



ISORA

Back to Boating Protocol



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Background to ISORA

ISORA (Irish Sea Offshore Racing Association) is a not for profit members organisation responsible for offshore racing in the Irish Sea.

The Association is run by volunteers for the benefit of competitors by working in partnership with boat owners, crew, yacht and sailing clubs, other associations and the governing bodies for boating in Ireland, Wales and the UK.

Our mission is to promote the sport of offshore racing in the Irish Sea

ISORA is affiliated to Irish Sailing (IS), RYA and RYA Cymru Wales.





Back to Boating Protocol – ISORA

Authority

The ISORA General Committee has requested that the Race Management Committee consider all options to achieve a return to racing in 2020 provided this can be done safely and in compliance with governing bodies guidelines and all Governmental Regulations

The Race Management Committee has convened, consulted and concluded that ISORA should be prepared for further relaxations of regulations which will in turn allow us to return to racing in 2020, subject to compliance with the **'ISORA back to Boating Protocol'**

The Race Management Committee members are all long standing offshore sailors and understand the risks and dangers of offshore racing.

The committee members have a cross section of experience and expertise and competence to undertake the assessment of risk associated with offshore sailing.

The members must rely on the guidelines provided by the Governing Bodies in Ireland, England and Wales and regulations of the associated Governments in their respective territorial waters.

Having considered all aspects of sailing offshore and all possible consequences of this activity it is considered that a return to sailing offshore can be undertaken with a limited schedule of races provided that all competitors sign up to the 'ISORA Back To Boating Protocol'.

The protocol will impose rules for each crew member, limited crew numbers on each boat and sailing will only take place if the weather conditions allow.



The Race Management Committee

Chairman – Peter Ryan chairman@isora.org

Vice Chairman - Peter Dunlop Peter_Dunlop@oulook.com

Hon. Secretary - Stephen Tudor secretary@isora.org

Mark H Thompson – Welsh Race Management – mhthompson@gmail.com



ISORA

*2020
Offshore & Coastal
Series*



PROTOCOL – for ISORA Irish Coastal Races

in the Irish Government Roadmap Phase 3 (29th June – 20th July 2020) –
Subject to updated advice from IS (Irish Sailing)

Offshore / Coastal racing by its nature is safer for crew, as the speed of crew activity in coastal racing is less frenetic than inshore racing. All activity can be planned to prevent close encounters between crew.

A risk assessment by the race committee will take place the day before each planned race, facilitated by one of the race management committee members. This risk assessment will then confirm the race start time and course, recognising reduced crew numbers.

No racing will take place if a Met Eireann “Small Craft Warning” is in operation for the proposed race area.

Racecourses will be set to minimise/eliminate the need for crews to sleep on boats prior to, and/or after races. 35-50-mile races will be planned within the ISORA Irish Coastal Area

Pier Head starts (DL) (starter or tracker) tracker finishes (Pier Heads or other mark if race shortened in accordance with SI’s.) will be planned. This eliminates any committee boats on the water.

A checklist with hygiene and safety protocols for skipper guidance during Phase 3, is attached to this protocol.

Navigation instruments and displays, including VHF and chart plotters, to be operated by Navigator/Skipper only

Crew numbers will be controlled and would be related to the LOA and or a percentage of the IRC certificate number (*TBA – awaiting IS advice*)

Limiting crew number on board, gives more room for crew to stay clear of the cockpit, maintaining distancing requirements - if not in the same family unit.

Crew should be encouraged to stay in position on the boat as much as possible, to minimise movement around the boat.

Crews should be based on a Buddy / pod system where all crew are a regular team – no casual crew allowed.

Sailing gloves are mandatory on most offshore boats – this eliminates the need for plastic gloves. Sailing gloves to be cleaned after every race.

Face coverings recommended, – these are common on offshore boats anyway.

- Standard hand sanitising to be carried out by all crew before getting on board, and at regular intervals

No bags allowed on board. All gear to be worn.

No meals prepared for all on board. Crew bring their own food for their own consumption, including flasks and drinks.

Toilet use – cleaned and sanitised after each use.

Crew must provide contact details for potential track and trace





Re- Boot Race Schedule

ISORA Revised Programme 16th June 2020 V6a

Race 1	July 4 th	Irish Coastal Race	Coastal	<i>Irish Series 1 35 miles</i>
Race 2	July 11 th	Irish Coastal Race	Coastal	<i>Irish Series 2 35 miles</i>
Race 3	July 24 th	Irish Coastal Night Race	Coastal	<i>Irish Series 3 35 miles</i>
Race 4	July 31 st	Irish Offshore – DL to DL	Offshore	<i>55 Mile offshore – Part of the Solidarity Regatta</i>
Race 5	August 8 th	Dun Laoghaire – Pwllheli	Offshore	<i>75 Miles (could be night race for RI Qual)</i>
Race 6	August 14 th	Pwllheli Coastal Race (and IRC)	Coastal	<i>Welsh Series 1 - Part of the IRC Welsh National Champs – Coastal Class</i>
Race 7	August 15 th	Pwllheli Coastal Race (and IRC)	Coastal	<i>Welsh Series 2</i>
Race 8	August 16 th	Pwllheli Coastal Race (and IRC)	Coastal	<i>Welsh Series 3</i>
Race 9	August 17 th	Pwllheli – Irish Sea Finish Gate	Offshore	<i>Night Race Q for RI – 75 Miles Boats can then go from finish to Wicklow/Greystones/DL</i>
Race 10	August 21 st	Pwllheli Night Race	Coastal	<i>Welsh Race 4</i>
Race11	August 29 th	Irish Coastal Race	Coastal	<i>Irish Series 4 (Greystones Regatta)</i>
Race 12	Sept 5 th	Pwllheli - Dun Laoghaire	Offshore	<i>James Eadie - 75 Miles</i>
Race 13	Sept 12 th	Irish Coastal Race (Howth)	Coastal	<i>Irish Series 5 - Lambay Race - Part of Wave Regatta</i>

NOTES:

THE RACING PROGRAMME HAS IN EXCESS OF 300 MILES OF RACING FOR RI QUALIFYING, WITH TWO RACES OF 75 MILES, AND A NIGHT RACE.

THE RACE TO PWLLHELI ON AUGUST 8TH (RACE 5) COULD BE A NIGHT RACE IF FELT MORE NIGHT EXPOSURE HELPS RI QUALIFICATION

DATES:

SOLIDARITY REGATTA (DL) 31ST JULY – 3RD AUGUST 2020

IRC WELSH NATIONALS (PWLLHELI) 14-16TH AUGUST 2020

RI 22ND AUGUST 2020 (WICKLOW)

WAVE REGATTA (HOWTH) 11 – 13TH SEPTEMBER 2020



Sailing Instructions

These are the changes to our Sailing Instructions flowing from the Protocol

Eligibility and Entry

2.3 Crew numbers shall be limited to the maximum number specified in the ISORA: Back to Boating Protocol. IRC Rule 22 4.2 shall not apply

Rules:

2.5 At all times competitors will follow the ISORA: Back to Boating Protocol.

Schedule of races.

7.3. The Race Officer may decide to have separate starts for each class or a group of classes. This may be announced by VHF (Channel 37 M) and flags.

7.4. The type of racing will be a long Coastal Race and the course will be announced on the Friday prior to the Race on the web site.

Start Line

9.4. An alternative start may be specified between DBSC 'Pier' mark and another DBSC mark. The start line will be confirmed by text and email by Friday evening 3rd July 2020

Safety

20.2. This race requires the competitor to follow the ISORA: Back to Boating Protocol.

Après Sail

22.1. There will not be any organised Après Sail.



Phase 3 Checklist

The use of this checklist is recommended to confirm the boat ready for racing.

This is an addition to ISORA's normal safety template [here](#)

INITIAL PREPARATION

- Deep clean interior/exterior with soapy water and a wipe of all galleys/heads and instruments with an anti- bacterial cleaner
- Sanitise water tanks (if relevant)
- Clean and sterilise all drinking cups. ISORA recommend disposable cups.
- Check and sanitise lifejackets and safety equipment.
- Check/sanitise safety equipment.

CREW MANAGEMENT

- Ensure crew read the ISORAs protocol and are prepared to comply.
- Ensure crew have a skipper's briefing with a discussion of sanitation and distancing protocols (if relevant)
- Ensure Crew aware of any local regulations (Marina/Club) that impact sailing.
- Ensure crew declare they are fit and healthy (to the skipper) with no symptoms each day.

ON THE DAY GUIDANCE

- Be aware some of your fellow competitors may be less experienced when short-handed sailing.
- If fellow competitors ask for help, please be patient, considerate and helpful.
- Weather limits may be more conservative than in the past – see ISORA protocol
- Monitor CH 37/16 at all times.
- Ensure Trackers are kept above deck when transmitting and wiped down with an anti-bacterial wipe after use.
- Keep a log of crew and pass to ISORA race management if requested.
- Be role models in complying with social distancing and ISA/ISORA protocols.

We hope that as we enter Phase 4 some of the protocols will be relaxed. In the meantime, stay safe and enjoy ISORA racing

YB Trackers

ISORA will equip all competitors with a Yellow Brick tracker. This allows race management to set virtual waypoints and track start/finish times, without requiring committee boats or marks. It also allows all entrants to be tracked, in real time using satellite technology with no coverage issues.

By having a shore supporter tracking the race, it adds an additional safety layer.

