



Rolex China Sea Race 2026

Starts Wednesday 4 March 2026

The Rolex China Sea Race is organised and conducted by the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club (RHKYC) in co-operation with the Manila Yacht Club and with the finish hosted by Subic Bay Yacht Club. The race is run under the auspices of the Royal Ocean Racing Club (RORC) and the RHKYC Offshore Prescriptions.

NOTICE OF RACE

For the notation '[DP]' in a rule in the Notice of Race (NoR), refer to the Racing Rules of Sailing - Introduction – Notation..

1. RULES

- 1.1 The Rolex China Sea Race 2026 will be governed by:
- the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing* (RRS);
 - the Prescriptions of the Hong Kong Sailing Federation (HKSF);
 - the ColRegs Rule 10 – Traffic Separation Schemes;
 - the IRC Rules including Part C;
 - the PHS Performance Increase Penalty Scheme (PIPS);
 - the MOCRA Rating Rules current as of 27 February 2026;
 - the World Sailing Offshore Special Regulations 2025-26 – Category 1 Monohulls or Category 1 Multihulls (WSOSR);
 - the 2026 RHKYC Prescriptions to the WSOSR;
 - the RORC Prescriptions to the WSOSR;
 - this NoR; and
 - the Rolex China Sea Race 2026 Sailing Instructions (SIs).
- 1.2 IRC Rule 21.6.1 (number of spinnakers onboard) is changed by the HKSF's prescription to RRS 88.
- 1.3 All competitors shall comply with the local HK Marine Department regulations pertaining to the licensing of pleasure vessels and their operators while in Hong Kong waters.
- 1.4 Between local sunset and sunrise, navigation lights shall be lit and the rules of RRS Part 2 are replaced by the right-of-way rules of the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea. Sunset shall be deemed to be no later than 1800hrs and sunrise shall be deemed to be no earlier than 0630hrs.

2. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

The Rolex China Sea Race 2026 SIs will be available at www.rolexchinasearace.com by mid February 2026.

3. OFFICIAL NOTICE BOARD

The online official notice board is located at www.rolexchinasearace.com/competitors.

4. ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

- 4.1 Eligible boats shall enter online using the Rolex China Sea Race entry system by 1800hrs on Friday 30 January 2025. For late entry requirements see NoR 5.2.
- 4.2 The Rolex China Sea Race 2026 will have the following classes:
- 4.2.1 **IRC Racer Class:** Keelboats with a Hull Factor (HF) of 8.5 and above. The class will be divided into divisions based on suitable rating bands at the discretion of the race committee.
- 4.2.2 **IRC Premier Class:** Keelboats with a DLR equal to or greater than 140 and an LOA equal to or greater than 14.98m.
- 4.2.3 **IRC Cruiser Class:** Keelboats with a HF of 8.5 or less or a DLR equal to or greater than 140.
- 4.2.4 **IRC Double-Handed Class:** Keelboats whose crew shall satisfy the race committee that they have suitable and adequate experience and that their boat is appropriately prepared for double-handed sailing.
- 4.2.5 **PHS Class:** Keelboats which satisfy safety and stability requirements as defined under the ISO12215 Category A.
- 4.2.6 **MOCRA Multihull Class:** Multihulls which satisfy the WSOSR – Category 1 Multihull and satisfy all safety and stability requirements as outlined therein.
- 4.3 Boats shall enter one class only, except for Double-Handed entries which will also be scored under their respective IRC/PHS division or class. The race committee shall determine, at its sole discretion, rating bands and divisions for the IRC Racer Class, published within 24hrs of the rating submission deadline at 1800hrs on 27 February 2026. Subject to the number of entries, rating bands and divisions in IRC Racer Class may be altered at the discretion of the race committee. In addition, the race committee may not accept any entry for a class and may allocate any entry to another class or to any division if it considers that the competition would be better served by such change.

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- 4.4 All boats shall be 10 meters or above overall (LOA) excluding bowsprit and/or bumpkin. Entry of boats under 10 meters will be at the discretion of the Race Committee.
- 4.5 Boats racing in IRC Racer Class Divisions 0 & 1 shall have endorsed IRC certificates.
- 4.6 Boats racing in IRC need not comply with the crew numbers listed on their endorsed IRC certificate. This amends IRC Rule 22.4.1. The race committee however reserves the right to refuse an entry to the race if they believe there is insufficient experienced crew racing on the boat.
- 4.7 All boats shall submit the crew experience form to demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the race committee, that they have undertaken training as outlined in Section 6 of the WSOSR and as amended by the 2026 RHKYC Prescriptions to the WSOSR.
- 4.8 Crew shall be a minimum of 18 years of age in order to race. Crew aged 16 - 18 years may be accepted by the race committee as long as a parent or legal guardian is present onboard during the race.

5. FEES

- 5.1 The entry fee will be HK\$5,000 per boat for the Rolex China Sea Race 2026, which includes crew and skipper tickets for the Welcome Party at RHKYC Kellett Island on Monday 2 March 2026, the finish location party in Subic on Sunday 8 March 2026 and the prize giving on Wednesday 18 March 2026 at RHKYC, Kellett Island, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong. Entry fees will not be refundable after Friday 6 February 2026.
- 5.2 Late entries may be accepted until 1800hrs on Friday 6 February 2026 upon application to the race committee and only upon payment of an additional fee of 50% of the entry fee and satisfactory completion of all of the scrutineering and immigration requirements.

6. ADVERTISING

[DP] Boats may be required to display advertising chosen and supplied by the organizing authority. If this rule is broken, World Sailing Advertising Code 20.9.2 applies.

7. SCHEDULE

The schedule for the Rolex China Sea Race 2026 will be:

Friday 30 January 2026	Entry deadline & document submission	1800hrs
Friday 6 February 2026	Late entry deadline	1800hrs
Monday 23 February 2026	Crew Immigration/NoK Forms submission	1800hrs
Friday 27 February 2026	IRC/MOCRA Rating Certificate or PHS PIPS Declaration submission	1800hrs
Monday 2 March 2026	Welcome Party, RHKYC Kellett Island	1900-2100hrs
Tuesday 3 March 2026	Immigration (Departure) Formalities Skippers' Briefing at RHKYC Kellett Island	1500-1900hrs 1830-1900hrs
Wednesday 4 March 2026	Warning Signal	1110hrs
Sunday 8 March 2026	Location prize giving in Subic	1700hrs
Wednesday 18 March 2026	Prizegiving, RHKYC Kellett Island	1900-2100hrs

8. DOCUMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED

- 8.1 All boats entering the Rolex China Sea Race 2026 shall upload to the event's online registration system the following documents by 1800hrs on Friday 30 January 2026:
- RHKYC Construction, Stability and Inspection Declaration;
 - RHKYC Safety Compliance Declaration;

- RHKYC World Sailing Offshore Special Regulations Checklist (Note: Boats are not required to fully pass all elements of scrutineering at this time);
- RHKYC Personal Life Beacon (PLB) List (see RHKYC Safety Compliance Declaration);
- Liferaft certificate(s) - as per WSOSR 4.20.5 all liferaft servicing shall be undertaken by an original manufacturer's authorized service station;
- RHKYC Crew Experience form;
- First Aid and CPR certificates;
- World Sailing Sea Survival course certificates; and
- VHF Radio Operator Licence.

Boats from outside Hong Kong and in transit at this date may be granted dispensation by the race committee.

- 8.2 The registration form giving Immigration and Next-of-Kin (NoK) details of the skipper and crew shall be submitted by 1800hrs on Monday 23 February 2026.
- 8.3 No alteration in a boat's TCC will be permitted after 1800hrs on Friday 27 February 2026 except as a result of a rating protest or to correct rating errors. Any alteration within the stated parameters must be put in writing to the race committee with written supporting evidence.

9. MEASUREMENT

- 9.1 Boats entering under IRC/MOCRA shall submit their IRC/MOCRA rating certificate to the RHKYC Sailing Office by 1800hrs on Friday 27 February 2026. Arrangements may be made by the race committee for sail measurements and boat weight to be checked prior to the race as a check against compliance with the IRC/MOCRA certificate data.
- 9.2 Boats entering the PHS Class shall submit a completed PHS PIPS declaration form to the RHKYC Sailing Office by 1800hrs on Friday 27 March 2026.

10. SAFETY

- 10.1 There have been changes to the WSOSR. Competitors are therefore advised to study the full text of the current version and to complete the Race Special Regulations Checklist with reference to the full text of Category 1.
- 10.2 The 2026 RHKYC Prescriptions to the WSOSR introduce several amendments to the WSOSR that apply to the Rolex China Sea Race 2026. Some of the more significant amendments are summarized below, but it is imperative the RHKYC Prescriptions to the WSOSR are read in detail and applied.
- **Satellite Phone.** Shall have a hand-held satellite telephone, watertight or with waterproof cover, and an internal battery that shall not be reliant on connecting to an external device to send/receive voice calls. Shall have a satellite phone that is to be permanently connected to an external antenna and power source. A satellite phone is to be switched on for the duration of the race. Both phone requirements can be fulfilled by a single satellite phone if it meets all the requirements.
 - **DSC VHF.**
 - **Emergency Tiller.** Shall demonstrate the use of the emergency tiller (picture/video preferred).
 - **Rudderless Steering.** Shall demonstrate the rudderless steering method and present evidence that it is fit for purpose to the race committee (pictures/video preferred).
 - **Liferaft Type.** May use a <24hr ISO liferaft but a grab bag shall contain the missing items (one for each liferaft). Replacement items shall be of the same specification as those in the liferaft i.e. SOLAS/WheelMark approved.
 - **Liferaft Servicing.** Shall be serviced at a manufacturer authorized service station for that make of liferaft i.e. Viking liferaft by a Viking authorised service agent.
 - **Pyrotechnics.** Changes to the number and type of pyrotechnic signals.
 - **Lifejacket Servicing.** Person in charge shall personally check lifejacket servicing and make a record.
 - **WS Offshore Personal Safety Course.** At least 50% of the crew (and at least 2) shall have undertaken the WS Offshore Personal Safety course (see WSOSR Appendix G) within the 5 years before the start of the race.
 - **First Aid Certificates.** At least 30% of the crew (and at least 2) shall have a valid first aid certificate completed within the last three years.
- 10.3 A late fee of HK\$2,000 may be charged to boats which fail to comply with the deadline for submission of the Initial Scrutineering Checklist. Boats that require multiple visits from the official scrutineer may be charged an

additional fee for the scrutineer's time at the discretion of the race committee. Failure to properly comply with scrutineering requirements may be grounds for exclusion of a yacht from the race at the discretion of the race committee.

11. COMMUNICATION

- 11.1 All boats will be provided with a working Yellowbrick tracking unit which will be tested for correct installation and use before the start of the race. The unit must remain operational and switched on throughout the entire race. Boats which fail to comply shall be subject to a protest by the race committee, unless reasonable written and or photographic evidence is provided.
- 11.2 [DP] All boats shall carry an AIS unit as outlined in the WSOSR Category 1. The unit shall remain operational and switched on at all times. Boats which fail to comply shall be subject to protest by the race committee, unless written and/or photographic evidence is provided.
- 11.3 Boats shall leave their primary DSC VHF radio and satellite phone on at all times during the race for safety purposes.

12. THE COURSE

The course to be sailed will be outlined in the Rolex China Sea Race 2026 SIs.

13. PENALTY SYSTEM

- 13.1 A protest committee may be appointed in accordance with RRS 89.
- 13.2 When the protest committee decides that a boat which is party to a protest has broken a rule and is not exonerated, it may impose a scoring penalty (which may be no penalty) at its discretion, as an alternative to disqualification. This changes RRS 64.2.

14. SCORING

The scoring system to be used in the Rolex China Sea Race 2026 for all IRC Classes will be the IRC Handicap Rating system and the MOCRA Handicap Rating system for Multihulls.

The Time Corrector (TCC) or Time Correction Factor (TCF) as printed on a boat's current valid IRC or MOCRA certificate will be applied to its elapsed time, as follows:

Corrected Time = Elapsed Time x TCC/TCF.

For the HKPN Class, the boat's HKPN number will be applied to its elapsed time as follows:

Corrected Time = Elapsed Time x TCC/PHS.

15. BERTHING

Boats shall be kept in their assigned places both in Hong Kong prior to the start and at their assigned place in Subic Bay Yacht Club after the finish.

16. PRIZES

- 16.1 Subject to entries, prizes will be awarded for Monohull and Multihull Line Honours; first, second and third places under IRC Overall handicap; and first, second and third place in each class or division of a class. A Rolex timepiece will be awarded to the first boat under IRC Overall handicap and first Monohull Line Honours.
- 16.2 In addition to IRC Double-Handed class prizes, Double-Handed entries will be eligible for Line Honours and IRC Overall prizes.
- 16.3 Other prizes may be awarded at the discretion of the race committee.

17. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

- 17.1 Competitors participate in the event entirely at their own risk. See RRS 3, Decision to Race. The organising authority (RHKYC, MYC), SBYC, the Rolex China Sea Race 2026 race committee, the sponsor(s) (including any affiliated companies), their respective staff, members, volunteers or persons working for or on behalf of the above will not accept any responsibility for any loss of life or injury to members of crew or other parties, or for the loss of, or damage to a vessel sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after the event. In this regard, the persons in charge, owners and crew members shall acknowledge and accept this waiver of responsibility by signing the Disclaimer and Acknowledgement of Rights Form as referred to in Clause 19.2 below.

17.2 Persons in charge, owners and skippers are invited to co-operate closely with the organising authorities, race committee and the RHKYC Sailing Office in completing the formalities of their boat entries by submission of all required information, certificates, forms, etc. within the deadline dates quoted throughout this NoR. It is the sole responsibility of the persons in charge and/or skippers to comply with the deadline dates and failure to do so in respect of any aspect will be treated as a failure to enter the event, in which case, boats will not be eligible to compete unless evidence of genuine extenuating circumstances for the lateness is accepted by the race committee.

18. **INSURANCE**

All boats shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance of at least the minimum cover required by HKSAR law. Due to the nature of this race, the organising authority advises all boats to take out additional insurance.

19. **MEDIA & IMAGE RIGHTS WAIVER**

19.1 By entering this event, each boat owner (or charterer) and crew on the competing boats grant to the organising authority and the sponsor and affiliated companies at no cost the absolute right and permission to use their names, voices, images, likenesses and biographical material, as well as representations of their boats in any media (including television, print and internet).

19.2 Owners (charterers) and crew members shall acknowledge and accept the granting of media rights referred to in NoR 19.1 by signing the entry form and in respect of responsibilities and disclaimers referred to in NoR 17.1 by signing the Disclaimer and Acknowledgement of Rights Form provided by the organising authority.

20. **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

20.1 Yachts entering from overseas please contact: **RHKYC Marine Manager, Alan Reid** at: alan.reid@rhkyc.org.hk
Tel: +852 2239 0308, for all details regarding facilities, berthing and commissioning prior to the event.

20.2 For other event enquiries please contact the: **RHKYC Sailing Manager, Ailsa Angus** at:
ailsa.angus@rhkyc.org.hk, Tel: +852 2239 0395.