started.  
 She may return to re-start by complying with RRS 30.1.  
 If she does not, she shall be penalised by the race committee without a hearing, her penalty shall be a time penalty of 120 minutes added to the boat's corrected time.  
 This changes RRS 29.1, 30.1 and 63.1 and A5.
- b) No earlier than 1 minute after the starting signal the race committee may broadcast the sail numbers of boats that have not started, have not complied with RRS 30.1 or have been penalised under SI 13(a). Failure to broadcast this information will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 62.1.
- c) Late starters  
 The starting line will remain open for 15 minutes after the last starting signal.  
 Boats may start after the line has been closed by:
- informing the Race Office of their intention to start and of the estimated time of starting. Boats shall comply with SI 9c (changes to the number of persons on board before starting).
  - sailing through a line off Wicklow defined as: crossing an imaginary line no further than 600 metres in length from the lighthouse on the East Pier of Wicklow Harbour on a bearing 060 degrees (true) from the lighthouse.
  - as soon as reasonably possible after starting, informing the Race Office that they have started.
  - no boat shall start after 13:00 hours on Sunday 21st June, 2026.

### 14 COURSE

- a) Boats shall sail AROUND IRELAND, leaving all its islands (excluding Rockall) and rocks showing permanently above high water and the marks listed below, to starboard:
- Start > Wicklow Head > Tuskar Rock > Barrells Light Buoy > Coningbeg Light Buoy > Old Head of Kinsale > Fastnet Rock > Mizen Head > Gull Rock (Off Bull Island) > Washerwoman Rock (Off Great Skellig) > Great Foze Rock > Black Rock > Eagle Island > Tory Island > Tor Rocks (Off Inishtrahull) > Rathlin Island > Highway Rock > Mew Island > Burial Island > South Rock Light Buoy > Lambay Island > East Pier, Wicklow
- b) (SP) Areas that are Obstructions
- i. A boat shall not enter an area designated an Obstruction when racing
  - ii. For each Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) encountered around the course; the traffic lane running in the opposite direction to the course and the separation zone are designated as Obstructions

### Coordinates for the Obstructions

The boundaries are the rhumb lines between the corners, the coordinates of the corners are given.

Obstruction	Position: Latitude(N) Longitude(W) – WGS84	
TSS – Fastnet Rock	A – 51° 21'.00N 009° 26'.40W	B – 51° 17'.20N 009° 24'.60W
	C – 51° 15'.45N 009° 33'.90W	D – 51° 19'.25N 009° 35'.75W
TSS – North Channel	A – 55° 26'.91N 006° 14'.00W	B – 55° 25'.50N 006° 01'.55W
	C – 55° 17'.05N 005° 51'.20W	D – 55° 14'.70N 005° 56'.85W
	E – 55° 21'.85N 006° 05'.70W	F – 55° 23'.00N 006° 15'.40W
TSS – Tuskar Rock	A – 52° 14'.30N 006° 02'.40W	B – 52° 12'.70N 005° 54'.70W
	C – 52° 06'.00N 005° 58'.35W	D – 52° 01'.50N 006° 07'.50W
	E – 52° 05'.50N 006° 12'.55W	F – 52° 09'.10N 006° 05'.30W

- iii. RRS 56.2 applies, boats sailing in those parts of the TSS that are not obstructions shall comply with rule 10, Traffic Separation Schemes of IRPCAS.
- iv. If an official complaint/action is lodged against a boat by a commercial, government, or naval power-driven vessel, by a pilot, by a vessel traffic service (VTS), or by other local government authority, it shall be presumed that the boat has broken rule 56.2(b)

## 15 POSITION REPORTING

- a) Every boat shall send position reports to the RO at WSC, giving the time of passing abeam of:
  - Due South of Fastnet Rock Lighthouse
  - Due West of Eagle Island Lighthouse
  - Due North of Inishtrahull Lighthouse
- b) Position reports shall be sent by text to the dedicated telephone number for reporting to the Race Office at **(number to be added before 10/06/2026)** or by email to [info@roundireland.ie](mailto:info@roundireland.ie)
- c) The report shall include the boat name and sail number, date (dd/mm/yy) and time (24/00)
- d) If a boat believes that her tracker has failed, the boat shall, if reasonably possible, deliver position reports to the RO at WSC or to the coastguard stations listed below:
  - Due South of Fastnet Rock Lighthouse to Bantry Radio
  - Due West of Eagle Island Lighthouse to Belmullet Radio
  - Due North of Inishtrahull Lighthouse to Malin Head Radio
- e) If a boat is unable to report promptly after passing a reporting point, shall record details and deliver a report at the first reasonable opportunity.
- f) The Race Office may require, at any time, a boat to report their current position either to the Race Office or to the nearest coastguard station.

## 16 FINISHING

- a) Boats shall, if reasonably possible, inform the Race Office no later than 30 minutes before their estimated finishing time. The RO will monitor on VHF Channels 72 and 37(M).
- b) The Finishing Line will be between the Lighthouse on the East Pier at Wicklow Harbour and a Finishing Mark (yellow cone shaped buoy) positioned approximately 300 metres from the Lighthouse on a bearing of 60 degrees (true) from the Lighthouse.
- c) The Finishing Line shall be crossed from North to South
- d) The Finishing Mark will display a flashing amber light, flashing 2 quick flashes every 6 seconds during the hours of darkness. This should not be confused with an outfall buoy situated approximately 1390 metres from the Lighthouse showing four quick flashes, yellow, every 10 seconds.
- e) Between local sunset and sunrise boats finishing shall clearly illuminate their sail number and communicate their sail number by VHF to the Race Office.
- f) A boat that has finished and does not intend to return enter Wicklow Harbour; she shall, as soon as reasonably possible, inform the Race Office by telephone that she has finished racing, give her time of finishing in BST.

## 17 TIME LIMIT

- a) There is no time limit for the race

## 18 RACE FINISH DECLARATIONS AND RETURN OF YB TRACKER

### (DP) and (NP)

- a) No later than 12 hours after finishing or retiring, boats shall complete and submit a Declaration Form to the Race Office at WSC. Every member of the crew shall sign the Declaration Form. The race committee may disqualify, or give a time penalty to, a boat without a hearing for failure to comply with this rule. This changes RRS 63.1 and A5.
- b) A boat that does not return to Wicklow Harbour after finishing or retiring may submit the declaration form within the 12-hour time limit by scanning and emailing to the Race Office at WSC [info@roundireland.ie](mailto:info@roundireland.ie) or by way of photograph on WhatsApp to **(number to be added before 10/06/2026)**.
- c) A boat that retires shall give reasons for doing so on her Declaration Form.
- d) Trackers shall be returned to the race office in WSC within 24 hours of finishing or retiring. If a tracker cannot be returned to the RO within this time limit, boats shall contact the RO to make arrangements for safe return of the tracker to WSC.

## **19 RETIREMENTS AND NON-STARTERS.**

- a) A boat not starting or retiring from the race shall notify the RO as soon as reasonably possible

## **20 HEARING REQUESTS AND PENALTY SYSTEM NP**

- a) Hearing request forms are available at the Race Office or on the portal.
- b) The time limit for delivering a hearing request about an incident observed in the racing area is 6 hours after the boat has finished or retired. Hearing request forms shall be delivered to the Race office within the time limit.
- c) Standard Penalties:  
The race committee may penalise a boat without a hearing (this changes RRS A5) for:
  - I. Entering an area designated as an obstruction, breaking SI 14(b). The penalty shall be a time penalty of 2 hours added to a boat's corrected time. The race committee may protest a boat based on a claim that the breach of the rules listed in SI 20(c) I was avoidable, intentional or that the boat gained a significant advantage by her breach.
- d) RRS 44.1, Penalties at the time of an incident applies except that:  
When the right-of-way rules of IRPCAS apply between the hours of sunset and sunrise RRS 44.3 Scoring Penalty applies. The scoring penalty shall be 10 minutes added to the boat's corrected time for each penalty. This changes RRS 43.3(c).
- e) The penalty for the breach of a rule other than a rule of RRS Part1, Fundamental Rules and Part 2, When Boats Meet, may, at the discretion of the protest committee, be less than disqualification. The protest committee may publish guidelines for discretionary penalties.

## **21 SCORING**

- a) The IRC Category shall be scored on corrected time by IRC TCC.
- b) The Multihull Category shall be scored on corrected time using the MOCRA TCC.
- c) Class 40 shall be scored in accordance with finishing positions after the application of any time penalties.

## **22 TROPHIES AND PRIZES**

- a) The interpretation of the terms of award for all trophies and prizes will be made by the Race committee, whose decision is final. Winners will be awarded perpetual trophies as listed below. These trophies will be held by WSC after the Prizegiving, and winners will be provided with an additional trophy to keep.
- b) When no boat qualifies to win a particular trophy the Race committee may, at its discretion, award it otherwise.
- c) Main trophy presentation will take place at Wicklow Sailing club at 18:00 hours on Friday 26th June and may include the presentation of RORC medallions.

- d) Where a winning boat has not completed the race in advance of the trophy presentation ceremony the trophy shall be presented at the earliest time after the arrival in Wicklow of the boat / crew.

The following Perpetual TROPHIES with accompanying prizes will be presented:

IRC Class Z - Class Z Cup
IRC Class 1 - Tusker Cup
IRC Class 2 - Fastnet Cup
IRC Class 3 - Skellig's Cup
IRC Class 4 - Tory Island Cup
Class 5 Cruisers - Michael Jones Plaque
Class 6 - 2 Handed - Noonan Plaque
Class 40 - Trophai Ceann Chill Mhantain
Multihull MOCRA - DuBarry Trophy
Oldest boat to complete the race - Maybird Award
Team Award - Kinsale YC Trophy
ISORA Award - Larry Ryan Woodcut
ICRA Award - ICRA Trophy
Best Sailing School - SE Sailing School
Best Services in IRC - Robert Halpin Trophy
Best Corinthian IRC - Viking Marine Trophy
Best Overseas IRC - WSC Plate
First Welsh Boat - John Morris Memorial Trophy
Line Honors Monohull - Denis Doyle Cup
Line Honors Multihull - Volvo Trophy
IRC Overall - Norman Barry Trophy / Irish TV Rentals Cup

Awards for other positions will be presented based on:

Number of Starters	4 - 6	7+
Prizes	2nd	2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup>

### 23 USE OF ENGINE, TAKING SHELTER, OUTSIDE HELP

- a) A boat may use her engine for propulsion:
- i) to get clear after grounding or colliding with a vessel or object (see RRS 42.3(h));  
or, under RRS 42.3(i)

- ii. to help a person or another vessel in danger; or;
  - iii. when taking shelter, or, in an emergency, entering harbour.
- b) A boat may make fast in order to take shelter or in an emergency (This changes RRS 45). The crew may temporarily leave the boat to handle her moorings or carry out repairs (this changes RRS 48.2).
- c) A boat that uses her engine for propulsion to reach shelter or harbour (see SI 23 (iii))
- shall record the position at which propulsion was first engaged:
  - shall, on leaving shelter of harbour return to that recorded position (using the engine for propulsion if necessary) before resuming sailing towards the next mark.
  - shall demonstrate, if requested, that the use of her engine for propulsion did not result in an overall progression towards the finish.
- d) In application of RRS 41(c), information freely available to all boats:
- i) includes 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.
  - ii) shall not include any 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 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.

- e) Boats shall report any use of their engine, or if they take shelter or enter harbour, as soon as reasonably possible, and when leaving to continue in the race. The report shall be sent by text to the dedicated telephone number for reporting to the Race Office at **(number to be added before 10th June)** or by email to [info@roundireland.ie](mailto:info@roundireland.ie) any use of their engine or any temporary discontinuance of racing on their Declaration Form.

## 24 OUTSIDE COMMUNICATIONS

- a) As soon as reasonably possible after any communication concerning emergency situations, rescue services, medical attention, or a boat retiring, and before contacting any 3<sup>rd</sup> party, a boat shall inform the RO.
- b) The RO may, after informing appropriate people, may issue a press release.

## 25 RISK STATEMENT

- a) Rule 4 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".
- b) Sailing is by its nature an unpredictable sport and therefore inherently involves an element of risk.
- c) By taking part in the event, each competitor agrees and acknowledges that:
  - I. 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.

- II. they are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat, and their other property whether afloat or ashore.
- III. they accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omission.
- IV. their boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the event and they are fit to participate.
- V. the provision of a race management team and other officials and volunteers by the event organiser does not relieve them of their own responsibilities.
- VI. 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.