Transatlantic Race 2015
Newport, RI to Lizard Point, UK

NOTICE OF RACE

The Transatlantic Race 2015 is organized by the Royal Yacht Squadron, the New York Yacht Club, the Royal Ocean Racing Club and the Storm Trysail Club. It is the signature event of the Atlantic Ocean Racing Series 2015 which includes several of the world’s foremost ocean classics. The Transatlantic Race is open to IRC yachts, Classics, Super Yachts, Multihulls, IMOCA 60, Class 40s or other Open Class yachts.

The Transatlantic Race 2015 is a race from Newport, Rhode Island, USA to the Lizard, UK. A Coastal Race will continue from the finish at the Lizard to the Fairway buoy marking the entrance to the Needles Channel off the Isle of Wight.

1 MANAGEMENT

1.1 The New York Yacht Club Regatta Association, Inc. is the Organizing Authority (OA) for the Transatlantic Race 2015. The Organizing Committee for the Race comprises the Royal Yacht Squadron (RYS), New York Yacht Club (NYYC), Royal Ocean Racing Club (RORC) and Storm Trysail Club (STC). The OA and Committee will work in concert in planning and conducting the Transatlantic Race 2015.

1.2 The OA will have the authority to interpret the conditions governing the event and assign yachts to divisions, classes and starting dates. The OA also reserves the right to accept or reject the entry of any yacht.

2 RULES

2.1 The Transatlantic Race 2015 will be governed by the following:

2.1.1 The rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) as modified below:

a) RRS Part 2 is replaced by Part B, the Steering and Sailing Rules, of the International Regulations for the Prevention of Collision at Sea (IRPCAS) from sunset on the first day of racing until a yacht is within five (5) nautical miles of the finishing line at the Lizard;

b) The jury may impose suitable penalties other than disqualification, including time penalties, for breaches of a rule. This changes RRS 64.1;

c) Outside Help (Communications):

i) RRS 41(c) is replaced by:

A boat shall not receive help from any outside source, except (c) help in the form of information which is freely available to all boats, which shall include 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, but shall not include any information gathered or the subject of interpretation by, or any advice received from, any source not on board the boat which is specific to the boat and her situation. By way of example and interpretation, downloading charts, weather and/or 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.

ii) A boat may, without infringing RRS 41, request and receive repetition of information broadcast by the Race Committee, or be told whether or not a broadcast has been made.
2.1.2 The prescriptions of US SAILING, except as may be changed by the Sailing Instructions;
2.1.3 The 2015 IRC Rules Parts A, B and C shall apply, except as changed below or in the Sailing Instructions;
2.1.4 The 2014-2015 ISAF Offshore Special Regulations (OSR), Category 1, including the RORC prescriptions;
2.1.5 This Notice of Race; and
2.1.6 The Sailing Instructions.
2.2 When there is a conflict, succeeding rules in the above list shall take precedence. This changes RRS 63.7.
2.3 Rules documents will be posted on the Transatlantic Race 2015 website at www.transatlanticrace.org.

3 ADVERTISING
3.1 A boat and her crew shall comply with ISAF Regulation 20, Advertising Code.
3.2 All yachts shall display bow stickers and a backstay flag, if provided at registration, while racing. Classic yachts are not required to display bow stickers. A breach of this paragraph 3 is protestable only by the Race Committee.

4 ELIGIBILITY & SAFETY REQUIREMENTS
4.1 Yacht Eligibility
4.1.1 Yachts shall be sailing vessels with inboard auxiliary power.
4.1.2 Yachts shall carry a masthead AIS transponder. See NOR 7.3.
4.1.3 All yachts in the IRC Division shall have a valid 2015 IRC certificate. IRC Racing division yachts shall have an endorsed IRC certificate.
4.1.4 The minimum length LH (LOA) is 40 feet. There is no maximum length.
4.1.5 The Hull Construction Standards of ISAF Offshore Special Regulations 3.03 shall apply to all yachts. Yachts with an age or series date of December 2009 or earlier shall supply evidence of compliance with these ISAF standards by proof of ABS or European Recreational Craft Directive Category A status, or, in the absence of such evidence, the OA may consider the qualification of a yacht by virtue of its offshore history and/or a current survey that specifically addresses characteristics of design, construction, and maintenance that determine the suitability of the yacht for Category 1 offshore racing.

4.2 Stability and Safety Indices
In accordance with OSR 3.04.3, the OA will use minimum stability/buoyancy indices. For yachts racing under IRC, either STIX or SSS indices shall be used depending on the series date of the yacht. Monohull yachts not racing under IRC shall satisfy the OA that they meet the requirements of other stability indices for the race. In exceptional circumstances, the OA may accept other indicators as to the suitability of the yacht for the race.
4.2.1 Yachts with a series date of 1995 and later will be categorized under STIX only.
4.2.2 Yachts with a series date before 1995 may be categorized under either STIX or SSS.
4.2.3 The minimum permitted value is: STIX - 32; SSS – 35.

4.3 Crew Eligibility and Responsibility
4.3.1 The term “Skipper” as used in this Notice of Race means the person, whether or not the owner of the yacht, who is designated on the entry form as “Skipper” and who is the Person in Charge of the yacht during the race. The Skipper is responsible for the yacht, its handling and safety, the conduct of the crew before, during and after the race, and compliance with the Notice of Race and the Sailing Instructions.
4.3.2 Skippers must be current members of their Member National Authority (MNA).
4.3.3 The Transatlantic Race 2015 is not a race for novices. Every crew member should have experience sailing a yacht offshore and be prepared to encounter heavy weather. Competitors, including the Skipper, Navigator and Watch Captains may be required to provide evidence of offshore experience in order for a yacht’s entry to be accepted by the OA.
4.3.4 **OSR Section 6 - Training:** At least 50% but not fewer than two members of a crew, including the Skipper, shall have undertaken training within the five years before the start of the race in both OSR 6.02 topics for theoretical sessions, and OSR 6.03 topics, including practical, hands-on sessions.

4.3.5 **OSR 6.05 – Medical Training:** At least two members of the crew shall hold a current Senior First Aid Certificate or equivalent and should be familiar with the management of medical emergencies that may occur at sea including hypothermia, and radio communications operations for obtaining medical advice by radio. Each of these crew members shall also have undertaken the training required by OSR 6.01.

4.4 **Yacht Inspections**

4.4.1 The OA may conduct inspections of all yachts prior to the race.

4.4.2 The Skipper shall be required to sign an inspection document before and after the race verifying their yacht’s compliance with the rules and safety regulations.

4.4.3 The OA reserves the right to inspect yachts after they finish the race.

4.4.4 In accordance with RRS 78.3, when a safety inspector decides that a yacht or equipment does not comply with the rules for the race, he shall report the matter in writing to the race committee and the race committee shall protest the yacht in accordance with RRS 60.2.

4.5 **Personal Equipment**

4.5.1 In accordance with ISAF OSR 5.01.1, each crew member shall have a lifejacket meeting the requirements of this rule. Before the race, a crew member should adjust a lifejacket to fit and retain that lifejacket for the duration of the race. Correct adjustment is fundamental to the lifejacket functioning correctly. In addition, RORC prescription to OSR 5.02.5 strongly recommends that before the race, each crew member should adjust a harness to fit them and retain that harness for the duration of the race.

4.5.2 Special attention should be given to the RORC prescriptions to OSR 5.01 Lifejackets. In particular:

5.01.5 A harness and lifejacket shall be worn when on deck (at a minimum under the following conditions):
   a) between the hours of sunset and sunrise;
   b) when alone on deck;
   c) when reefed;
   d) when the true wind speed is 25 knots or above;
   e) when the visibility is less than one nautical mile.

4.5.3 In addition, the following requirement is added to OSR 5.01.5:
   f) when the skipper, owner, or watch captain orders such safety equipment to be worn.

4.5.4 Special attention should be given to the RORC prescriptions to OSR 5.02 Safety Harness and Safety Lines (Tethers). In particular:

5.02.5 b) ISAF OSR 5.02.5(b) is amended to read: A harness shall be fitted with a crotch strap or thigh straps.

4.5.5 At a minimum, personal AIS electronic beacons are required for each crew member. It is strongly recommended that each lifejacket has a PLB unit that is properly registered.

5 **ENTRIES AND FEES**

5.1 The OA reserves the right to limit the total number of entries accepted to fifty (50) yachts. Entry must be made on the forms provided and returned to the OA no later than Monday, February 28, 2015. The OA may permit an entry after this date with a late fee that is 25% of the entry fee.

5.2 A valid IRC certificate shall be submitted to the OA no later than two weeks prior to the yacht’s scheduled start as stated in NOR 15.

5.3 As a condition of entry, each owner, Skipper and individual participating crew member shall sign a liability waiver/media release and this fully executed Crew Waiver Form shall be submitted to the OA prior to racing.
5.4 The entry fee is US$100 per foot LOA rounded down to the nearest whole number up to a maximum entry fee of US$15,000.

5.5 **Early Entry** – Yachts entering by Wednesday, September 15, 2014, will receive a reduction of US$1,000 off the entry fee.

5.6 **Cancellations and Refunds** – A yacht cancelling prior to May 1, 2015, will receive a refund of the entry fee minus a US$1,000 administrative charge. A yacht cancelling between May 1, 2015, and two weeks prior to that yacht’s scheduled start will receive a refund of 50% of the entry fee. There will be no refund for a yacht cancelling within two weeks of her scheduled start.

5.7 The complete social schedule will be posted on the Transatlantic Race website at [www.transatlanticrace.org](http://www.transatlanticrace.org).

6 **DIVISION DESCRIPTIONS & SPECIAL ENTRIES**

6.1 The following division descriptions will be used as guidelines by the OA to assign yachts to appropriate divisions to ensure even competition. The racing fleet will be divided into four divisions: IRC Racing, IRC Racer Cruiser, Classics and Multihull/Open Class. Additional Divisions may be added at the discretion of the OA. The OA may be further organize the Divisions into Classes within a Division. Division and Class assignments by the OA, including the starting dates, are final and are not subject to protest.

6.2 **IRC Racing Division** for high performance yachts. The only design and construction restrictions in effect for yachts in this division are ISAF Offshore Special Regulations, Category 1. In accordance with IRC rule 22.3.1, any type of variable ballast is permitted.

6.3 **IRC Racer Cruiser Division** will be composed of yachts with a design date or design concept of 1970 or later. These are yachts that show moderate to heavy displacement, moderate draft and moderate sail area to displacement. A Super Yacht class may be designated by the OA and may be scored by a handicap rating other than IRC as determined by the OA.

6.4 **Classic Division** yachts shall be defined as a monohull designed and built for recreational purposes in wood or steel or aluminium to a pre-1970 design by traditional build methods. There is no limit on the material used in construction of a Classic yacht’s sails.

6.5 **Open Division** – Multihulls, Class yachts and Open yachts may be placed in their own respective classes and will be governed by their class rules or handicap rating other than IRC.

6.6 **Youth Entry** – A yacht with at least 50% of her crew age 25 or younger on the date of that yacht’s start shall be considered a youth entry. A trophy may be awarded to the highest placing youth entry.

6.7 **Team Entry** – Two or more yacht teams representing a Yacht Club or OA-approved organization may enter to compete for the Team Trophy.

6.8 Division and class assignments, as well as the assignment for each class to Start I, Start II or Start III, will be posted no later than May 1, 2015. The OA may provide provisional assignments prior to that date.

7 **GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL DIVISIONS**

7.1 All Skippers are advised that they are solely responsible for the structural integrity of their yachts and their ability to undertake a safe transatlantic crossing.

7.2 All yachts shall comply with ISAF Offshore Special Regulations, Category 1 including the RORC prescriptions. Yachts are subject to inspection by the OA.

7.3 **AIS** - OSR 3.29.1 requires that an Automatic Identification System (AIS) Transponder be provided. The AIS Transponder shall remain on (i.e. transmitting and receiving) while a yacht is racing. The AIS antenna shall be masthead mounted.

7.4 **Tracking** - Each yacht shall have installed a satellite tracking device as specified and supplied by the OA. The device shall remain on while a yacht is racing.

7.5 **VHF Radio and Satellite Telephone** - Each yacht shall have aboard a VHF radio including digital selective calling and a satellite telephone. The satellite telephone shall remain on at all times while racing and the phone number(s) shall be provided to the OA prior to the start.
7.6 All yachts may use powered winches to trim sails. RRS 52 shall not apply. See IRC rules 15.2 and 22.3. Powered winches must be declared to the Rating Authority when applying for a rating.

7.7 **Crew minimum** - The minimum number of crew aboard each yacht shall be four (4), except a one-design or Open class may have fewer crew as long as they meet the requirements of their Class Rules.

7.8 **Crew maximum** – For IRC yachts, IRC rule 22.4.2 is deleted and replaced by “The maximum number of crew that may sail aboard a boat shall be as detailed below. There is no weight limit.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IRC Certificate Crew Number</th>
<th>Allowed Crew Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Up to 9</td>
<td>Certificate crew number plus 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 to 13</td>
<td>Certificate crew number plus 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 and over</td>
<td>Certificate crew number plus 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7.9 **Extra spinnaker** - The US SAILING Prescription to IRC Rule 21.6.1 applies. In accordance with IRC Rules 11 and 21.6.1, a yacht entered in IRC may carry one more spinnaker than shown on her current IRC certificate of area not greater than rated SPA without an increase in rating.

8 **THE START**

8.1 The race will start in the vicinity of Castle Hill in Newport, RI.

8.2 Depending on the number of entries and their handicaps, the intended starting dates are:

- Start I Sunday, June 28
- Start II Wednesday, July 1
- Start III Sunday, July 5

8.3 Open Class yachts will be scheduled as appropriate for their potential elapsed time.

8.4 The first warning signal on each day will be at 1350.

9 **THE COURSE**

9.1 The Transatlantic Race course will be as follows:

- Start in Newport, RI
- R “4” GONG off Brenton Point to port
- Nantucket Island to port
- Point Charlie to port
- Point Alpha to port,
- Finish at Lizard Point, UK

9.2 The Coastal Race course will start at the Lizard and finish at the Fairway buoy southwest of the Needles. The Coastal Race is a continuation of the Transatlantic Race. The finish time for the Transatlantic Race at the Lizard will be used as the start time for the Coastal Race.

9.3 **Point Charlie** - Point Charlie will be established to avoid the Right Whale breeding ground northeast of Cape Cod and will be announced at the Captains’ Meeting.

9.4 **Point Alpha** - Point Alpha will be established to avoid possible iceberg areas and will be announced at the Captains' Meeting. Yachts are not permitted to sail North of Point Alpha’s latitude prior to passing Point Alpha’s longitude.

9.5 The Transatlantic Race course length is approximately 2796 nm. The official course record from Newport to the Lizard of 6d 22h 08m 02s was set by *Rambler* in 2011.

9.6 The Coastal Race course length is approximately 142 nm.

10 **SAILING INSTRUCTIONS**

The Sailing Instructions will be sent to all entrants and will be available on the Transatlantic Race website at [www.transatlanticrace.org](http://www.transatlanticrace.org) no later than June 1, 2015.
11 PENALTY SYSTEM

11.1 The Scoring Penalty, RRS 44.3, will apply for a breach of a rule of Part 2, or IRPCAS when they apply, while racing. The penalty will be one hour added on to the yacht’s corrected time.

11.2 A yacht may take a One-Turn Penalty when she may have broken RRS 31.

11.3 At the option of the jury, a yacht in breach of RRS 29 and/or RRS 30 that does not return to start properly will be penalized by having her corrected time increased by two hours. This changes RRS 29.1 and 30.1.

11.4 Decisions of the jury will be final in accordance with RRS 70.5.

11.5 The jury may impose suitable penalties, which may include time penalties, for breaches of a rule. This changes RRS 64.1.

12 BERTHING AND REGISTRATION

12.1 All yachts shall be berthed in the Newport area for at least three days prior to their start unless an exception has been granted by the OA.

12.2 Race Headquarters will be located at the Sailing Center, New York Yacht Club Harbour Court, 5 Halidon Avenue, Newport, RI. See NOR 17 for details.

12.3 Post-race headquarters will be located at the Royal Yacht Squadron in Cowes, UK. Details on post-race requirements and activities will be provided in the Sailing Instructions.

13 LIABILITY & MEDIA WAIVERS

13.1 Specific attention is directed to the following Fundamental Rules, which state:

RRS 1.1 - Helping Those in Danger
A boat or competitor shall give all possible help to any person or vessel in danger.

RRS 4 - Decision to Race
The responsibility for a boat’s decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone.

OSR 1.02 - Responsibility of Person in Charge

1.02.1 The safety of a yacht and her crew is the sole and inescapable responsibility of the Person in Charge who must do his best to ensure that the yacht is fully found, thoroughly seaworthy and manned by an experienced crew who have undergone appropriate training and are physically fit to face bad weather. He must be satisfied as to the soundness of hull, spars, rigging, sails and all gear. He must ensure that all safety equipment is properly maintained and stowed and that the crew know where it is kept and how it is to be used.

1.02.2 Neither the establishment of these Special Regulations, their use by race organizers, nor the inspection of a yacht under these Special Regulations in any way limits or reduces the complete and unlimited responsibility of the person in charge.

13.2 Waiver/Release Form - As a condition of entry, the owner or charterer of an entered yacht and each participating crew member shall submit an online waiver/release form no later than two days prior to that yacht’s start. The waiver/release form will include the following:

a) Liability Waiver - Competitors participate in this regatta entirely at their own risk. See RRS 4, Decision to Race. The Organizing Authority, Organizing Committee, Sponsors, and affiliated companies, will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after the regatta. Attention is also drawn to ISAF Offshore Special Regulation 1.02, Responsibility of the Person in Charge.

b) Media and Commercial Rights - The owner or charterer of an entered yacht and all of its crew shall acknowledge that the Organizing Authority owns all media and commercial rights to the Transatlantic Race 2015. Owners and crews will further grant to the Organizing Authority the unrestricted right to use and publish any biographical information, text and images arising from the TR 2015. The Organizing Authority will exercise these rights in its sole discretion or as it may agree with the Organizing Committee or the race’s sponsors.
The link to the Waiver/Release Form will be posted at [www.transatlanticrace.org](http://www.transatlanticrace.org) no later than June 1, 2015.

**14 SCORING**

14.1 Scoring will be in accordance with RRS APPENDIX A.

14.2 Time allowances for IRC yachts will be calculated using the yacht’s TCC on a Time On Time (TOT) basis.

14.3 The course distance for the Transatlantic Race will be approximately 2796 nautical miles. The course distance for the Coastal Race is approximately 142 nautical miles.

**15 SCHEDULE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 15, 2014</td>
<td>Early entry deadline (US$1,000 discount)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 28, 2015</td>
<td>Entry deadline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 1, 2015</td>
<td>Provisional class assignments and ratings available from the OA</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 23-July 3, 2015</td>
<td>Registration at race headquarters in Newport, RI</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 26, 2015</td>
<td>Opening Reception/Dinner for all Starts at New York YC</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 29, 2015</td>
<td>Start II Reception at New York YC</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 3, 2015</td>
<td>Start III Reception at New York YC</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 18, 2015</td>
<td>Welcoming Reception at Royal Yacht Squadron, Cowes</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 24, 2015</td>
<td>Awards Reception and Dinner at the Royal Yacht Squadron, Cowes</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 27-31, 2015</td>
<td>RYS Bicentennial Regatta</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. 8-15, 2015</td>
<td>Aberdeen Asset Management Cowes Week</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. 16, 2015</td>
<td>Rolex Fastnet Race start</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>All Starts</th>
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<th>Start II</th>
<th>Start III</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rating certificates due</td>
<td>Sunday, June 14</td>
<td>Wednesday, June 17</td>
<td>Sunday, June 21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Captains’ Meeting</td>
<td>Friday, June 26</td>
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<tr>
<td>Start</td>
<td>Sunday, June 28</td>
<td>Wednesday, July 1</td>
<td>Sunday, July 5</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**16 PRIZES**

16.1 Class and overall prizes will be awarded at the Awards Ceremony at the Royal Yacht Squadron, Cowes, UK.

16.2 Prizes will be awarded to the first, second and third place yachts in each class.

16.3 Trophies for overall prizes for both the Transatlantic Race and the Coastal Race will be determined by the Awards Committee of the Organizing Authority.

**17 FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Transatlantic Race 2015 Committee  
New York Yacht Club  
Sailing Office, Harbour Court  
5 Halidon Avenue  
Newport, Rhode Island 02840-3815  
Tel: 401-845-9633 Fax: 401-846-3303  
Email: sailingoffice@nyyc.org

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