



Foynes Yacht Club

Atlantic Cup Offshore Race Series 2026

The Organising Authority (OA) is the West of Ireland Offshore Racing Association

Saturday June 27th - Sunday August 23rd 2026

NOTICE OF RACE

1. RULES AND REGULATIONS

1.1 Racing Rules of Sailing

The race will be governed by the rules as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS). The prescriptions of Irish Sailing will apply.

1.2 Offshore Special Regulations

The World Sailing [Offshore Special Regulations \(OSR\)](#), Monohulls Cat 3 with Category 2 Life Raft and any amendments thereto for 2026 will apply. Where Offshore Special Regulations cannot be met, the OA may accept an alternative.

1.3 IRPCAS

Between local sunset and sunrise, the rules of RRS Part 2 shall cease to be applicable and shall be replaced IRPCAS (International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea). Between the times of local sunset and sunrise a boat shall take a scoring penalty as detailed in the Sailing Instructions.

1.4 Advertising

Boats may be required to display advertising chosen and supplied by the OA.

2. ELIGIBILITY

2.1 Boat & Crew

The race is open to seaworthy boats which comply with the Rules and Regulations described in this Notice of Race and which are manned by an adequate number of experienced crew who are physically fit to face bad weather and which: -

- i) are of monohull construction with a minimum length overall of 30ft;
- ii) have a valid 2026 IRC Rating certificate issued no later than 1700hrs on June 3rd 2026;
- iii) have a minimum SSS Numeral of 15 or STIX of 23;
- iv) comply with the requirements of the World Sailing [Offshore Special Regulations \(OSR\) 2026-27](#) for races of OSR Category 3 Monohulls with a Category 2 life raft and AIS Transponder;

2.2 Race Sub Divisions

There will be IRC Racing, IRC Cruiser, IRC Double Handed and an Echo division within the Race. All boats will be scored in IRC overall and their IRC sub-divisions, Echo overall

2.3 Cruiser - Furling Headsail

Boats entered in the IRC Cruiser division shall have a furling headsail in addition to the requirements above.

2.4 Minimum Crew numbers

The minimum crew on any boat shall be three apart from boats entered in the Double-Handed/Mixed Two Person Classes.

2.5 Number of crew and Weight

IRC Rule 22.4 is amended to read "There are no limits on the number of crew and crew weight. This is subject to the number of crew being limited to the maximum capacity of the liferaft(s) carried on the boat."

2.6 Automatic Steering – Double Handed/Two Person Mixed

Automatic or wind-vane steering is permitted (changes RRS 52) in the Double Handed & Two Person Mixed Classes. Entries must satisfy the OA that they have suitable and adequate experience and that their boat is appropriately organised for two-handed sailing.

2.7 Rating Deadline

Entrants shall email a copy of the boat's 2026 IRC certificate to wioraenquiries@gmail.com or submit at registration.

Changes to Ratings and Class certificates will only be accepted after the Rating Deadline (1700hrs on Wednesday 3rd June 2026) in exceptional circumstances at the discretion of the OA.

3. OSR COMPLIANCE

Responsibility for compliance rests with the Person in Charge. However WIORA will endeavour to help Competitors to understand the OSR and reserves the right to conduct an OSR inspection on any boat at any time. The entrant shall complete an OSR Category 3 Checklist (available on www.wiora.ie) and declaration stating that the boat complies with the World Sailing [Special Offshore Regulations](#) and return to wioraenquiries@gmail.com by Friday 1st August 2026.

4. ENTRY and FEES

4.1 Entry Limit

The total number of entries in the Race is restricted to 30 boats. The OA may increase this at its discretion subject to the availability of berths in finishing ports.

4.2 Entry Fee

Entries of eligible boats shall be made online through www.wiora.ie paying the entry fee of €180 for the race series or €65 for a single race.

Early bird fee: the fee before Friday 1st May 2026 shall be discounted to €150.

The closing date for entries is Friday 29th May 2026.

4.3 Late Entry

Entries after the Closing Date and at least 48 hours before the start may be accepted on payment of an additional sum of half the standard entry fee.

4.4 Entry Cancellation

Cancellations by competitors before the 14th May 2026 will be eligible for a full refund of the race entry fee. Cancellations after 14th May 2026 will be eligible for a refund of 50% of the standard race entry fee.

The entry fee will be refunded in full should the OA cancel or reject an entry.

4.6 Crew List

The Person in Charge will be required to file a crew list and emergency shore contact details at registration [DP]. A boat shall not sail with a crew member whose personal details and emergency contact details are not filed at the race office.

5. SCHEDULE

West Coastal Series

Race 1 Foynes to Fenit/Schull to Fenit

Friday 26th June – 1900-2000 Briefing - Foynes YC/SHSC

Saturday 27th 0855 Race Warning Signal

Race 2 WIORA coastal race

Date TBC: As part of WIORA championship regatta.

Race 3 Fenit to Schull

Saturday 4th July – 2000 Briefing. Tralee Bay Sailing Club

Sunday 5th July 0855 Race Warning Signal

Race 4 Schull to Dingle

Friday 7th August – 1900 Briefing SHSC

Saturday 8th August 0855 Race Warning Signal

Race 5 Dingle to Kilrush/Dingle to Schull Race

Friday August 14th 1900 Briefing Dingle Marina

Saturday August 15th 0855 Race Warning Signal

Overall prize giving Sunday 23rd August 4pm Venue Foynes Yacht Club

6. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Sailing Instructions will be available on the Event website prior to registration.

7. THE COURSES

Will be provided as part of sailing instructions

8. TAKING A PENALTY (RRS 44)

The penalty for breaking a rule of RRS Part 2 shall be a Two Turns Penalty as permitted and described in RRS 44.2. When the right-of-way rules of IRPCAS apply (between the hours of local sunset and local sunrise), the penalty for a breach shall be a scoring penalty in accordance with RRS 44.3. Penalties shall be 10 minutes added to a boats corrected time. A scoring penalty shall be declared on the boats Declaration Form. This adds to RRS 44.3.

9. COMMUNICATION, TRACKERS, AIS

Mandatory reporting procedures during the race will be given in the Sailing Instructions. Boats shall carry an AIS Transponder. Competitors shall ensure that the racing name of the boat is transmitted rather than just the MMSI number. Competitors shall use their best endeavours to ensure that their AIS Transponder is switched on (i.e. transmitting and receiving) at least every 5 seconds during the race.

10. RRS 41 – OUTSIDE HELP

Rule 41(c) is replaced by:-

“A boat shall not receive help from any outside source, except (c) help in the form of information which is freely available to all boats, which shall include navigational, weather, tide or current information from any source which is available to all boats whether or not by payment of a fee or subscription, but shall not include any information gathered or the subject of interpretation by, or any advice received from, any source not on board the boat and which is specific to the boat and her situation.”

By way of example and interpretation: downloading charts, weather and/or tidal GRIB files from subscription services, or having such information passed to the boat in its pure form, is permitted but receiving messages or information which is the result of interpretation as it applies to the boat is not permitted.

11. PRIZES

Prizes will be awarded as follows:-

- IRC Overall
- IRC Class 1
- IRC Class 2
- Echo Overall
- Mixed crew (two or more Women competing)

When no boat qualifies to win a particular prize, the OA may, at its discretion, award it otherwise.

12. SAFETY AND LIFE SAVING EQUIPMENT

Competitors' attention is drawn to RRS 1.2 life-saving equipment: “Each Competitor is individually responsible for wearing a personal flotation device adequate for the conditions.” However, in the Atlantic Cup race series, a combined Lifejacket and Harness shall be worn when on deck:

- 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

See also [Special Regulation 5.02. 2024-2026](#)

13. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY/RISK STATEMENT

Competitors participate in the regatta entirely at their own risk. See RRS 4, Decision to Race. The organizing authority will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after the race.

Yacht racing can be dangerous. The attention of Persons in Charge is drawn to RRS Fundamental Rule 4: “The responsibility for a boat’s decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone” and to Special Regulation 1.02.1 which begins: “The safety of a yacht and her crew is the sole and inescapable responsibility of the Person in Charge....”

Sailing is by its nature an unpredictable sport and therefore inherently involves an element of risk. By taking part in the race, each competitor agrees and acknowledges that:

- a) 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;
- b) they are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat and their other property whether afloat or ashore;
- c) they accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omission;
- d) their boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the event and they are fit to participate;
- e) the provision of a race management team and other officials and volunteers by the event organiser does not relieve them of their own responsibilities;
- f) 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

14. INSURANCE

Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of €3m or the equivalent during the race.

15. FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information please contact
WIORA Committee
Tel +353 87 2768740
E-mail: wioraenquiries@gmail.com