



Volvo Hong Kong to Vietnam Race 2025

Starts Tuesday 28 & Wednesday 29 October 2025

Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club



SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

1. RULES

- 1.1 The Hong Kong to Vietnam Race 2025 (the event) is governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing* (RRS) and as listed in Notice of Race (NoR) 1.
- 1.2 Any HK Marine Department Notices or Notices to Mariners that may have an impact on racing (available at: <https://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/legislation/notices/md-notices/index.html>) shall be deemed as rules governing the event.
- 1.3 In accordance with RRS 56.2, a boat shall comply with the Traffic Separation Scheme regulations.
- 1.4 If there is a difference between the NoR and the SIs, the SIs will prevail. This changes RRS 63.5(c)(2).

2. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Any change to the SIs will be posted before 0900hrs on the day it will take effect, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 2000hrs on the day before it will take effect.

3. COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS

Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board (ONB) located at www.chinacoastraceweek.com/race-vietnam. Notices will also be posted in the Course Room at RHKYC Kellett Island until 1800hrs Wednesday 29 October 2025 and then at the race office at Ana Marina, Nha Trang, Vietnam.

4. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 4.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed on the flag poles on the RHKYC Kellett Island hardstanding near the eastern pontoon access steps.
- 4.2 When AP over H is displayed ashore or on the race committee signal vessel the race is postponed with further signals posted on the ONB. This changes Race Signals AP.

5. SCHEDULE

- 5.1 The skippers' briefing will be held at 1830hrs on Monday 27 October 2025 at RHKYC Kellett Island.
- 5.2 The scheduled time of the warning signal for IRC Racer 2 and PHS division is 1110hrs on Tuesday 28 October 2025.
- 5.3 The scheduled time of the warning signal for all other classes is 1110hrs on Wednesday 29 October 2025.
- 5.4 To alert boats that a race will begin soon, the orange starting line flag will be displayed with one sound at least five minutes before a warning signal is made.

6. CLASS FLAGS

Class/division flags will be:

Class/Division	International Code Flag
IRC Racer 2 and PHS	K
IRC Racer 0	W

7. STARTING AREA

The starting area will be in Victoria Harbour.

8. COURSE

The course will be:

Start	
Waglan Island	Starboard - rounding
Tan Kan Shan (Dangan Dao)	Starboard - rounding
North Reef (Paracel Island)	Port - passing
Hon Dung	Starboard - rounding
Noir Rer (Rocher Noir) North Cardinal	Port - passing
Finish	(see SI 13)
Approximate course length:	673 nm

9. EXCLUSION ZONES

A boat that is racing shall not enter the exclusion zones set out below:

9.1 Tathong Channel Exclusion Zone

This exclusion zone is a polygon defined by TCS 4, TCS 3, TCS 2 and TCS 1 whose coordinates are as follows:

Tathong Channel TCS 4: 22° 16.247N, 114° 15.647E

Tathong Channel TCS 3: 22° 14.024N, 114° 16.563E

Tathong Channel TCS 2: 22° 13.158N, 114° 17.614E

Tathong Channel TCS 1: 22° 13.158N, 114° 20.147E

9.2 Paracel Islands Exclusion Zone

This exclusion zone is a polygon defined by the points A, B, C, D and E whose coordinates are as follows:

Paracel Islands EZ A: 15 12.808N, 110 36.350E

Paracel Islands EZ B: 17 21.517N, 110 55.877E

Paracel Islands EZ C: 17 37.127N, 111 25.796E

Paracel Islands EZ D: 17 13.222N, 113 26.282E

Paracel Islands EZ E: 15 26.387N, 112 54.807E

10. MARKS

10.1 Inflatable marks, fixed navigation marks and geographical features will be used.

10.2 For a club line start, the Outer Distance Mark (ODM) is a white robotic mark or an orange inflatable buoy with a white jacket laid roughly to the north of the RHKYC Kellett Island clubhouse. The Inner Distance Mark (IDM) is an orange inflatable buoy.

10.3 For a committee vessel start, the starting marks are the race committee signal vessel at the starboard end of the line and a white robotic mark or an orange inflatable buoy with a white jacket at the port end.

10.4 The finishing mark is described in SI 13.1.

11. PROHIBITED AREAS AND OBSTRUCTIONS

11.1 These rules apply at all times while afloat.

11.2 Buoys (usually yellow or orange, but may be other colours) may be laid adjacent to construction sites. An area bounded by virtual lines between such buoys, and where appropriate, the nearest point of the shore shall be considered a prohibited area.

11.3 Marine works areas as described in current Marine Department Notices (see SI 1.2) shall be considered prohibited areas.

11.4 Commercial vessels underway and vessels engaged in towing shall be considered a 'Moving Prohibited Area' as follows:

11.4.1 Whilst navigating in the Harbour:

- Ahead of the vessel, 100 metres or one length of the vessel, whichever is greater; For a vessel towing, 100 metres.
- Abeam of the vessel, 50 metres or one width of the vessel, whichever is greater.
- Astern of the vessel, 25 metres.

11.4.2 Whilst navigating outside the Harbour:

- Ahead of the vessel, 200 metres or two lengths of the vessel, whichever is greater. For a vessel towing, 100 metres.
- Abeam of the vessel, 100 metres or two widths of the vessel, whichever is greater.
- Astern of the vessel, 50 metres.

11.5 Boats shall not enter any prohibited area.

11.6 Boats shall comply with the Marine Department's local requirement that boats shall not sail within 100 metres of any commercial pier in the Harbour.

11.7 All prohibited areas defined in this rule, shall be also considered 'obstructions' (as provided for in the RRS definition of 'Obstruction') and applicable to RRS 19 and 20.

11.8 At all times boats shall keep clear of commercial traffic. The International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (IRPCAS), including Rule 10 – Traffic Separation Schemes thereof, shall apply and shall

govern the behaviour of all competing boats with respect to commercial vessels and other non-racing pleasure craft.

- 11.9 Any report to the organising authority that SI 11 has not been complied with will be investigated. Action may be taken by the organising authority, after considering available information, by disqualifying the boat involved without a hearing and, if appropriate, by barring her entry in future events. The onus to prove that this rule had not been broken remains on the skipper of the involved boat.
- 11.10 It is the intention of SI 11 to provide a framework for safe and fair sailing in accordance with the spirit of the RRS and IRPCAS. Nothing in these SIs shall relieve a boat from its obligations not to impede the passage of any commercial vessel that can navigate only within a narrow channel or fairway.

12. THE START

- 12.1 The race will be started by using RRS 26 with the warning signal made **TEN** minutes before the starting signal.
- 12.2 The location of the start line will be indicated on the ONB and posted in the RHKYC Kellett Island Course Room at least one hour before the warning signal.
- 12.3 For a club line start, the starting line is between the white staff with a yellow triangle on the starter's box and the course side of the ODM. Boats shall start by passing between the IDM and the ODM in the direction to the first mark of the course.
- 12.4 For a committee vessel start, the starting line is between a staff displaying an orange flag on the starting mark at the starboard end and the course side of the port-end starting mark.
- 12.5 A boat that does not start within 60 minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start (DNS) without a hearing.
- 12.6 The race committee may broadcast on VHF Ch 72 the sail numbers of boats failing to start correctly. Failure to transmit or receive such broadcasts will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 61.1(a).

13. THE FINISH

- 13.1 The finishing line is on a bearing of 000° (magnetic) to the safe water mark [RW MO(A) 6S] and within 200m of the mark. [RW MO(A) 6S] is located at Latitude 12° 14.480N, Longitude 109° 13.240E in Nha Trang Bay, Vietnam. The mark shall be left to starboard.
- 13.2 If the location of the finishing line needs to be moved, the new position will be broadcast via YB Connect to the race fleet in advance. The new position will also be advised by the race committee when boats radio in to advise that they are nearing the finish. Failure to receive this information will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 61.1(a).
- 13.4 Boats shall call the race committee on VHF Ch 72 approximately one hour before their anticipated finish, giving their boat name and sail number. If the race committee cannot be reached by VHF, alternate communication by telephone shall be used: (+852 6465 4131 - RHKYC Sailing Manager).
- 13.5 Boats shall take their own finish time and enter this in their online declaration.
- 13.6 A "Follow Me" boat will be on station in the vicinity of the finish to escort boats into the mooring area.

14. PENALTY SYSTEM

- 14.1 RRS 44.1 will apply up to one hour after the warning signal.
- 14.2 Subsequently and for the remainder of the race, RRS 44.3 applies. However a boat need not display a yellow flag. This changes RRS 44.3.
- 14.3 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).

15. TIME LIMIT

The time limit is 1700hrs on Sunday 2 November 2025. Boats failing to finish within the time limit will be scored Did Not Finish (DNF) without a hearing.

16. RETIREMENT

Boats retiring shall report their retirement and give their position via YB Connect. Boats must continue to stay in contact until reaching a safe haven and then call the race committee on the mobile number outlined in SI 13.4.

17. DECLARATION

- 17.1 The person in charge, navigator and one crewmember of each boat shall sign an online declaration (available at www.chinacoastraceweek.com/race-vietnam) that they have completed the race and shall report their finishing time and any infringements on the declaration.

- 17.2 The declaration shall be completed within 4 hours of finishing.

18. HEARING REQUESTS

- 18.1 Protests under RRS 78 shall be lodged by 1800hrs on Wednesday 22 October 2025, and the protest fee will be US\$250 or HK\$2,000 which may be refunded at the discretion of the protest committee.
- 18.2 Other protests and requests for redress shall be lodged at the Ana Marina race office within 4 hours of the boat's finishing time. If the race office is closed, the declaration shall be delivered within 1 hour of the next posted opening time of the race office. or within 1 hour of the next posted opening of the race office.
- 18.3 Notices to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses will be posted within 6 hours of the finishing time of whichever boat involved in the incident is the last to finish, or within 3 hours of the next posted opening of the Ana Marine race office, whichever is later.
- 18.4 Protest hearings will take place in Hong Kong on Monday 10 November 2025 at 1830hrs in the Protest Room, RHKYC Kellett Island, Causeway Bay.

19. RADIO/DATA COMMUNICATIONS

- 19.1 While racing, a boat shall keep a listening watch on DSC on their VHF radio and have a satellite phone and their YB Connect unit switched on at all times.
- 19.2 While racing, a boat shall switch on her designated mobile phone in time to receive the race committee communications specified in SI 20.1. The phone shall be the one linked to the boat's YB Connect unit.
- 19.3 There are no specific restrictions on radio and electronic aids to navigation that may be used while racing, or on the linking of such aids.
- 19.4 [DP] All radio messages received, transmitted, or attempted to be transmitted shall be entered in the boat's log, or in a separate radio log.
- 19.5 The race committee may broadcast information to the fleet on VHF Ch 72 at the start and finish of the race. Boats are strongly advised to monitor VHF Ch 72 with a loudspeaker or handheld VHF on deck. A boat may, without infringing RRS 41 (outside help), request and receive repetition of information broadcast by the race committee, or be told whether or not a broadcast has been made.

20. REPORTING SCHEDULE

- 20.1 The race committee will send boat position reports and weather updates to the fleet at 0900hrs and 1800hrs during the race.
- 20.2 While racing, when the wind strength exceeds 30 knots, a boat shall report wind strength and wave heights to the race committee at 0900hrs and 1800hrs.

21. SAIL LIMITATIONS

Sail limitations will be in accordance with the IRC/HKSF Prescriptions under which the boat is racing.

22. ENGINES

- 22.1 An engine may be used for charging batteries, powering winches, pumping bilges or supplying power for weighing anchor or refrigeration while in neutral. This changes RRS 52.
- 22.2 [DP] An engine may be used for propulsion while racing to avoid collision or in an emergency. This changes RRS 42.1.
- 22.3 If SI 22.2 applies, the full facts of the incident shall be reported on the boat's declaration.

23. SELF-STEERING AND POWERED DEVICES

The use of electronic, mechanical and wind-vane devices for steering is prohibited.

24. PRIZES

- 24.1 Prizes will be awarded for Line Honours, IRC overall first, second and third places and PHS first place.
- 24.2 Prizes will be awarded at the Location Prizegiving at 1700hrs on Saturday 1 November 2025 at Ana Marina.