



CHINA COAST REGATTA 2026
Incorporating the Hong Kong Kettle 2026
Saturday 17 to Monday 19 October 2026



NOTICE OF RACE

The Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club cordially invites entries to its annual China Coast Regatta, Hong Kong's premier Big Boat event.

The event is designated a Clean Regatta by Sailors for the Sea, a non-profit organisation that educates and encourages boaters to protect and restore our oceans and coastal waters.

1. RULES

- 1.1 The China Coast Regatta 2026, incorporating the Hong Kong Kettle 2026, (the event) is governed by:
- the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing* (RRS);
 - the World Sailing Offshore Special Regulations Category 4;
 - the Prescriptions of the Sailing Federation of Hong Kong, China;
 - the IRC Rules Parts A, B and C;
 - the SailSys PHS handicap system; and
 - the RHKYC PFD Policy (<https://www.rhkyc.org.hk/storage/app/media/Sailing/race-management/Standard%20Sailing%20Instructions/2025%20SSI%20Appendix%20B.pdf>).
- 1.2 For the purposes of IRC Rule 21.1.5 (d) & (e), the regatta will be run on consecutive days. Replacement sails may be permitted during the regatta in exceptional circumstances subject to the discretion of and with the permission of the race committee. A replacement sail will only be permitted if it is of similar cloth weight, area and design.

2. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

The Sailing Instructions (SIs) will be available in early October 2026.

3. COMMUNICATION

- 3.1. The online official notice board is located at www.chinacoastraceweek.com/race-ccr.
- 3.2. [DP] All boats shall carry a VHF radio capable of communicating on channels 16 and 72. VHF channel 72 may be used to provide boats with race information. Competitors are strongly recommended to carry at least two working VHF receivers.
- 3.3. [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.

4. ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

- 4.1 The China Coast Regatta 2026 is open to monohull boats of the following classes:
- 4.1.1 **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. See NoR 4.4.
- 4.1.2 **IRC Premier Cruiser Class:** Keelboats with a DLR equal to or greater than 140 and an LOA equal to or greater than 14.98m.
- 4.1.3 **PHS Class:** Boats that do not have an IRC certificate, or have an IRC certificate and have requested to race in the PHS class.
- 4.2 Boats shall enter one class only.
- 4.3 Boats shall be not less than 9m overall (LOA) excluding bowsprit and/or bumpkin.
- 4.4 The race committee, in its sole discretion and subject to the number of entries, shall determine, assign and may later modify rating bands and divisions for the IRC Racer Class, which shall be published in the SIs. In addition, the race committee may reject any entry for a class and may allocate any entry to another class or to any division within any class if it considers, in its discretion, that competition would be better served by such change.
- 4.5 Eligible boats shall enter by completing the online entry form (at www.chinacoastraceweek.com/race-ccr) and paying the entry fee by Friday 2 October 2026.
- 4.6 Each boat shall also sign on by clicking on the link and replying 'YES' to the text message that has been sent to the mobile number of the boat's registered skipper on SailSys, or by logging on to SailSys and click 'Sign-On' under 'Races and Entries' at least ten minutes before the warning signal of her first race in the event. In

addition, each boat shall submit their full crew list via SailSys for each race. Any boats taking part which fail to sign on and submit a full crew list for each race will be scored Did Not Start (DNS) without a hearing.

4.7 Entry fees will not be refundable after Friday 2 October 2026.

4.8 Late entries may be accepted until 1800hrs on Monday 12 October 2026 upon application and payment of the entry fee plus an additional fee of 50% of the entry fee.

5. HONG KONG KETTLE

Boats entered in China Coast Regatta IRC Racer Class may form teams in order to compete for the Hong Kong Kettle Trophy. Teams shall consist of two boats from different divisions. The team with the lowest combined score as per NoR 13 shall win the Hong Kong Kettle Trophy.

6. FEES

The entry fee is HKD \$2,888 per boat. There is a \$288 crew pass fee for each crew member for social events.

7. CREW LIMITATIONS

Boats shall restrict the number of crew carried on board whilst racing to comply with the Declared Initial Crew Number (DICN) on their entry forms, subject to the permitted limited variations to be detailed in the SIs. If no DICN is included on a boat's entry form, the number of crew shall be restricted to the number specified on its rating certificate. This changes IRC Rule 22.4.1.

8. ADVERTISING

8.1 Advertising displayed on boats and/or on crew-wear during the event shall be entirely in accordance with World Sailing Regulation 20.

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

8.3 [DP] When registering, each boat may receive battle flags. If lost, they shall be replaced. Replacements may be obtained at the event office. Battle flags shall be displayed when not racing and when in transit to or from the racing area.

9. VENUE AND SCHEDULE

9.1 The event will be based at RHKYC Middle Island. The race schedule will provide a mix of windward/leeward and island courses, all held within Hong Kong waters.

9.2 The IRC Racer Class will have a maximum of seven races, PHS Class a maximum of five races and IRC Premier Cruiser a maximum of five races.

9.3 The courses, the location of the start and finish and the number of races will be determined by the race officer taking into account weather conditions and Hong Kong's diverse sailing areas.

9.4 The scheduled time of the warning signal for the first race each day is 1025hrs.

9.5 Day prizes for racing on Saturday 17 October and Sunday 18 October 2026 may be awarded each day after racing.

9.6 The overall prizegiving will be held at RHKYC Kellett Island on Friday 23 October 2026.

10. MEASUREMENT

10.1 No alteration to a boat's IRC rating will be permitted after 1800hrs on Monday 12 October 2026 except as a result of a rating protest or to correct a rating office error, in which case the revised rating shall apply to all races in the event. Evidence in writing must be submitted to the race committee. SailSys PHS handicaps will be allocated to the PHS class by the Race Committee by 1800hrs on Wednesday 14 October 2026.

10.2 Boats racing in IRC Racer Class 0 shall have an endorsed IRC certificate.

10.3 A boat's largest headsail and largest spinnaker shall be made available to a representative appointed by the race committee for measurement, if so requested, prior to the first race of the event.

11. COURSES

Courses will be detailed in the SIs.

12. PENALTY SYSTEM

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 60.5(c).

13. SCORING

13.1 China Coast Regatta 2026:

- 13.1.1 Two races are required to be completed to constitute a series for all classes or divisions.
- 13.1.2 IRC Racer: When fewer than seven races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores. When seven races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.
- 13.1.3 PHS : When fewer than five races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores. When five races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.
- 13.1.4 IRC Premier Cruiser: When fewer than five races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores. When five races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.
- 13.1.5 For all classes, a score of DNC cannot be discarded unless the failure to compete was due to no fault or choice of the entered boat.

13.2 Hong Kong Kettle 2026:

For teams entered in the Hong Kong Kettle, scores will be calculated by combining each boat's China Coast Regatta 2026 scores without any discards.

13.3 Results for individual races will be established by a boat's corrected time, calculated using the following:

- 13.3.1 **IRC:** The Time Corrector (TCC) as printed on a boat's current valid IRC certificate will be applied to its elapsed time, as follows:

Corrected Time = Elapsed Time x TCC

- 13.3.2 **PHS:** The boat's PHS handicap will be applied to its elapsed time, as follows:

Corrected Time = Elapsed Time x PHS handicap

14. SAFETY EQUIPMENT

- 14.1 All boats shall be equipped with adequate and functioning equipment to satisfy the World Sailing Offshore Special Regulations Category 4 requirements. The onus is on the owner or person in charge of each boat to ensure that adequate equipment is carried.
- 14.2 Boats shall not race with an anchor stowed on and projecting over the bow. A boat that breaches this rule will be disqualified without a hearing.

15. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

Competitors participate in the event entirely at their own risk. See RRS 3, Decision to Race. The organising authority (RHKYC), race committee, sponsor(s), employees and volunteers will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after the event.

16. INSURANCE

All boats shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance of at least the minimum cover required by HKSAR law.

17. PRIZES

Prizes will be awarded as follows:

- 16.1 First, second and third for a class or division of a class.
- 16.2 First prize for the Hong Kong Kettle.
- 16.3 Day prizes may be awarded for individual classes or divisions of a class.

18. MEDIA & IMAGE RIGHTS WAIVER

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. FURTHER INFORMATION

- 18.1 For further information, please contact **RHKYC Sailing Manager**, Ailsa Angus at: ailsa.angus@rhkyc.org.hk
Tel: +852 2239 0395.
- 18.2 All documents will be published on the China Coast Regatta website: www.chinacoastraceweek.com/race-ccr.