



# Notice of Race

## Northern Ireland Offshore Points Series (NIOPS) & Coastal Series 2023

This Notice of Race applies to **ALL RACES** except where otherwise specifically stated

### 1. RULES

- 1.1 The Organizing Authority (OA) for both Series is the Royal Ulster Yacht Club.
- 1.2 The two Series are governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing*.
- 1.3 The two Series are governed by the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea.
- 1.4 The prescriptions of the RYA apply to both Series.

### 2. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1 The sailing instructions (SIs) will be available for each individual race no later than two weeks prior to the date of each race of each Series at [www.ruyc.co.uk](http://www.ruyc.co.uk).
- 2.2 Any change to the SIs will be posted online and also at Bangor Marina at least two hours before the scheduled start of any appropriate individual race on any day that it will take effect, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 20:00 on the day before it will take effect.

### 3. COMMUNICATIONS

- 3.1 The online official notice board is located at [www.ruyc.co.uk](http://www.ruyc.co.uk). Copies of all documentation may be available on the RUYC noticeboard at Bangor Marina and on the sailing notice board in the hall of RUYC.
- 3.2 [DP] All boats shall carry a VHF radio capable of communicating on *channel 37 (M) and 72 (M2)*.
- 3.3 On the water, the race committee may make courtesy broadcasts to competitors on VHF radio. The channel will be stated in the SIs.
- 3.4 [DP] With the exception of NoR 3.3 (above), from the first warning signal until the end of the last race of the day, 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. This restriction also applies to mobile telephones.

### 4. ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

- 4.1 The events are open to all boats that have a valid 2021 IRC and/or NHC handicap.
- 4.2 Classes for both Series are defined as follows:

IRC & NHC Unrestricted sail	IRC & NHC handicap rules	0.850 & above
IRC & NHC Restricted sail	IRC & NHC handicap rules	0.900 & above

Note that NHC Base Numbers will be used for each race in each of the Series

- 4.3 For the Ailsa Craig Race boats shall comply with ORC Safety Regulations Category 3.



- 4.4 Eligible boats may enter by completing the entry form and submitting it, together with the required fee, to *Hon Sailing Secretary, C/O RUYC, 101 Clifton Road, Bangor, BT20 5HY* at least one week prior to each race. Entries can be made electronically by emailing the entry form to [sailingsecretary@ruyc.uk](mailto:sailingsecretary@ruyc.uk) and calling the Club office on 02891270568 where payment will be taken by card. Please read NoR 6 indicating Fees.

## 5. ANCHORS

No anchor carried on deck shall project forward of the bow.

## 6. FEES

Entry fees are as follows:

NIOPS individual races	£40 per race *	All Classes
NIOPS 3 Races	<b>£100 (enter all 3)</b>	All Classes
Coastal Series individual races	£20 per race	All Classes
Coastall 3 Races	<b>£45 (enter all 3)</b>	All Classes

\* Portpatrick Harbour charge included in entry fee for that race

**For the 2023 season we will be offering a special price if you enter for all 3 races of either NIOPS or Coastal series. This can be done on the entry by indicating how you wish to pay.**

**Any IRC Entry received within 1 week of each event starting or of the first race if paying for all 3 will only be accepted on the basis of the yachts primary handicap.**

**All entries received within 1 week of each event will be subject to an additional charge of £10 per race.**

## 7. CREW LIMITATIONS

For IRC/NHC boats there will be no limit on crew number or weight except as required for boats rated as one-designs, which shall comply with IRC Rule 22.4.1.

## 8. ADVERTISING

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

## 9. SCHEDULE

- 9.1 There will be no separate registration for the individual races within either of these series but prior entry must have been made in accordance with NoR 4.4.

### 9.2.1

	Date	Description	Warning Signal	
<b>Northern Ireland Offshore Points Series ONLY</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> May	Saturday	Strangford Lough Race	09:30
	16 <sup>th</sup> June	Friday	Ailsa Craig Race (see NoR 4.3)	20:00
	9 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Saturday	Portpatrick Race * (see NoR 6)	10:30

### 9.2.2

	Date	Description	Warning Signal	
<b>Coastal Series ONLY</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> May	Saturday	Round the Copelands Race	12:45
	1 <sup>st</sup> July	Saturday	Round the Lough Race	12:45
	20 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Sunday	Castle Cup Race	12.00



9.3 There will be one race for each class on each day

**10. EQUIPMENT INSPECTION**

10.1 Each boat shall produce (if requested) or verify the existence of a valid rating certificate.

10.2 Boats may be inspected at any time.

10.3 [DP] Boats shall also comply with RRS 78.1 when presented for inspection.

**11. VENUE**

The events will be held round various marks in Belfast Lough, the North Irish Sea, the North Channel and may use various waypoints within those areas.

**12. COURSES**

12.1 Courses for each race will be given in detail in the SIs for each specific event. Courses will be set on the day of the race.

12.2.1

The marks that may be used for the races in the <b>Northern Ireland Offshore Points Series (only)</b> are as follows:			
Number	Mark	Description	Co-ordinates
1	RUYC No. 1	Red Spherical Buoy to the north of the Long Hole, Bangor	
2	Cloghan Jetty	Green Lateral Starboard Buoy	54.44.125N 005.41.606W
3	RUYC No. 11	Black Spherical Buoy, NE of Lukes Point, Bangor	
4	Ailsa Craig		55.25.151N, 005.10.7W
5	Millieur Point	North Cardinal Buoy	55.12.076N, 005.38.904W
6	South Hunter	South Cardinal Buoy	54.19.191N, 005.45.204W
7	South Briggs	North Cardinal Buoy	54.41.182N, 005.35.732W
8	Skulmartin		54.32.242N, 005.24.550W
9	South Rock		54.24.301N, 005.21.592W
10	Strangford Safe Water Buoy		54.18.396N, 005.28.370W



12.2.2

The marks that may be used for the races in the <b>Coastal Series (only)</b> are as follows:			
Number	Mark	Description	Co-ordinates
1	RUYC No. 1	Red Spherical Buoy to the north of the Long Hole, Bangor	
2	South Briggs	North Cardinal Buoy	54.41.182N, 005.35.732W
3	RUYC No. 3	Red Spherical Buoy approx. 1 nautical mile to the <u>north of the Long Hole</u> , Bangor	
4	Kilroot Buoy	Green Pillar Buoy	approx. 54.42.85N, 005.42.85W
5	Helens Bay Buoy	Red Pillar Buoy	approx. 54.41.86N, 005.42.85W
6	Cloghan Jetty	Green Lateral Starboard Buoy	54.44.125N 005.41.606W
7	RUYC No. 7	Black Spherical Buoy, just east of Ballymacormick Point, Bangor	
8	Rockport Special Mark	Yellow Buoy with a yellow X top mark located approx. north of Rockport pumping station	
9	RUYC No. 11	Black Spherical Buoy, NE of Lukes Point, Bangor	
10	Copeland Islands	All three Copeland Islands	

12.3.1 In addition, waypoints may be used as marks for either or both Series. If so, Rule 28 will be amended accordingly in accordance with the RYA / RORC Guidance – “Racing Around Waypoints” - see RUYC website for details.

12.3.2 Evidence of rounding a “virtual” mark must be taken and may be requested by the Race Officer. This evidence may include:

- Photographic (iPhone or similar) evidence of the yacht’s GPS showing its position at the mark.
- A boat’s chart plotter track showing the boat rounding the “virtual” mark. This must be transmittable to the race committee by email.

12.3.3 The onus of proof of having rounded each WAYPOINT mark will be with each boat.

### 13. PENALTY SYSTEM

13.1 The Scoring Penalty, RRS 44.3, applies.

13.2 An Arbitration System will be available for each race and competitors are recommended to resolve disputes using this method. Boat penalised under the System may accept a 20% penalty.

### 14. SCORING

14.1 Boats will be ‘dual scored’ in each class.

14.2 Each individual race will be scored separately and prizes awarded accordingly.



- 14.3 There will also be overall prizes for each of the two Series. There will be no discard. This amends RRS 90.3 and Appendix A.
- 14.4 Rule A5.3 applies
- 15. DATA PROTECTION**  
The OA maintains a data protection policy, which is available on request.
- 16. RISK STATEMENT**  
RRS 3 states: 'The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue to race is hers alone.' By participating in this event each competitor agrees and acknowledges that sailing is a potentially dangerous activity with inherent risks. These risks include strong winds and rough seas, sudden changes in weather, failure of equipment, boat handling errors, poor seamanship by other boats, loss of balance on an unstable platform and fatigue resulting in increased risk of injury. **Inherent in the sport of sailing is the risk of permanent, catastrophic injury or death by drowning, trauma, hypothermia or other causes**
- 17. INSURANCE**  
Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of £3 Million per incident or the equivalent.
- 18. PRIZES**  
Prizes will be given to the winners of each class in each race. Second or Third prizes may be awarded at the discretion of the OA. Prizes will also be awarded for the winners of each class in each of the two overall Series (as shown above). All prizes will be awarded at the annual end of season prize giving at RUYC.
- 19. FURTHER INFORMATION**  
For further information please contact: [sailingsecretary@ruyc.uk](mailto:sailingsecretary@ruyc.uk)