



MAY 2013: ISAF SPECIAL REGULATIONS

The Rolex Fastnet Race is ISAF Offshore Special Regulations Category 2, with RORC Prescriptions. This may be a higher category of race than many competitors have done before (most RORC Offshore Races are Category 3) and there are some requirements which may need more explanation so you can be sure of your OSR Compliance. Even if you have taken part in the Rolex Fastnet Race before it is worth reading through the amendments to make sure that you are up-to-date.

In addition to the Special Regulations, this Newsletter covers more information about the Plymouth finish and finding berthing before the Cowes start.

ISAF Offshore Special Regulations Q and A

Please find below a selection of the most frequently asked questions about the ISAF Offshore Special Regulations. For a full list of FAQs please see the RORC website.

The ISAF Offshore Special Regulations and RORC Prescriptions can all be found in the RORC Notice of Race 2013, available to download from the RORC website; we can also pop a printed copy in the post to you—see the contact details on Page 2.

4.26 Storm & Heavy Weather Sails

Q: Do I need to carry a Heavy Weather Jib and a Storm Jib?

A: Yes, they are 2 different sails and both are required to meet the regulations of Category 2.

Q: Will 2 Storm Jibs meet the requirement?

A: Yes there is no minimum size for a Heavy Weather Jib. However these are to be carried to use and be able to sail the boat in a controlled and balanced manner and not just to meet the requirement.

Q: I have borrowed a friend's Trysail and therefore it does not have my sail number on, is it OK to just inform the Race Committee of the differing number?

A: No, you must change the sail number. If the conditions are such that boats are using Storm Sails it will be very important to be able to identify/eliminate boats quickly in search and rescue scenarios.

Q: Do my Storm Sails need to be of highly visible colour?

A: Yes, if they are not made of material that is highly visible then they need to be fitted with patches of highly-visible colour.

3.14 Pulpits, Stanchions, Lifelines

Q: ISAF Offshore Regulations now permit the use of Dyneema or Spectra for guardrails (lifelines); can I change my old wire ones for new Dyneema ones?

A: **No!** HMPE (Dyneema/Spectra) guardrails are **prohibited for all IRC boats in RORC races**. If your stainless steel wire lifelines need replacing then they have to be replaced with stainless steel wire lifelines.

Q: My new boat has come with brand new Dyneema/Spectra guard wires, are these ok?

A: **No!** They will have to be replaced with stainless steel wire guard wires before taking part in any RORC races, including the Rolex Fastnet Race.

4.19 EPIRBs & PLBs

Q: What is the minimum requirement for the Rolex Fastnet Race?

A: 406 ship's **EPIRB is a requirement for the Fastnet Race**, this must be **correctly registered** with the appropriate authority. If you are borrowing an EPIRB from a friend then it is important you notify the appropriate authorities of the change of vessel. In the UK there is not a charge for this, and simple to do through Falmouth Coastguard.

Q: What is a PLB?

A: 406/AIS PLBs (**P**ersonal **L**ocator **B**eacon) are becoming more common as they reduce in price. Like the EPIRB these also need to be correctly registered. They can be registered either to the boat (in the event that the boat has them as part of the equipment for each of the crew) or to an individual.

If you are borrowing a friend's then please notify the appropriate authority.



3.23 Bilge Pumps and Buckets

Q: Do I need a second manual bilge pump?

A: Yes; one of the extra requirements of Category 2 is to have a second manual bilge pump which can be operated from below deck with all hatches, lockers and the companionway closed. If your boat is not fitted with a second manual bilge pump there are a number of solutions available; feel free to ask us for more information.

Q: Does a second bilge pump that is battery operated meet the requirement?

A: No! A yacht's batteries are often located down in the bottom of the boat and can often be covered by the incoming water very quickly with the result that the battery operated bilge pump may stop working as the water level rises.

4.28.3 Man Overboard Button

Q: The regulation now requires the ability to log a man overboard from each helm station, how can I meet the requirement?

A: The requirement can be met a number of ways, from chart plotters mounted at the helm or within immediate reach of the helm, the Lifetag system by Raymarine, to a small GPS unit mounted at the helm station. Ideally any system at the helm station would be powered by the ships battery however it is understood that this may not be practicable for every boat and therefore a battery powered GPS with a VERY robust system for maintaining charge will meet the requirement.



4.20.5 Liferaft Servicing and Inspection

Q: Which liferafts require an annual service?

A: All **Valise packed** liferafts require an annual service. Some manufacturers recommend a three year service period however, due to the lack of rigid protection around these liferafts, they are very easily damaged and therefore need an annual service to meet the ISAF Special Regulations requirements. It is also important to think about how they are handled and where they are stored to give them as much protection as possible. You should regularly inspect your liferafts for visible signs of damage.

For the full details of the OSR Regulations please refer to **4.20 Liferrafts** in the RORC Notice of Race.

Special Regulations Inspections

The RORC has a team of Special Regulations Inspectors who will be checking as many of the entrants as possible for OSR Compliance before the race start.

Led by Janet Grosvenor, the Inspectors are experienced offshore sailors with a wealth of knowledge at their disposal. If you have any questions, seek advice on the regulations or would like to request an appointment then please do get in touch with Janet, see **Contact the RORC Race Team** for details, and she will put you in contact with an Inspector.

Inspections

The Inspectors will endeavour to view as many of the boats as possible between now and the Rolex Fastnet Race start so please do not be surprised if they give you a ring to make an appointment. They are most likely to want to view your boat before the start of RORC offshore races or during Cowes Week and will be available in Cowes and around the Solent.

With a fleet of this size, time is very important and they will require as much assistance as possible so please co-operate fully and prepare for their visit by being organised.

Please note inspections are advisory only.

Contact the RORC Race Team

Email: racing@rorc.org.uk

Phone: +44 (0) 207 518 3131

Fax: +44 (0) 207 493 5252



FROM START...

Berthing in Cowes

Berthing in Cowes—particularly for overseas entrants—can be very difficult to come by as the start of the Rolex Fastnet Race is directly after the busiest week in the Solent calendar, Aberdeen Asset Management Cowes Week. We have compiled a list of marinas around the Solent, both on the Isle of Wight and the mainland, which may have berthing available in the preceding days to the race.

Please note: Not all the marinas on the list are suitable for every boat in the fleet so please make your own enquiries as to its suitability before making a booking.

East Solent

Portsmouth Harbour

Gosport Marina: +442392 524811
Gunwharf Quays: +442392 836732
Haslar Marina: +442392 601201
Port Solent Marina: +442392 210765
Royal Clarence Marina: +442392 523523
Fareham Yacht Harbour: +441329 232854
Fareham Marina: +441329 233255

In addition

Southsea Marina: +442392 822719

West Solent

Hamble River

Hamble Point Marina: +442380 452464
Port Hamble Marina: +442380 452741
Mercury Yacht Harbour Marina: +442380 455994
Swanwick Marina: +441489 574272
Universal Marina: +441489 884081
Hamble Yacht Services: +442380 454111

Southampton Harbour

Ocean Village: +442380 229385
Shamrock Quay: +442380 229461
Kemps Marina: +442380 63232
Town Quay: +442380 234397

Lymington

Berthon Lymington Marina: +441590 673312
Lymington Yacht Haven: +441590 677071

In addition

Hythe Marina: +442380 207073

Isle of Wight

Cowes

Cowes Yacht Haven: +441983 299975
East Cowes Marina: +441983 293983
Shepard's Wharf Marina: +441983 293952

Newport

Odessa Marine: +441983 524337
Island Harbour Marina: +441983 539994

Ryde

Ryde Harbour: +441983 613879

Yarmouth

Yarmouth Harbour: +441983 761192



...TO FINISH

Plymouth Yacht Haven

This year the Plymouth Yacht Haven, located across the Cattewater from the Plymouth Barbican, will play host to the vast majority of the fleet. Competitors will benefit from extensive berthing close to the Race Village, with plenty of space for car-parking and shower and toilet facilities. Alongside will be a dedicated Crew Bar and Restaurant which will be open throughout the day and night, catering for the competitors no matter what time they finish.

With the Water-Taxi running between the marina and the Barbican you will have access to the enormous array of bars, restaurants and hotels located in the heart of Plymouth.

More details to follow in the next edition of the Newsletter.