



**SOUTH AFRICAN
SAILING**

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Vasco Da Gama Ocean Race 2025

Dates: 23 to 25 May 2025.

Venue: Durban (RNYC) to East London (BRYC)

Organising Authority: Royal Natal Yacht Club in conjunction with Buffalo River Yacht Club with the consent of SA Sailing.

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

1 COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS

- 1.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the Official Notice Boards located at the Royal Natal Yacht Club (RNYC), Durban and Buffalo River Yacht Club (BRYC), East London. An electronic noticeboard will also be established via the Vasco 2025 Notice Board group on WhatsApp.
- 1.2 Weather and communications briefings for Skippers will be held at Royal Natal Yacht Club, details of which will be posted on the Notice Boards.
- 1.3 The race office is located at RNYC, 3 Boatman Road, Yacht Mole, Durban 4000.
Tel: 031 301 5425
Email: club@rnyc.org.za.
- 1.4 [DP] While racing, except in an emergency, a boat shall not make voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice or data communication that is not available to all boats.
- 1.5 [DP] A VHF radio capable of receiving and transmitting on Channels 09, 12, and 16 shall be monitored at all times during the event whilst boats are away from their moorings.

2 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted before 19h00 SAST on 24 May 2025.

3 CODE OF CONDUCT

[DP] Competitors and support persons shall comply with reasonable requests from race officials.

4 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 4.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed on the flagstaff at Royal Natal Yacht Club and / or Buffalo River Yacht Club.
- 4.2 When flag AP is displayed ashore, "1 minute" is replaced with "not less than 90 minutes" to the race warning signal.
- 4.3 When the AP signal is made ashore, the participating yachts will be informed of the initial duration of the postponement via the notice boards.

5 CLASS FLAGS

The Class Flag(s) will be advised at the Skippers Briefing on the day of racing.

6 COURSES

The course shall be from the Start Line positioned off the Durban beachfront to a turning mark to be left to starboard in a North Easterly wind or to port in a South Easterly or South Westerly wind (an additional mark to be left to starboard in a Southerly wind may be laid). After rounding all marks, competitors will proceed to the finish line in East London, as described in SI below, approximately 280 nautical miles away. See Appendix A below for diagrams of the Start and Finish areas. Details regarding the Start shall be given during the Skipper's Briefing.

7 MARKS

The Start mark and first turning mark will be red pillar marks.

8 THE START

- 8.1 Races will be started using RRS 26.
- 8.2 The starting line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the Committee Boat at the Starboard end and the start mark on the Port end.

9 RECALLS

- 9.1 Should circumstances permit the race officer may announce the count-down to the start and/or individual recalls on VHF Channel 06. Any failure in respect of these broadcasts or to make contact with the Race Officer shall not constitute grounds for redress. This amends RRS 29.1.
- 9.2 Thereafter the Race Officer will stand by on VHF Channel 06 for a period not less than 10 minutes after the starting signal, during which time boats may confirm the sail number of an OCS boat or boats.

10 THE FINISH

The finishing line shall be between the end of the North Pier and a mark represented by a box with a light on the South Pier as an extension along the North Pier. See the attached image. The finish line will be located at approximately 33.03 S, 27.92 E.

11 PENALTY SYSTEM

- 11.1 RRS 44.1 will apply for breaking a rule of RRS, Part 2, from the time of the Preparatory signal for the first start until two hours after the start.
- 11.2 A scoring penalty imposed by the PC will apply for breaking the COLREGs, which shall apply from two hours after the first start until such time as the last boat has finished. This amends RRS 44.3.

12 TIME LIMITS

- 12.1 The race for all yachts will end at 54 hours after the official start of the race. All yachts who have not finished at this time will be scored DNF. This changes RRS 35, A4 and A5.
- 12.2 The Race Committee reserves the right to extend the time limit at its discretion.

13 PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

- 13.1 Protests shall be written on forms available at the Race Office. Protest shall be delivered there within the protest time limit.
- 13.2 The "Protest Time limit" is 1 hour after the last boat has finished or after of the race time limit.
- 13.3 Notices will be posted as soon as possible after the receipt of a protest, but in any event by no later than 30 minutes of the protest time limit, to inform competitors of hearings, and the times thereof, in which they are parties or named as witnesses. Hearings will be held in a jury room, located at Buffalo River Yacht Club. Hearings may be conducted by means of a Zoom meeting.
- 13.4 A request for reopening a hearing shall be delivered no later than 30 minutes after the requesting party was informed of the decision that day. This changes RRS 66.
- 13.5 A request for redress from a Protest Committee decision shall be delivered no later than 30 minutes after the decision was posted/announced.

14 SCORING

The Low-Points scoring system of RRS Appendix A will apply. A boats' corrected time will be determined in accordance with NOR 12.2

15 SAFETY REQUIREMENTS & SCRUTINY

- 15.1 Yachts shall comply with Schedule 1 – Safety Equipment Check List.
- 15.2 Each boat shall be scrutineered according to the Scrutineering Safety Equipment Check List by a Safety Officer prior to the close of registration.
- 15.3 The Race Committee may further subject any boat to scrutiny, both before the start of the race and after the boat has finished the race.

16 TRASH DISPOSAL

Trash must be kept aboard each boat until such time as it may be safely disposed of in designated bins upon finishing.

17 COMMUNICATIONS

[DP] Boats are requested to communicate their position by WhatsApp 6 hours after the start and every 3 hours thereafter whenever in cell phone reception range. Included in the transmission should be any other interesting information and photographs.

18 TRACKING DEVICES

Should the Race committee provide tracking devices to competitors, these will be fitted to each yacht. Any tracker that becomes inoperative during the duration of the race will be thoroughly examined and if it is determined that an action of the crew has caused or is thought to have caused the malfunction a discretionary time penalty may be imposed against that yacht.

19 DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

Competitors participate in the event entirely at their own risk; see RRS 3, Decision to Race. Neither the Organizing Authority, nor any of its personnel, will accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after the event.

APPENDIX A – START AND FINISH AREAS

START in Durban – North Easterly Wind

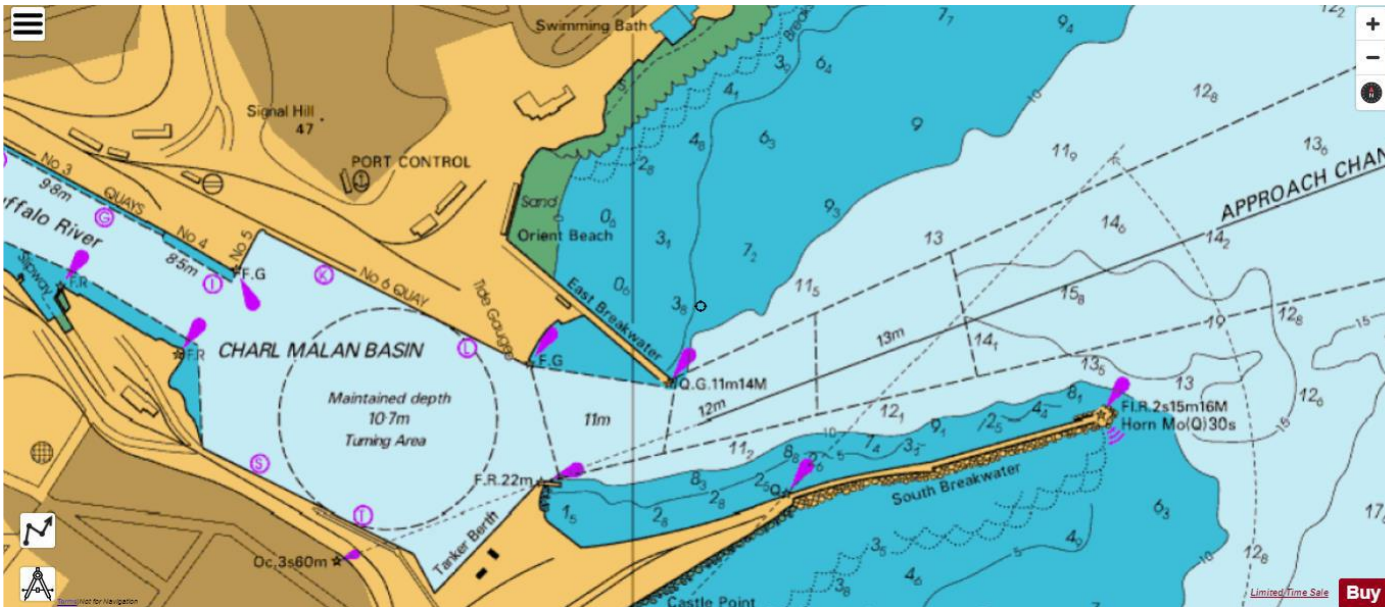


START in Durban – South Easterly/Westerly Wind



FINISH in East London





Buffalo River Yacht Club

