



## **Hong Kong to Vietnam Race 2023**

Starts Tuesday 24 & Wednesday 25 October 2023

*The Hong Kong to Vietnam Race 2023 is organised by the RHKYC and run under the auspices of the Royal Ocean Racing Club (RORC). It is a 673 mile biennial ('downhill') fast passage to Nha Trang, on the south-eastern coast of Vietnam. The Hong Kong to Vietnam Race 2023 is a qualifying race for the 2023 Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race and is run under the auspices of RORC.*

*The race was first run in 1996 and then held regularly since 2004. 2023 will mark the tenth edition of the race which is the longest Category One offshore race in Asia. The current monohull race record of 41h 30m 20s is held by Bryon Ehrhart's "Lucky" and was set in 2019. The multihull race record of 30h 09m 27s is held by Meitatsu Fukumoto & Seng Huang Lee's "SHK Scallywag Fuku" and was also set in 2019.*

*A popular tourist destination in its own right, Nha Trang also offers a great revictualling point for boats intending to continue on to other seasonal sailing events in Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand and Australia.*

## **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 Hong Kong to Vietnam Race 2023 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 Rules 10 – Traffic Separation Schemes;
  - the IRC Rules including Part C;
  - the HKPN Performance Increase Penalty Scheme (PIPS);
  - the MOCRA Rating Rules current as of 16 October 2023;
  - the World Sailing Offshore Special Regulations 2023-24 – Category 1 Monohulls or Category 1 Multihulls (WSOSR);
  - the 2023 RHKYC Prescriptions to the WSOSR;
  - the RORC Prescriptions to the WSOSR;
  - this NoR; and
  - the Hong Kong to Vietnam Race 2023 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.
- 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 Hong Kong to Vietnam Race 2023 SIs will be available in early October 2023 on the Hong Kong to Vietnam Race 2023 website: [www.chinacoastraceweek.com](http://www.chinacoastraceweek.com).

### **3. OFFICIAL NOTICE BOARD**

The online official notice board is located at [www.chinacoastraceweek.com/race-vietnam](http://www.chinacoastraceweek.com/race-vietnam).

### **4. ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY**

- 4.1 Eligible boats shall enter online using the Hong Kong to Vietnam Race entry system by 1800hrs on Friday 22 September 2022. For late entry requirements see NoR 5.2.
- 4.2 The Hong Kong to Vietnam Race 2023 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 Cruiser Class:** Keelboats with a DLR equal to or greater than 140 and an LOA equal to or greater than 14.98m.
- 4.2.3 HKPN Class:** Keelboats which satisfy safety and stability requirements as defined under the ISO12215 Category A.
- 4.2.4 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. The race committee will determine, at its sole discretion, rating bands and divisions for the IRC Racer Class and will publish these in the SIs. Subject to the number of entries, the classes, divisions and rating bands 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.
- 4.4 All boats shall be 10 meters or above overall (LOA) excluding bowsprit and/or bumpkin.
- 4.5 Boats racing in IRC Racer Class Divisions 0 & 1 shall have endorsed IRC certificates.

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- 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 2023 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 Hong Kong to Vietnam Race 2023, which includes crew and skipper tickets for the Welcome Party at RHKYC Kellett Island on Thursday 12 October 2023, the finish location party in Nha Trang on Saturday 28 October 2023 and the prize giving on Wednesday 8 November 2023 at RHKYC, Kellett Island, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong. Entry fees will not be refundable after Friday 29 September 2023.
- 5.2 Late entries may be accepted until 1800hrs on Friday 29 September 2023 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 Regulation 20.9.2 applies.

### 7. SCHEDULE

The schedule for the Hong Kong to Vietnam Race 2023 will be:

Friday 22 September 2023	Entry deadline	1800hrs
Friday 29 September 2023	Document submission (see NoR 8.1) & late entry deadline	1800hrs
Thursday 12 October 2023	Welcome Party, Kellett Island	1900 - 2100hrs
Monday 16 October 2023	Crew Immigration/NoK Form submission IRC/MOCRA Rating Certificate or HKPN PIPS Declaration submission	1800hrs
Monday 23 October 2023	Skippers' Briefing at RHKYC	1830 - 1900hrs
Tuesday 24 October 2023	Warning Signal for IRC Racer 2 & HKPN Immigration (Departure) Formalities	1110hrs 1630 - 1900hrs
Wednesday 25 October 2023	Warning Signal for all other classes	1110hrs
Saturday 28 October 2023	Location prize giving in Nha Trang	1700hrs
Wednesday 8 November 2023	Prize giving, Kellett Island	1900 - 2100hrs

## 8. DOCUMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED

8.1 All boats entering the Hong Kong to Vietnam Race 2023 shall upload to the event's online registration system the following documents by 1800hrs on Friday 29 September 2023:

- 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 Operator Licence.

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

8.2 The online registration form giving Immigration and Next-of-Kin (NoK) details of the skipper and crew shall be submitted by 1800hrs on Monday 16 October 2023.

8.3 No alteration in a boat's TCC will be permitted after 1800hrs on Monday 16 October 2023 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 Sailing Office by 1800hrs on Monday 16 October 2023. 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 HKPN Class shall submit a completed HKPN PIPS declaration form to the Sailing Office by 1800hrs on Monday 16 October 2023.

## 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 2023 RHKYC Prescriptions to the WSOSR introduce several amendments to the WSOSR that apply to the Hong Kong to Vietnam Race 2023. Some of the more significant amendments are summarized below, but it is imperative that 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 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 and connected to an external marine mast type antenna with a permanent fixed installation for the duration of the race.
- **DSC VHF.** Shall carry a DSC capable VHF radio.
- **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 boat from the race at the discretion of the race committee.

## 11. COMMUNICATION [DP]

11.1 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 at all times while a boat is racing. 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 Boats shall carry an AIS unit as outlined in the WSOSR Category 1. The unit shall remain operational and switched on at all times while a boat is racing. Boats which fail to comply shall be subject to a 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 while racing for safety purposes.

## 12. THE COURSE

The course to be sailed will be outlined in the Hong Kong to Vietnam Race 2023 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 Hong Kong to Vietnam Race 2023 will be the IRC Handicap Rating system for all IRC Classes 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 1000/HKPN.**

## 15. BERTHING

Boats shall be kept in their assigned places both in Hong Kong prior to the start and at their assigned place in Nha Trang after the finish.

**16. PRIZES**

- 16.1 Subject to entries, prizes will be awarded for Monohull and Multihull line honours; for first, second and third place overall under IRC handicap; and for first, second and third place in each class or division of a class.
- 16.2 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), Ana Marina, the Hong Kong to Vietnam Race 2023 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.
- 17.2 Persons in charge, owners and skippers are invited to co-operate closely with the organising authority, 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 event, the organising authority advises all boats to take out additional insurance.

**19 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).

**20 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

- 20.1 Boats entering from overseas please contact: **RHKYC Marine Manager, Alan Reid** at: Tel: +852 2239 0308, Fax: +852 2572 5399, for all details regarding facilities, berthing and commissioning prior to the event.
- 20.2 For other event enquiries please contact: **RHKYC Sailing Manager, Ailsa Angus** at: [ailsa.angus@rhkyc.org.hk](mailto:ailsa.angus@rhkyc.org.hk), Tel: +852 2239 0395, Fax: +852 2239 0364.