



SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Vasco Da Gama Ocean Race 2026

ORC Eastern Cape Regional Championship

Approved PM 6 May 2026

Date: 24 to 27 May 2026.

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 Board (ONB) which is the WhatsApp group [Vasco 2026 Notice Board](#). A courtesy copy of notices will be available at the Royal Natal Yacht Club (RNYC), Durban, and Buffalo River Yacht Club (BRYC), East London.
- 1.2 Weather and communications briefings for skippers will be held at Royal Natal Yacht Club, details of which will be posted on the ONB.
- 1.3 The race offices for Durban and East London are located respectively at RNYC and BRYC. Emails for either: barryboorman1@gmail.com and Hemraj.gokal@gmail.com
- 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] Boats shall monitor the relevant VHF channels (06, 09, 12 and 16) 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 23 May 2026 on the [Vasco 2026 Notice Board](#) (ONB).

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 thereafter on the flagstaff at Buffalo River Yacht Club.
- 4.2 When flag AP is displayed ashore, "1 minute" is replaced with "not less than 90 minutes" in Race Signals AP.
- 4.3 When the AP signal is made ashore, the time of this signal and the initial duration of the postponement will be posted on the ONB.

5 CLASS FLAGS

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

6 COURSES

The diagrams and images in Addendum A show the two courses, including the location of the starting and finishing lines, the order in which marks are to be passed and the side on which each mark is to be left.

The course to be sailed will be posted on the ONB no later than 2 hours before the warning signal, and also designated by a numeral pennant displayed on the race committee signal vessel no later than the time the orange starting line flag is displayed.

7 MARKS

- 7.1 The starting marks will be a race committee signal vessel and a nearby red pillar buoy.
- 7.2 The rounding marks will be red pillar buoys.
- 7.3 The finishing marks will be as described in SI 10.

8 THE START

- 8.1 The starting line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the signal vessel at the starboard end and the course side of the port-end starting mark.
- 8.2 To alert boats that a race or sequence of races will begin soon, the orange starting line flag will be displayed with one sound at least five minutes before the warning signal.

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 changes RRS 61.4(b)(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 will be between the end of the East London North Pier, and a mark represented by a box with a light on the East London South Pier positioned in line with the extension of the North Pier. It is shown in Addendum A and is located at approximately 33° 01.69' S, 27° 55.08' E.

11 PENALTY SYSTEM

- 11.1 The penalty for breaking a right-of-way rule of the IRPCAS will be 10 minutes added to the boat's corrected time unless the breach resulted in damage or injury, in which case the penalty will be at the discretion of the protest committee.
- 11.2 A boat that acknowledges breaking a right-of-way rule of the IRPCAS shall declare this to the race committee, on the Schedule 5 Declaration Form, within the race time limit.

12 TIME LIMITS

- 12.1 The race time limit will be 54 hours after the start of the race. All boats that have not finished by this time will be scored DNF. This changes RRS 35, A4 and A5.
- 12.2 The race committee may extend the race time limit.
- 12.3 All boats are required to submit a completed and signed copy of the Schedule 5 Declaration Form, within 1 hour of Race Time Limit.

13 PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

- 13.1 Hearing requests shall be written on forms available at the race office (either Durban or East London respectively), and delivered there within the protest time limit.
- 13.2 The protest time limit is 1 hour after the last boat has finished, or 1 hour after the race time limit, whichever is earlier.
- 13.3 Notices will be posted as soon as possible after the receipt of a hearing request, 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 For purposes of Rule 61.2(b)(2), the last scheduled day of racing will be deemed to be the earlier of the day the race time limit expires and the day the last boat finishes.
- 13.5 The following clause is added to RRS 61.4(b):
(6) injury or physical damage because of the action of a boat racing when the IRPCAS applied between them and that boat is determined to be at fault under the IRPCAS.

14 SAFETY REQUIREMENTS & SCRUTINY

- 14.1 Boats shall comply with Schedule 1 – Safety Equipment Check List.
- 14.2 Each boat shall be scrutineered according to the Scrutineering Safety Equipment Check List by the safety committee prior to the close of registration. On good cause, and by application to the RC, the deadline for scrutineering may be extended to no later than 17h00 on Saturday 23 May 2026.
- 14.3 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.

15 TRASH DISPOSAL

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

16 TRACKING DEVICES

17.1. Tracking devices will be fitted to each boat. Competitors shall not interfere with the operation of the tracking device.

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.

17.2. All skippers are requested to use the NSRI SafeTRX app during the race and the voyage home. This is to assist in monitoring the safe return to and from race and home for all.

17 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.

See Overleaf for Addendum A – Course Diagrams

Addendum A – Courses

START



COURSE 1: START in Durban – North Easterly/ Easterly Wind



Course details:

Start – M1 (starboard rounding) – Finish

- The Start will be located off the Durban Beachfront in the vicinity of Addington Beach.
- Mark M1 is to be laid windward of the Start line at approximately 0.5NM from the Start.
- The Finish is the entrance to East London Harbour, as per SI 10.



COURSE 2: START in Durban – Southerly /South Westerly Wind



Course details:

Start – M1 (Port) –

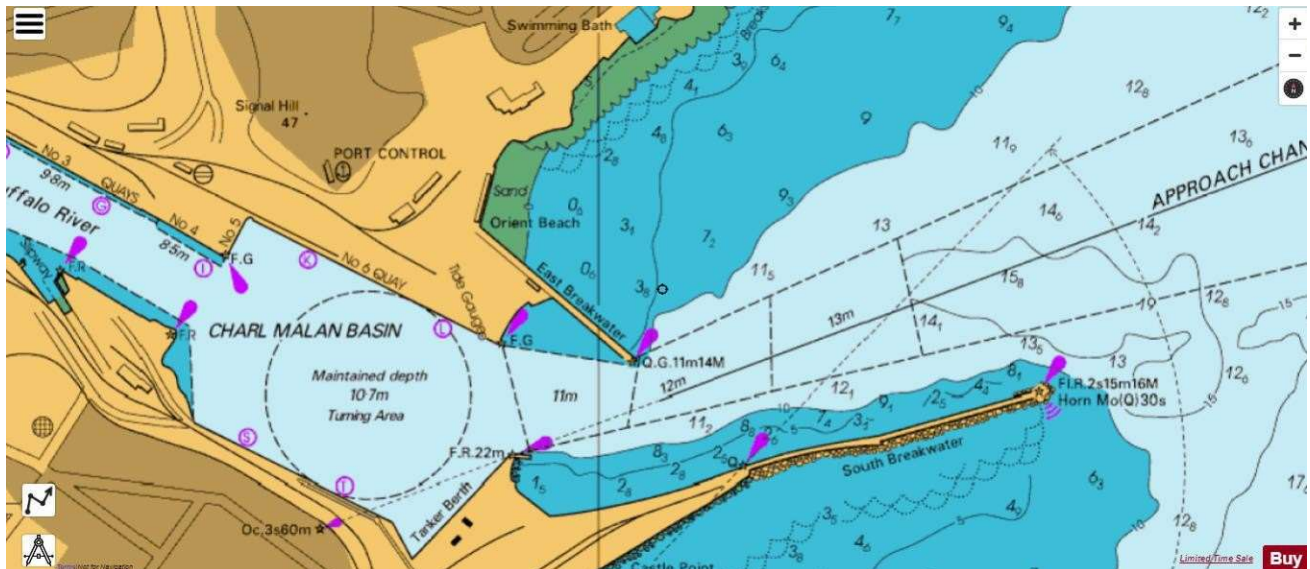
M2 (Starboard) – Finish

- The Start will be located off the Durban beachfront in the vicinity of Golden Mile Beach.
- M1 is to be laid windward of the Start line at approximately 0.5NM.
- M2 is to be laid north of the North Breakwater transit at approximately 0.5NM from M1.
- The Finish is the entrance to East London Harbour, as per SI 10.

Appendix A – Courses

FINISH

ALL COURSES: FINISH in East London - As per SI 10



Buffalo River Yacht Club

