



Royal Natal Yacht Club
in conjunction with
Buffalo River Yacht Club



Invites participation in the 2025 edition of the

Vasco da Gama Ocean Race

Durban to East London
25 May 2025

NOTICE OF RACE



Dear Fellow Sailors,

On behalf of the Royal Natal Yacht Club, it gives me great pleasure to extend an invitation to all owners of eligible boats to participate in the 2025 Edition of the Vasco Da Gama Ocean Race starting Sunday 25 May 2025. RNYC is excited to once again host this most prestigious annual event.

As part of our aim to foster increased participation and diversity in offshore sailing, we have extended entries to yachts with automatic pilot and wind vane steering systems in all divisions. Boats with an LOA of 28ft or greater are also eligible to enter. Furthermore, all boats will be eligible for the coveted line honours and overall handicap awards, as well as the regular class-specific recognition.

The Weather Routing Scoring (WRS) system, characterised by ORC as the most accurate and objective scoring method available today, will continue to be used. As before, the WRS rating process will be managed by the ORC.

The schedule of events (Appendix A to the NOR) includes a shake down race on Saturday the 24th of May 2025, which will be held in the Durban Harbour. This will be followed by the race briefing and the complimentary Vasco dinner, where competitors and family will have an opportunity to enjoy the traditional RNYC hospitality and camaraderie ahead of the race.

The Vasco Da Gama Ocean Race website (<https://rnyc.org.za/>) contains links to the online documentation pertaining to the race.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Royal Natal Yacht Club.

Yours sincerely,

Barry Boorman
Commodore
Royal Natal Yacht Club



1. Rules

- 1.1. The event is governed by the rules as defined in:
 - 1.1.1. World Sailing Racing Rules of Sailing 2025-2028 (RRS).
 - 1.1.2. [DP] World Sailing Offshore Special Regulations (OSR) for Category 2.
 - 1.1.3. The International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (COLREGs) as applicable.
 - 1.1.4. The South African National Small Vessel Safety Regulations (SVS).
 - 1.1.5. SAMSA Category "A" Safety Requirements.
 - 1.1.6. ORC Rating System Rules (ORCR) and IMS Rules.
 - 1.1.7. The ORC WRS Rating System.
 - 1.1.8. This Notice of Race (NOR), and the event Sailing Instructions (SI)
- 1.2. The above Rules are modified or extended as follows:
 - 1.2.1. RRS Part 2 shall apply for two hours after the first start. Thereafter, right-of-way shall be determined in accordance with COLREGs. This modifies RRS Part 2.
 - 1.2.2. The use of private weather routing services is not permitted. This extends RRS 41.
 - 1.2.3. RRS 44.1 and 44.2 will apply from the time of the preparatory signal for the first class to start until two hours after that time. Thereafter a scoring penalty will apply for infringements of the COLREGS as per NOR 1.2.1 above. The scoring penalties will be applied at the discretion of the protest committee or in accordance with stipulations in the Sailing Instructions. This modifies RRS 44.
 - 1.2.4. A boat with movable ballast shall not use movable ballast to trim the boat fore and aft. This modifies RRS 51.
 - 1.2.5. Automatic pilot and wind vane steering devices is permitted for all divisions. This modifies RRS 52.
 - 1.2.6. [DP] Failure to carry and/or 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 Committee. This modifies RRS 56.3.
 - 1.2.7. No protests may be filed later than 1 hour after the expiry of the race time limit. This modifies RRS 60.3b.

2. Sailing Instructions

- 2.1. The Sailing Instructions shall be issued to all entrants on completion of all registration requirements.

3. Communication

- 3.1. The event notice board shall be the Vasco 2025 Notice Board WhatsApp group.
- 3.2. [DP] All boats shall carry a VHF radio capable of communicating on channel 06, 09, 12, & 16.
- 3.3. Boats are requested to communicate their position via 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 Organising Committee on social media.

4. Official Notice Boards

- 4.1. The Official Notice Boards shall be the notice boards bearing the name of the Race, located at the Royal Natal Yacht Club, Durban and Buffalo River Yacht Club, East London. An electronic noticeboard will also be established via the Vasco 2025 Notice Board group on WhatsApp.



5. Eligibility

- 5.1. The event is open to all SAS Category-A compliant yachts with LOA of 28ft or greater.
- 5.2. 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 SAS membership cards or similar proof of MNA Membership in cases of non-South Africans shall be presented at registration.
- 5.3. The event shall comprise of the following fleets:
 - 5.3.1. ORC Fully Crewed Monohull Fleet, for boats with valid ORC Club or ORCi Certificates.
 - 5.3.2. ORC Double Handed Monohull Fleet, for boats with valid ORC Club or ORCi Certificates.
 - 5.3.3. PHRF Multihull Fleet.
- 5.4. The Organising Committee may allocate classes within any fleet at its sole discretion.

6. Registration

- 6.1. Registration will take place at Royal Natal Yacht Club during the times as set out below, after which registration will close:

Friday 23 May 2025	14h00 SAST to 18h00 SAST
Saturday 24 May 2025	08h00 SAST to 10h00 SAST

7. Entry & Fees

- 7.1. An entry, on the prescribed entry form, must be submitted together with the entry fee to the Race Secretary, no later than 16h00 on Friday 2 May 2025.
- 7.2. Late entries close at 10h00 on 16 May 2025 and are subject to the late entry fee being paid.
- 7.3. The standard Entry Fee shall be R1500.00 per boat (including owner/skipper) and R550.00 per crew member.
- 7.4. The late Entry Fee shall be R1000 payable in addition to the standard entry fee.
- 7.5. Each entry received on or before 2 May 2025 will qualify for free Race Shirts for each crew member, as supplied by the race sponsor. This is subject to the clothing sizes and numbers being supplied with the entry form by 2 May 2025. Entries received after this date risk not receiving the free race shirts.
- 7.6. Entry Fees may be paid in cash or by bank transfer as below:

Account: Royal Natal Yacht Club
Bank: Standard Bank
Account Number: 050924435
Branch Code: 051001

 - 7.6.1. Please include 'Vasco' + 'Boat Name' as reference on the payment confirmation.
 - 7.6.2. A copy of the electronic transfer/ advice shall accompany the entry form.



- 7.7. The Entry Fee includes the following:
- Entry to the Daisy Business Solutions Vasco Da Gama Race.
 - Entry to the In-port Dignitary Race.
 - Race shirt.
 - Pre-race cocktails and dinner in Durban.
 - Across-the-line refreshments at the Finish in East London.
 - Breakfast on arrival at East London.
 - Prize giving dinner in East London.
 - Prizes and medals for participants.

8. Event Schedule

- 8.1. A Dignitary Race will be held on Saturday 24 May 2025 within the confines of Durban Harbour.
- 8.1.1. The warning signal for the First Start will be made not before 13h55 SAST.
- 8.1.2. Separate Sailing Instructions will be published for this event.
- 8.2. The Ocean Race event shall start in Durban on 25 May 2025 and finish in East London.
- 8.2.1. The distance of the Ocean Race is approximately 280 nautical miles.
- 8.2.2. The warning Signal for the Start shall be made not before 09h55 SAST on Sunday 25 May 2025.
- 8.3. Details relating to the Start and Finish lines will appear in the Sailing Instructions.

9. Prize Giving

- 9.1. Prize giving for all fleets will take place not before 18h00 SAST on the day the last boat crosses the Finish line at the Buffalo River Yacht Club.
- 9.2. Trophies and other prizes to be awarded are published as per Schedule 2 to this Notice of Race.

10. Time Limit

- 10.1. The Time Limit for all fleets will be:
- 10.1.1. 2 hours after the Start of the Dignitary Race.
- 10.1.2. 54 hours after the Start of the Ocean Race.
- 10.2. The Race Committee reserves the right to extend time limits at its sole discretion.
- 10.3. All communication will be conducted via the WhatsApp Vasco 2025 Notice Board and posted on the official notice boards as defined in Clause 4.



11. Rating Certificates & Handicaps

- 11.1. Ratings for the Ocean Race will be determined by the ORC WRS Rating System. Race results will be determined by corrected times calculated by the single Time on Time coefficient calculated by the Weather Routing as provided by the ORC. A list of ratings will be published not later than 3 hours before the start.
- 11.2. Ratings for the Dignitary Race will be determined by the ORC Triple-Number Rating System.
- 11.3. The Organising Committee may, at its sole discretion, publish indicative provisional WRS ratings during the week leading up to the Start.
- 11.4. ORC Certificates for all ORC entries are to be lodged with the Race Secretary no later than 16h00 on Friday 2 May 2025. The Organising Committee reserves the right to extend the time limit.
- 11.5. With written approval of the Organising Committee, changes may be made to a boat's rating certificate up to 24 hours prior to the scheduled start of the race.
- 11.6. Boats entering PHRF Multihull Fleet will be allocated a handicap by the Organising Committee.
- 11.7. Provisional Ratings for each fleet, based on submitted certificates, will be published on the official notice boards not later than 16h00 on 9 May 2025.
- 11.8. Protests relating to a boat's rating, based on submitted certificates, shall be submitted to the Race Secretary before 16h00 on 16 May 2025 or the revised cut-off time if applicable.
- 11.9. A boat may be inspected prior to the start of the race, and/or at the finish, to ensure compliance.

12. Scoring

- 12.1. The Low Point System will apply as defined in RRS Appendix A.
- 12.2. In respect of all fleets, the finishing position of each boat in its respective fleet shall be determined by the corrected time taken by that boat to complete the course, calculated as the boat's elapsed time, multiplied by the boat's ORC/PHRF (as applicable) Time Correction Factor (TCF).
- 12.3. Any applicable scoring penalties will be applied to corrected time.
- 12.4. The boat with the lowest corrected time (after application of scoring penalties, if any) will be scored first.

13. Safety Requirements & Scrutiny

- 13.1. Except for any ORC Double-Handed entries, each boat shall be crewed by at least 4 persons, including the skipper.
- 13.2. At least 1 person on board shall possess a SAS Coastal Skipper certificate of competence or higher.
- 13.3. All boats will be scrutineered by the Organising Committee to ensure compliance with the safety requirements. The skipper (or a nominated representative) and at least one other member of the crew shall be present at the scrutiny.
- 13.4. Any yacht found to be non-compliant will be subject to protest by the Organising Committee.
- 13.5. If a boat does not comply with these regulations its entry may be rejected or be liable to disqualification or such other penalty as may be imposed by the protest committee
- 13.6. The Crew List, on the prescribed form provided, together with a copy of each crew member's valid identity document and SAS/MNA Membership confirmation, shall be submitted to the Race Secretary on or before the registration date.
- 13.7. Changes to crew within 48 hours prior to the start may be permitted, by application in writing to the Organising Committee.



14. Risk Statement

- 14.1. RRS 3 states: "The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue to race is hers alone." Competitors participate in this event entirely at their own risk. The organising authority will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury, or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after the event.

15. Public Relations & Media

- 15.1. In the interests of promoting the event, it is recommended that each entry is accompanied by a brief biography of the owner/ skipper and include information on the crew and, if possible, should include photographs of the owner/ skipper and of the boat.
- 15.2. The Organising Committee shall be authorised to use this information in connection with any advertising, publication, promotion, sponsorship, or the like relating to the race whether in printed or electronic form or howsoever.
- 15.3. The purpose of the Dignitary Race on 24 May 2025 is to provide advertising and public relations opportunities for individual boats, event sponsors, and the host clubs. Each competitor is earnestly requested to participate and to take dignitaries on board as requested by the Organising Committee.
- 15.4. Tracking Devices: A boat may be required to carry a tracking device supplied by the Organising Authority.

16. Advertising & Reference to Race

- 16.1. Advertising is permitted in accordance with the World Sailing Advertising Code, Regulation 20.
- 16.2. Boats may be required to display sponsors' advertising in accordance with World Sailing Regulation 20.
- 16.3. A boat shall display the race sponsor's bow decals, backstay flags and forestay flags as supplied by the Organising Authority.
- 16.4. Boats shall display the advertising material prior to the warning signal and after finishing.
- 16.5. The name of any boat, whether displaying advertising or not, must be acceptable to the Organising Committee.
- 16.6. Unless by prior arrangement, 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.
- 16.7. The owner and skipper 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.
- 16.8. 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.
- 16.9. The skipper of a boat, if 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.



16.10. The entry of a boat breaching any of the provisions of this Clause 16 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 Protest Committee may deem fit to propose.

16.11. If in doubt, a boat may enquire of the Organising Committee whether it infringes the provisions of any of the above advertising rules.

17. Jurisdiction

17.1. 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.

17.2. 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.

18. Indemnity

18.1. The owner and the skipper of each boat entered shall be deemed, on the acceptance of the entry by the Organising 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. Errors and Omissions

19.1. On good cause, the Organising Committee reserves the right to amend any of the provisions of this Notice of Race.

20. Insurance

20.1. Each boat shall be adequately insured with valid third-party liability insurance. The Organising Committee reserves the right to request proof of insurance as a condition of entry.



21. Additional Information

Regatta Office:

Royal Natal Yacht Club
3 Boatman Road, Yacht Mole, Durban 4000
Tel: 031 301 5425
Email: club@rnyc.org.za

21.1. Organising Committee:

Chairperson – Rowan Price (Cell: 082 089 0383 | Email: rowan.price94@gmail.com)
Treasurer – Barry Boorman (Cell: 082 826 1352 | Email: barryboorman1@gmail.com)
Secretary – Sarah Shooter (Cell: 082 777 7544 | Email: accounts@rnyc.org.za)
Technical & Safety – Sean Jones (Cell: 082 892 9314 | Email: jonesco@netactive.co.za)
Race Support – Brian Dales (Cell: 082 372 1743 | Email: bdales@iafrica.com)
BRYC Liaison – Conrad Bennett (Cell: 063 309 7913 | Email: Brycclubsecretary@gmail.com)
Race Officer – Ashley Rainier (Cell: 084 208 2404 | Email: Ashley.j.rainier@gmail.com)

21.2. Protest Committee:

Protest Chair – Hemraj Gokal (Cell: 083 298 5835 | Email: hemraj.gokal@gmail.com)
Campbell Alexander
Rob Wallendorf
Dave Hudson
Alan Keen

21.3. Attachments:

Schedule 1: Scrutineering Checklist
Schedule 2: Prizes and Trophies
Schedule 3: Entry Form
Schedule 4: Crew List

21.4. Sponsors:

Daisy Business Solutions



Appendix A - Vasco Da Gama Ocean Race 2025 Schedule of Events

Date	Event
Friday 2 May 2025	Entries Close
	Deadline for submission of ORC certificates
Friday 16 May 2025	Late Entries Close (late fee applicable)
Friday 23 May 2025	14h00 SAST to 18h00 SAST Registration @ RNYC
Saturday 24 May 2025	08h00 SAST to 10h00 SAST Registration @ RNYC
	14h00 SAST Dignitary Race Start
	17h30 SAST Weather and Race Briefing @ RNYC
	18h30 SAST Vasco Dinner @ RNYC
Sunday 25 May 2025	10h00 SAST Ocean Race Start
Day of Last Boat Finish	Prize Giving not before 18h00 @ BRYC