



Round Ireland Yacht Race 2026

June 20th 2026
Wicklow Sailing Club



Notice of Race



Round Ireland Yacht Race 2026



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The Round Ireland Yacht Race (the race) is organised by Wicklow Sailing Club in association with the Royal Ocean Racing Club and Royal Irish Yacht Club.

The Round Ireland Yacht Race carries 20 RORC bonus points for the RORC Season's Championship, ISORA Series has a weighting of 1.2 and Class 40 a coefficient of 2.

1.0 GENERAL

1.1 The Organising Authority referred to in this Notice of Race is Wicklow Sailing Club (WSC) in association with the Royal Ocean Racing Club (RORC) and administered by the Race Committee.

1.2 **THE RACE START WILL BE AT WICKLOW ON SATURDAY, 20TH JUNE, 2026**

1.3 **There will be separate starts for Monohulls and Multihulls.**

Starting Times:

Monohulls: 13:00 hrs.

Multihulls: 13:10 hrs.

1.4 **The RACE COURSE is "Leave Ireland and all its islands, excluding Rockall, to starboard."**

1.5 The distance is approximately 704 nm.

1.6 The notice of race and the terms of the contract created by acceptance of a boats entry to the race under this notice of race shall be governed by and construed in accordance with Irish law and any dispute which cannot be resolved under Part 5 of the Racing Rules of Sailing shall be referred to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Irish courts.

1.7 Wicklow Sailing club is the primary base for the race. The Royal Irish Yacht Club (RIYC), will be the associated Dun Laoghaire base for the race.

1.8 The Round Ireland Yacht Race will be governed by the following rules:

a. The Rules as defined in the current Racing Rules of World Sailing. Link herein

1. Racing Rules of World Sailing
<https://d7qh6ksdplczd.cloudfront.net/sailing/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/29083752/2025-2028-RRS-with-Changes-and-Corrections.pdf>
2. World sailing offshore Special Regulations Category 2
https://d7qh6ksdplczd.cloudfront.net/sailing/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/05110802/WS_Offshore_Special-Regulations_2026-2027_v1_wcover.pdf

b. Current MOCRA Rating Rules.

c. The rules and regulations for any one design class for which there is an eligible boat entered to that class in the race.

d. This Notice of Race (NoR).

e. The Sailing Instructions (SI) issued by the Organising Authority and any amendments thereto. Sailing Instructions will be made available from the Race Office to confirmed entries by Monday 1st June, 2026.

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- 1.9** Except when changed in Sailing Instructions the rules of RRS Part 2 shall not apply between the hours of 22:00 - 05:00 and shall be replaced with the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea.
- A combined Lifejacket and Harness (RSS 1.2 & OSR 5.0 - Personal Equipment) shall be worn when on deck:
- 1.10**
- Between the hours of sunset and sunrise
 - When alone on deck
 - When reefed
 - When the true wind speed is 25 knots or above
 - When the visibility is less than 1 nautical mile
- 1.11** The Organising Authority reserves the right to amend this Notice of Race and to alter the rules and conditions until not later than Monday 25th May 2026. These changes will be sent to owners whose entries have already been accepted and posted on the Event Website: <https://www.roundireland.ie>.
- 2.0** **ELIGIBILITY**
- 2.1** The Round Ireland Yacht Race is open to offshore boats that fully satisfy the requirements of the World Sailing (OSR) for Category 2 races and the NoR prescriptions, Appendix 2.
- 2.2** Boats must have a current and valid rating certificate for the Rating Categories they enter and must comply in all respects with that rating certificate.
- 2.3** The cut-off date for amended Rating Certificates shall be Wednesday 17th June 2026. In very exceptional cases the Race Committee may grant a relaxation to this requirement.
- 2.4** The Round Ireland Overall Trophy is restricted to IRC entries only.
- 3.0** **ELIGIBLE ENTRIES:**
- 3.1** **IRC rated yachts:**
Of **LOA 9.15m/30 feet and over**, with a minimum SSS of 28 (as stated on IRC rating cert) or STIX of 32 combined with an AVS minimum of $130-0.002 \times m$ (where "m" is minimum sailing weight in kg). Boats with a series date of 1995 and later may be categorised under STIX only. Boats prior to 1995 may be categorised under either STIX or SSS.
- 3.2** The minimum crew on any IRC Monohull shall be three apart from as allowed under NoR for IRC Class 6 (Two-Handed Class).
- 3.3** No person may race contrary to the terms of a ban imposed by a National Authority or World Sailing.
- 3.4** **Multihulls:**
Having **LOA 9.00m/ 29.53 feet and over**, and a current and valid MOCRA rating certificate may enter the Multihull Category, and sailed by not less than 2 crew.
- 3.5** **Waiver:**
The Organising Authority reserve the right to permit entry to yachts whose length is considered to be acceptable as substantially compliant with the above and in exceptional circumstances may accept other indicators as to the suitability of the boats for a given category of the race.

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4.0 EXPERIENCE / AGE:

- 4.1 The Round Ireland Yacht Race is not a race for novices. Every crew member must have experience of sailing a yacht offshore and be prepared to encounter heavy weather. Competitors may be required to provide evidence of prior offshore experience in advance of the start of the race in line with NoR 4.3.
- 4.2 The Round Ireland Yacht Race is open to seaworthy boats which comply with the rules and regulations described in this Notice of Race and which are crewed by an adequate number of experienced sailors physically able to handle the challenging conditions that can reasonably be expected given the geography and duration of the race.
- 4.3 The minimum experience requirement is:
- 300 nautical miles of offshore racing (at least one race of 75 miles duration and including at least one night at sea) on the boat entered into the race, completed by a minimum of 50% of the crew (but not less than 2) including the Person in Charge.
- OR**
- Non-stop passage of at least 300 nautical miles.
- Qualification experience must be within 18 months prior to the start of the Race.
 - Any crew member still under the age of 18 on 20th June 2026 shall supply the written consent of a parent or legal guardian, which consent shall be attached to the crew list submitted on registration before the race.
 - Any entry in a two-handed class shall satisfy the organising authority that the crew have adequate knowledge and experience to sail a Category 2 race and that the boat is suitably set up for two handed racing.

5.0 CREW TRAINING:

- 5.1 The Skipper of each participating boat shall ensure that there is adequate knowledge and experience among his or her crew to take part in a Category 2 offshore race.
- 5.2 At least 30% of the crew, including the Skipper, shall have undertaken training to OSR. Section 6, (Appendix G).
- 5.3 In the case of two-handed entries, both crew members must have completed training to OSR, Section 6, (Appendix G) (including training in survival at sea as required by OSR 6.01.).
- 5.4 In addition at least one member of the crew shall hold a current First Aid Certificate (in accordance with OSR 6.05.2), or an equivalent.
- 5.5 The above training must have been completed within five years of the start of the race.
- 5.6 Copies of these certificates should be lodged with WSC prior to the start of the race and can be uploaded into the race-entry system.
- ### 6.0 CATEGORIES AND CLASSES
- 6.1 Racing will take place under IRC, Class 40 & MOCRA Classes.
- 6.2 Classes will be allocated according to the number and type of entry. Yachts may enter as a team, but RRS Appendix D, Team Racing Rules, will not apply.



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6.3 IRC Category:

| IRC | CLASS | TCC/Description |
|----------|---------|-------------------------|
| IRC | CLASS Z | 1.275 and greater |
| IRC | CLASS 1 | 1.101 - 1.274 |
| IRC | CLASS 2 | 1.051 - 1.100 |
| IRC | CLASS 3 | 1.004 - 1.050 |
| IRC | CLASS 4 | 0.850 - 1.003 |
| CRUISERS | CLASS 5 | Hull factor 7.5 or less |
| IRC | CLASS 6 | Two handed class |
| | CLASS 7 | TBA |

Notes:

- Boats with Canting Keels will race in the class appropriate to their TCC.**
- IRC entrants may enter in more than one category if eligible.
- Should the rating bands for the division of the IRC Categories into classes stated above prove to be manifestly unsuitable to the composition of the fleet of entries, the Organising Authority reserves the right to adjust these bands as it deems appropriate.

6.4 Multihull Category:

Multihulls having a current valid MOCRA rating certificate and TCC of 1.100 or greater.

6.5 Class 40 Category:

Boats and crew in compliance with the 2026 Class 40 Rules and Regulations of the Association Class 40.

6.6 Other Classes:

Subject to the participation of a sufficient number of entries, One Design classes for boats complying with one design rules for their class may be established.

6.7 The formation of any of the above categories or classes is at the discretion of the Organising Authority and subject to a minimum of four entries. However, should there be less than four entries in a particular class, the Organising Authority reserves the right to include these entries within another class or, at the discretion of the Organising Authority, a class may be formed with less than five entries.

6.8 The Organising Authority reserves the right to accept entries or classes that are not listed above and reserves the right to decline an entry.

7.0 CREW LIMITS

7.1 IRC Rule 22.4.2 is deleted and replaced by "The maximum number of crew that may sail aboard a boat shall be the number as specified on her rating certificate" (There is no weight limit).

7.2 The above provision overrides IRC Rule 22.4.2 in respect of One-Design classes. However a Class may wish for its own purposes to apply its own crew limits of less than the certificate number. It is recommended that the Person in Charge consult their Class Association.

8.0 COMPLIANCE WITH RULES – REGULATIONS & INSPECTIONS:

8.1 Skippers shall sign a declaration that they are in full compliance with the requirements of the Offshore Special Regulations for Category 2 races and the NoR prescriptions.

8.2 Each entrant must complete an Offshore Special Regulations Check List. The completed Check List must be submitted to the Race Office prior to the start of the race and a copy must also be retained on board the yacht.

8.3 Yachts shall assemble at either Wicklow Harbour or Dun Laoghaire Marina no later than **0900 hours on Thursday 18th June 2026** for Special Regulations inspections. Entrants are required to give advance notice as to their choice of venue for SR inspections, unless

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previously inspected by arrangement with RORC appointed inspectors.

- 8.4** Notwithstanding the mandatory time for assembly referred to at 8.3 above inspections will be available on Wednesday 17th June 2026.
- 8.5** It is mandatory that the Skipper or his/her authorised representative be present at the time of inspection. Further inspections may be carried out to any boat after the race. Inspections must be booked in advance by arrangement with Safety Inspectors.
- 9.0 TRACKING / AIS TRANSPONDER:**
- 9.1** It will be mandatory for yachts to carry a Tracker Unit for the duration of the race. The Organising Authority may use the information received from the system for media coverage of the race as well as for technical and safety purposes. Participants shall be responsible for the Tracker Unit while on board and shall return it to the Race Office after the race. In the event of loss or failure to return the tracker, competitors will be liable for the replacement cost.
- 9.2** All yachts must be equipped with an operational AIS Transponder. Competitors shall use their best endeavours to ensure that their AIS Transponder is switched on (transmitting and receiving) at all times for the entire duration of the race.
- 10.0 APPLICATION FOR ENTRY AND REGISTRATION**
- 10.1** Application for entry should be made by using the on-line entry format on the event website. <https://roundireland.ie/>
- 10.2** Entry applications may be submitted on-line from Monday 14th January 2026.
- 10.3** Entries submitted and paid for in full prior to the end of February 2026 as shown in 11.3. Discount up to a maximum discount of €400.
- 10.4** The closing date for entries is May 31st 2026. Application for entry after this date is subject to the discretion of the organising authority.
- 10.5** The Skipper must complete the registration process either at the Race Office at Wicklow Sailing Club or at the Royal Irish Yacht Club, Dun Laoghaire.
- 10.6** The submission of documents requested by the Organising Authority does not exonerate the Entrant from any of his/her responsibilities and receipt by the Organising Authority shall not imply verification of the validity or adequacy of the documents submitted to it.
- 10.7** Entrants should include, with their entry, a recent photograph of the yacht for publicity purposes.



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11.0 ENTRY FEES

11.1 The Entry fee shall be in accordance with the charges set out below.

11.2 A non-refundable deposit of €300 will be required for a valid entry application with the balance of the appropriate entry fee paid in accordance with the schedule below.

| LoA in meters | Standard Fee | Discount if paid by March 31st | Standard 2H Fee | Discount if paid by March 31st |
|----------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 9 - 9.99 | €600 | €60 | €550 | €55 |
| 10 - 10.99 | €680 | €68 | €640 | €64 |
| 11 - 11.99 | €720 | €72 | €700 | €70 |
| 12 - 12.99 | €1040 | €104 | €950 | €95 |
| 13 - 13.99 | €1100 | €110 | €1000 | €100 |
| 14 - 14.99 | €1250 | €125 | €1150 | €115 |
| 15 - 15.99 | €1680 | €168 | €1500 | €150 |
| 16 - 16.99 | €2250 | €225 | €2050 | €205 |
| 17 - 17.99 | €3000 | €300 | €2150 | €215 |
| 18 - 18.99 | €4100 | €400 | €2250 | €225 |
| 19 - 19.99 | €4400 | €400 | €2350 | €235 |
| 20 - 20.99 | €4600 | €400 | | |
| 21 - 21.99 | €4850 | €400 | | |
| 22 - 22.99 | €5100 | €400 | | |
| 23 - 23.99 | €5200 | €400 | | |
| 24 - 24.99 | €5300 | €400 | | |
| 25 - 25.99 | €5400 | €400 | | |
| 26 - 26.99 | €5500 | €400 | | |
| 27 - 27.99 | €5600 | €400 | | |
| 28 - 28.99 | €5700 | €400 | | |
| 29 - 29.99 | €5800 | €400 | | |
| 30m (+€100 per metre thereafter) | | | | |

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12.0 CANCELLATION POLICY

12.1 Cancellation prior to closing date, where the full fee has **not** been paid, shall not be eligible for a refund of the deposit.

12.2 Cancellations subsequent to payment of full entry fee can be accepted either:

a. before the closing date, when a refund, minus the non-refundable deposit of €200, may be claimed.

OR

b. between the closing date and the start, when 50% of the fee may be claimed.

13.0 SCHEDULE OF EVENT

13.1 Wednesday 17th June - Friday 19th June 2026
Registration / Scrutineering (09:30 - 13:00 & 14:00 - 17:00).

A race office will be open during the above hours at WSC Wicklow and RIYC Dun Laoghaire.

13.2 Friday 19th June

Skippers reception and Race Briefing at Wicklow Sailing Club.

13.3 Saturday 20th June

Start Times for the Round Ireland Yacht Race

Monohulls: 13:00 hrs.

Multihulls: 13:10 hrs.

13.4 Friday 26th June

Prize giving and Party

14.0 SCORING

14.1 The IRC Category shall be scored on corrected time by IRC TCC.

14.2 The Multihull Category shall be scored on corrected time using the MOCRA TCC.

14.3 Level Rating Class entries will be scored on their finishing positions.

15.0 CHANGES TO RULES

15.1 The use of an autopilot is permitted in two handed entries. This changes RRS Rule 52.

15.2 A boat may carry one spare mainsail which may only be used while racing as a genuine replacement if during the race the mainsail the boat started the race with becomes damaged beyond repair and not for the purpose of improved performance. The first mainsail may not thereafter be repaired and re-used while racing. In the case that the spare mainsail is used the substitution shall be declared in the Skipper's race declaration describing the circumstances and giving the reasons for its use. The skipper may be required to produce the damaged mainsail for inspection by the Race Committee.

15.3 Valid rating certificates shall be produced by the due dates specified in this Notice of Race. This changes RRS Rule 78.2.

16.0 ADVERTISING

16.1 Boats taking part in any class in the event may display advertising as permitted by their class in accordance with World Sailing Regulation 20 - Advertising Code.

16.2 Competitors will be required to display advertising for the event sponsor in accordance with World Sailing Regulation.

16.3 The Organising Authority may require all competitors to display bow decals and to hoist a sponsor's pennant for the duration of the race. The decals and the pennant will be provided by the Organising Authority.

17.0 PRIZES - TROPHY PRESENTATIONS

17.1 A dedicated Line Honours Battleflag will be presented to the line honours boats in Monohull and Multihull classes on completion and arrival at Wicklow Sailing Club.

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- 17.2** Trophies for winning positions as determined by the Organising Authority will be presented to the winning yachts at a Prize giving & Party to be held at Wicklow Sailing Club at **18:00 hrs on Friday 26th June 2026**. Awards of trophies not determined by the above time will be held over and presented at a later time.
- 17.3** The Round Ireland Yacht Race Trophies will be awarded to the winners as set out in the schedule attached to Appendix 1. The Organising Authority reserves the right to modify the schedule of intended trophies. Subsequent to the presentation WSC will retain all trophies
- 17.4** It is also intended to award first, second and third prizes in each class where the number of entries is six or more boats, and first and second prizes where there are only five but not less than three boats in a class.
- 17.5** Where feasible, RORC Medallions will be presented at the Prizegiving Ceremony.
- 18.0** **LIABILITY and DISCLAIMER**
- 18.1** By making an application for entry in the race, the owner of a boat acknowledges that the various terms of this Notice of Race including any amendments thereto, as well as all the rules and regulations referred to in this Notice of Race and in the Sailing Instructions, shall be complied with.
- 18.2** The Owner or Charterer of a participating boat shall hold current adequate marine legal liability insurance cover with respect to the boat, valid when racing and will ensure that all crew members are aware of the importance of effecting appropriate personal insurance. Boats must carry a third party liability indemnity limit of at least €3 million.
- 18.3** As part of the registration process, the person making the on-line entry shall be deemed to have full authority to confirm, on the on-line registration system, a Declaration, on behalf of each individual participating crewmember, accepting a disclaimer of liability prepared by the Organising Authority which shall, inter alia, confirm:
- a. That the named applicant making the on-line entry is the Person in Charge and has authority to confirm this Declaration on behalf of the full crew compliment.
 - b. They are aware of the inherent element of risk involved in the sport and accept responsibility for the exposure of themselves, their crew and their boat to such inherent risk whilst taking part in the event.
 - c. That the sole and inescapable responsibility for the nautical qualities of the yacht participating in the Round Ireland race 2026, her rigging, the safety equipment on board and the competence, behaviour and competency of the crew is that of the Entrant/Charterer of the yacht.
 - d. They are acquainted with World Sailing Part 1 Fundamental Rule 3: "A boat is solely responsible for deciding whether or not to start or to continue racing".
 - e. They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat and their other property whether afloat or ashore.
 - f. They accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omission.
 - g. Their boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the event and they are fit to participate.
 - h. The provision of a race management team and other officials and volunteers by the event organiser does not relieve them of their own responsibilities.
 - i. They are responsible for ensuring that their boat is equipped and seaworthy so as to face extremes of weather; that there is a crew sufficient in number, experience and fitness to withstand such weather; and that the safety equipment is properly maintained, stowed, in date and familiar to the crew.
 - j. To be bound by World Sailing Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS), by the Sailing Instructions and the Notice of Race.

- k. To take any and all responsibility for all damages whatsoever caused to third persons or their belongings ashore and at sea as a consequence of my participation in the RACE.
- l. To relieve from any responsibility, and agree to indemnify on a full indemnity basis and hold harmless, the Organising Authority, WSC, the RORC, the RIYC, in particular and affiliated companies together with their servants, agents and representatives in respect of any claim arising therefrom.
- m. That the Organising Authority, the RORC, the RIYC, the race Sponsors, and other organising clubs associated with the event accept no responsibility or liability for loss of life or injury to participants, members or others, or for loss of, or damage to, any vessel or property.
- n. That before racing the Person in Charge of the yacht will ensure that the crew is aware of:
- the undertaking in this Declaration
 - the importance of effecting appropriate personal insurance
 - their responsibility in rules observance, and in particular RRS 1.2 (wearing personal buoyancy adequate for the conditions). See also RORC Prescription to the Special Regulations 5.01.5.
- o. The yacht will be available for inspection.
- p. If any alteration likely to affect the handicap or rating is made, e.g. to sails, rig, mast, ballast, trim, engine or propeller, the Person in Charge will notify the Rating Authority and Race Committee immediately.
- q. Ensure that no crew member races on the yacht contrary to the terms of any ban imposed by World Sailing, or a National Authority or the RORC.
- r. Understand and agree that the information given in this race entry and also the race entry lists and results will be maintained on the Organising Authority Club's computer to be used for all aspects of the race organisation.
- s. That the Organising Authority may seek the written confirmation of the terms of this Declaration from any or all of the participating yacht members/crew.
- 19.0 STARTING AND CONTINUING TO RACE**
- 19.1** The Race Committee will make starting signals unless in their opinion it is manifestly unsafe for any of the boats entered to remain in the vicinity of the starting line. Each boat shall exercise her responsibility under RRS Fundamental Rule 3 and decide whether or not to start or to continue to race.
- 20.0 MEDIA RELEASE AND IMAGE RIGHTS WAIVER**
- 20.1** Competitors automatically grant the Organising Authority and event sponsors, without payment, the right in perpetuity to make, use and show any motion pictures, still pictures and live, taped or filmed television of or relating to the event.

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Appendix 1: Trophies

| Award | Achievement |
|------------------------|--|
| Line Honours MONOHULL | First IRC yacht to finish |
| Line Honours MULTIHULL | First MOCRA yacht to finish |
| Overall IRC winner | Overall IRC winner |
| Multihull MOCRA 50+ft | First Multihull 50+ in MOCRA class |
| Multihull MOCRA <50ft | First Multihull under 50ft in MOCRA class |
| IRC Class Z | First in class IRC |
| IRC Class 1 | First in class IRC |
| IRC Class 2 | First in class IRC |
| IRC Class 3 | First in class IRC |
| IRC Class 4 | First in class IRC |
| Class 5 Cruisers | First in class IRC |
| Class 6 Two Handed | First in class |
| Best Corinthian IRC | First in class |
| Class 40 | First in class |
| ICRA Award | Best IRC Irish yacht |
| Ladies Award | Best fully crewed ladies entry |
| ISORA Award | Best ISORA entry |
| Team Award | 3 Boat team in IRC |
| Best Sailing School | Best IRC sailing school entry |
| Best Services Yacht | Best Services entry |
| Best Overseas Award | Best overseas entry in IRC (See Notes below) |
| Oldest Yacht | Oldest yacht to complete the race (Maybird Trophy) |
| Best Welsh Boat | Best Welsh entry (Morris Trophy) |



Appendix 2: EVENT PRESCRIPTIONS TO THE WORLD SAILING SPECIAL REGULATIONS

Mu 2, 3, 4

3.07.3

Replace OSR 3.07.3 with:

Multihulls shall have escape hatch(es) as detailed in OSR 3.07.2 **

4.01.2 Amend to read:

After the start when sail numbers are not displayed elsewhere (sails down) they shall be displayed on the port quarter. It is particularly important that all vessels can be easily identified so that they can be excluded from any search and rescue operation. **

4.07 Add to 4.07

e) a floating waterproof torch for use in the event of man overboard at night, which can be thrown into the sea as a marker.

MoMu 0, 1, 2, 3

5.01.5 A combined harness and lifejacket shall be worn when on deck:

- a) between the hours of sunset and sunrise
- b) when alone on deck
- c) when reefed
- d) when the true wind speed is 25 knots or above
- e) when the visibility is less than 1 nautical mile

MoMu 0, 1, 2, 3

5.06.2 At night, each crew member shall carry a waterproof torch/light.

NOTES (Not part of Notice of Race)

- 1. Team Entry:**
 - a. A Team will consist of 3 boats.
 - b. A Team may be a Club Team or any 3 individual boats.
 - c. Each Entrant to a Team must represent a separate Class.
 - d. Teams shall comprise yachts of Monohull IRC categories only.
- 2. Sailing School Yacht**

Must be entered by a bona fide sailing school, affiliated to a National Authority and having on board a crew consisting of at least 50% students (not instructors).
- 3. Services Yacht**

Must be entered by a National Service where each entering team shall be responsible for providing its own boat, and shall be entered in the name of the associated Service. Navy, Coast Guard, Army, Airforce, Police and Emergency Rescue Services have been approved for participation in the race. Other Services who would like to compete should contact the OA to ascertain their eligibility. At least 50% of the crew of any entered yacht must be active members of the Service in whose name the yacht is entered.
- 4. Best Overseas Yacht**

For the purpose of assigning the Best Overseas Yacht trophy, the Nationality of a boat will be the nationality of the entry referred to in the entry submission. The award will be presented to the Best Overseas Yacht in IRC, (outside of the Island of Ireland) which does not qualify for anyone of the other trophies listed on the schedule of Trophies (Appendix I).