



**WIORA**  
**West Coast Championships**  
**Foynes Yacht Club**



**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> August, 2024**

---

The Organising Authority (OA) is Foynes Yacht Club (FYC) in conjunction with the West of Ireland Offshore Racing Association.

### **1.0 RULES**

1.1 The regatta will be run by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing, the rules of IRC, the rules of the ISA ECHO Performance Handicap System, the constitution of the West of Ireland Offshore Racing Association (WIORA) and Class Association Rules where applicable.

1.2 The prescriptions of Irish Sailing will apply.

1.3 Crew Limit is IRC plus 1. There are no crew weight limits.

1.4 ISAF Category Group 3 sailors are only allowed to sail under the following conditions: A Class 2 or 3 IRC boat may carry ONE Group 3 sailor on ONE day only. The Group 3 sailor is not allowed to helm. A class 1 boat may carry one group 3 sailor for the duration of the event.

1.5 Racing boats shall always display their class flag or coloured ribbon from their backstay while racing. Any boat failing to comply may be scored DNF without a hearing. This changes RRS 35 and A5

### **2.0 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS**

2.1 Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted before 1000 hrs on the day it will take effect, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 2000 hrs on the day before it will take effect.

### **3.0 COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITOR**

3.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the event board located outside the race office in the entrance to Foynes Yacht Club.

3.2 The race committee may at any time communicate with competitors via VHF channel 72

#### **4.0 CODE OF CONDUCT**

4.1 Competitors and support persons shall comply with all reasonable requests from race officials.

#### **5.0 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE**

5.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed on the flagstaff in front of Foynes Yacht Club

5.2 When flag AP is displayed ashore “1 minute” is replaced with “not less than 45 minutes” in the race signal AP

#### **6.0 SCHEDULE OF RACES**

6.1 Nine races are scheduled for spinnaker class and seven for white sails class as detailed below

<b>Day/Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>No. Races</b>	<b>Activity</b>
Wed 7 <sup>th</sup> August	12:00	Up to 3	1 <sup>st</sup> Race Warning Signal. All Classes
Thurs 8 <sup>th</sup> August	12:00	3	1 <sup>st</sup> Race Warning Signal. All Classes
Fri 9 <sup>th</sup> August	11:00	3	1 <sup>st</sup> Race Warning Signal. All Classes
Sat 10 <sup>th</sup> August	10:00	1	1 <sup>st</sup> Race Warning Signal. Off Shore Race for All

6.2 After the first race the warning signal for subsequent races will be made as soon as is practicable

6.3 The decision to sail more than the scheduled number of races per day lies at the discretion of the Race Officer. If code flag “E” is displayed at the finish of the last scheduled race of the day, this indicates there will be an extra race sailed that day.

#### **7.0 CLASS FLAGS**

7.1 The Class Flags will be:

- Class 1 Spinnaker Class      Numeral Pennant 1
- Class 2 Spinnaker Class      Numeral Pennant 2
- White Sails 1                      Numeral Pennant 3 or a Large Red Ribbon



## **10.0 MARKS**

- 10.1 The racing marks will be orange cylindrical inflatable buoys and marine navigation marks.
- 10.3 A race committee vessel signalling a change of course is a mark as provided in SI 15.2.

## **11.0 OBSTRUCTIONS**

- 11.1 There are obstructions between Foynes Yacht Club marina and the race area, the navigation marks in the river must be complied with.

## **12.0 THE START**

- 12.1 Races will be started in accordance with RRS 26.
- 12.2 The starting line will be between a red and white pole or the Main mast, on the Race Committee vessel displaying an orange flag and the Outer Distance Mark at the port end of the line.
- 12.3 The race committee may broadcast Individual Recall OCS sail numbers no earlier than one minute after the starting signal, on the designated VHF channel, this changes RRS 62.1(a) (redress).
- 12.4 Class 1 will start first; the start signal for Class 1 will be the warning signal for Class 2. In the event of a general recall the recalled Class shall restart before any remaining classes. The Order of Class Starts may change following the completion of the first starting sequence for each day depending on the order of Class finish times. For example, if Class 2 or White Sails finished well before Class 1, then Class 2 or White Sails may start before Class 1. This will be done to keep the fleets racing and to maximise the number of races for each class, particularly if the weather is working against
- 12.5 When the Race Committee determines that a boat has not complied with RRS 29.1, 30.1, 30.3 or 30.4, the Race Committee may broadcast the boat's sail number on the designated VHF channel, no earlier than one minute after the starting signal.
- 12.6 Failure to broadcast, or errors in the broadcast, under SI 13.3, 13.4 or 13.5 will not be grounds for redress by a boat. This changes RRS 62.1(a).
- 12.7 A boat starting later than 10 minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start (DNS) without a hearing. This changes RRS 63.1, A4 and A5.
- 12.8 Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall avoid the starting area during the starting sequence for other races.

### **13.0 CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE**

13.1 The change will be signalled in accordance with rule 33. Minor adjustments of mark positions will not be signalled by the Race Committee.

13.2 Except at a gate, boats shall pass between the Race Committee vessel signalling the change of the next leg and the nearby mark, leaving the mark to port and the committee vessel to starboard.

### **14.0 THE FINISH**

14.1 The finish line will be between a red and white pole, or Main mast, on the finishing vessel flying a Blue flag and the Finish Mark. The Finish Mark may be an orange spherical buoy.

14.2 An alternative finish may be used. This will be advised by VHF.

14.3 Except to start or finish no boat shall pass through the finishing line, in either direction. Any boat in breach of this SI shall be scored DNF without a hearing. This changes rules 63.1, A4.1 and A5.

14.4 Note that a start mark for any subsequent race MAY be laid at the finish.

### **15.0 SHORTENING COURSE**

15.1 The Race Committee may shorten the course under rule 32.

15.2 In addition to rule 32, when a Race Committee vessel displaying code flag F, making repeated sound signals, is positioned adjacent to a mark of the course, boats, having rounded that mark, shall proceed directly to the Finish line to finish. SI 13.2 will apply.

### **16.0 TIME LIMITS**

16.1 Not Used

16.2 Boats failing to finish within 30 minutes after the first boat sails the course and finishes will be scored Did Not Finish without a hearing. This changes Rules 35, 63.1, A4 and A5.

16.3 Coastal Course: the time limit for the leading boat will be 6 hours. If any boat finishes within the time limit, then the time limit will be extended by 60 minutes.

## **17.0 HEARING REQUESTS**

17.1 Protest forms are available at the Race Office. Protests and requests for redress must be delivered there within the protest time limit.

17.2 The protest time is 90 minutes after the last boat has finished the last race of the day.

17.3 Notices will be posted on the official Notice Board within 20 minutes of the protest time limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses. Hearings will be held in the protest room, the location of which will be posted on the official Notice Board.

17. Notices of protests by the Race Committee or Protest committee will be posted to inform boats under rule 61.1(b)

17.5 On the last scheduled day of racing a request for redress based on a protest committee decision shall be delivered no later than 30 minutes after decision was posted. This changes RRS 62.2.

## **18.0 SCORING**

18.1 Three races are required to be completed to constitute a series.

18.2 The Low Points scoring system of Appendix A shall apply.

18.3 When fewer than 6 races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores.

18.4 When 6 or more races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.

18.5 The Offshore race is scored similarly to the inshore races with no weighting.

18.6 The Offshore race cannot be discarded

## **19.0 SAFETY REGULATIONS**

19.1 All competitors shall wear adequate personal floatation device at all times when afloat, except briefly while changing or adjusting clothing or personal equipment. Dry suits and wetsuits are not adequate personal floatation devices. This changes RRS 40.

19.2 A boat that retires from a race shall notify the Race Committee as soon as possible

19.3 Commercial Shipping: Strict warning is given by The Port of Foynes that boats and support vessels must always keep well clear of tugs and commercial shipping in the area.

## **20– 24 NOT USED**

## **25.0 TRASH DISPOSAL**

25.1 Trash may be placed aboard official vessels excluding the Committee Boat

## **26.0 BERTHING**

26.1 Boats shall be kept upon their assigned berth.

## **27.0 HAUL- OUT RESTRICTIONS**

27.1 Boats shall not be removed from the water between the preparatory signal for the first race and the end of the regatta. In an emergency, and only following a written request, the protest committee may waive this SI.27.2

27.2 In the event of foul weather, the organising committee may direct that all boats moored be moved to another berth.

## **28.0 DIVING EQUIPMENT AND PLASTIC POOLS**

28.1 Underwater breathing apparatus and plastic pools or their equivalent shall not be used between the preparatory signal of the first race and the end of the regatta.

## **29.0 PRIZES**

29.1 Prize giving will take place as soon as possible following the conclusion of racing.

29.2 Daily and Series Prizes will be awarded under the IRC and ECHO handicap systems.

## **30.0 RISK STATEMENT**

Rule 4 of the Racing Rules of Sailing states: “The responsibility for a boat’s decision to participate in a race or to continue to race is hers alone”. Sailing by its nature is an unpredictable sport and therefore inherently involves an element of risk. By taking part in the event, each competitor agrees and acknowledges that:

- (a) They are aware of the inherent element of risk involved in the sport and accept responsibility for the exposure of themselves, their crew and their boat to such inherent risk whilst taking part in the event
- (b) They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat and their other property whether afloat or ashore.
- (c) They accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omissions.
- (d) Their boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the event and they are fit to participate.
- (e) The provision of a race management team, patrol boats, and other officials and volunteers by the event organiser does not relieve them of their own responsibilities.
- (f) The provision of patrol boat cover is limited to such assistance, particularly in extreme weather conditions, as can be practically provided in the circumstances

## **31.0 INSURANCE**

31.1 Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of €3,000,000 per event or the equivalent.

## **32 HONORARY MEMBERSHIP**

32.1 All competitors sailing in the West Coast Championships shall be honorary members of Foynes Yacht Club during the event, and will be bound by the rules of the club. Competitors are reminded that personal effects, gear, trailers and other equipment are their own responsibility and neither the West of Ireland Offshore Racing Association, the Race Committee, nor Foynes Yacht Club can be held liable for any claim, loss or damage.

### **APPENDIX 1. Laid Courses:**

**The following diagrams are indicative only and an offset mark may be laid for W/L legs. Courses may include any combination or number of these diagrams. The start/finish line is not a gate unless so declared by the race officer**

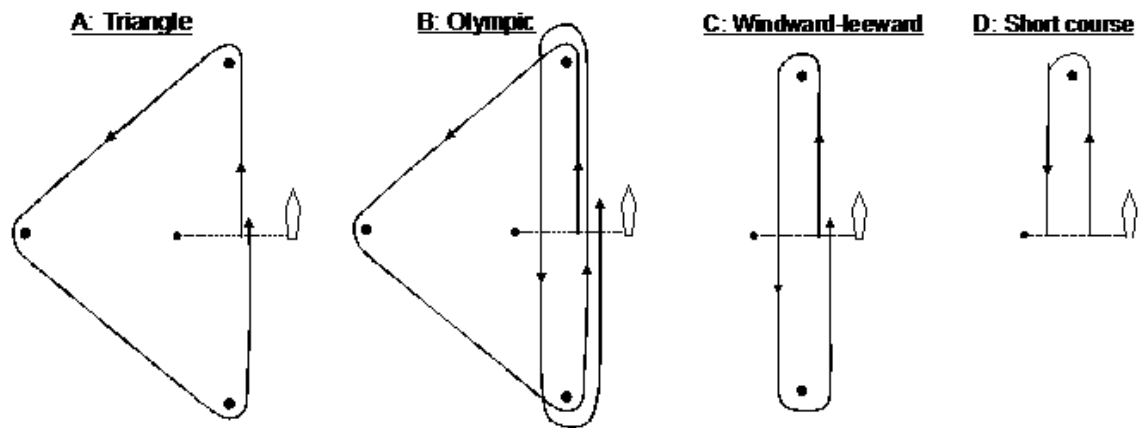
**A.Triangular course will be mark 1,2,3 x number of rounds**



**B. Olympic course will be mark 1,2,3,1,2,1,2,3**

**C. Winward-Leeward will be 1,2 x number of rounds**

**D. Short course 1**



**APPENDIX 2. Fixed FYC mark locations (approximate)**

Mount Trenchard	N 52°36.275'	W 009°10.551'
Rinealon	N 52°37.105'	W 009°10.932'
Table Rock	N 52°37.883'	W 009°06.170'