

Twenty-Second Marion Bermuda Race

Sailing Instructions

Start: Friday, June 18, 2021

ORGANIZING AUTHORITY AND SPONSORS

The Marion Bermuda Race ("MBR") is organized by the Marion Bermuda Cruising Yacht Race Association, Inc. ("MBCYRA"). It is supported by the:

Beverly Yacht Club	"BYC"	Marion, Massachusetts
Blue Water Sailing Club	"BWSC"	Boston, Massachusetts
Royal Hamilton Amateur Dinghy Club	"RHADC"	Paget, Bermuda

The notation '[NP]' in a rule of the sailing instructions (SIs) means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule. This changes RRS 60.1(a).

1. RULES

1.1 The Marion Bermuda Race will be governed by:

- The rules as defined in the *Racing Rules of Sailing, 2021 – 2024 edition* ("RRS") and U.S. Sailing Prescription in Rule 67,
- [Navigation Rules International - Inland](#) (commonly called 72 COLREGS)
- The [Marion Bermuda Race Safety Requirements \(MBRSR\) Monohulls](#), revised July 1, 2020, amended January 4, 2021
- The [Offshore Racing Association Rules \("ORR"\)](#),

1.2 Any amendments issued by the OA may change any of these documents as permitted by the RRS.

1.3 Links to websites containing the rules listed above and other relevant information can be found on the MBR [website](#).

1.4 RRS 26 (Starting Races), 60.2 (Right to Protest), and 62 (Redress) will be changed as follows:

- 1.4.1 RRS 26 (STARTING RACES) will be changed such that the warning signal for each class will be 10 minutes before the starting signal and the preparatory signal will be 5 minutes before the starting signal.
- 1.4.2 RRS 60.2 (Right to Protest) is changed to permit the Compliance Committee to act in the same way as the Race Committee.
- 1.4.3 RRS 62.1(a) (REDRESS) is changed by adding "or the Compliance Committee." This permits yachts aggrieved by the findings of the Compliance Committee to request redress from the Protest Committee in accordance with RRS 62. See SI 14.4.

2 COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS

- 2.1 All notices to competitors will be posted on the Official Notice Board on the Marion Bermuda Race web site. As a courtesy, copies may also be posted on the Notice Board at the Sailing Center on the dock at RHADC.
- 2.2 If changes to starting times are made afloat, the Committee will announce any changes in the scheduled starting times on VHF Channel 72.
- 2.3 All yachts shall monitor VHF Channel 72 from 0930 on the day of their start for announcements from the start line race committee boat until they have started properly.
- 2.4 Communications with both the Starting Line and the Finish Line Committees shall be limited to those permitted by these Sailing Instructions and emergency transmissions.
- 2.5 Yacht-to-yacht transmissions on VHF radio or satellite communications systems are prohibited from the time of the first attention signal before the first start of the day until four hours after the last start of the day, except during emergencies. Thereafter, transmissions that do not contain information giving an advantage to any competitor are permitted. Re-transmitting the contents of public weather forecasts is encouraged if requested by another vessel.

3 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Any changes in the Sailing Instructions will be posted on the Marion Bermuda Race web site on the Official Notice Board on the [Official Documents](#) page by 2000 on the day before they take effect.

4 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 4.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed from the BYC flagstaff.
- 4.2 Code flag "AP" (Answering Pennant) with two guns means: "The race is postponed. Do not leave the harbor area." The time of the warning signal for the first starting class will be announced on VHF Channel 72 after the lowering of "AP", with one gun. This changes RRS Race Signals.

5 YACHT IDENTIFICATION

- 5.1 Class ID Flags shall be displayed from the backstay before check-in on the day of the start and shall not be removed until after the yacht has started and cleared the starting area. Class flags will be distributed at on site registration.

5.2 Scratch sheets indicating class assignments, class flag designations, and the order in which classes are scheduled to start will be available at the Skippers' Meeting and on the Marion Bermuda Race web site.

6 SKIPPERS' MEETING

6.1 A Skippers' Meeting will be held on Thursday, June 17, 2021 at 1630. Details of location and/or virtual access will be provided at onsite registration. The skipper or navigator must attend the entire meeting from start to finish. The meeting will include comprehensive briefings on the starting procedure, weather, the Gulf Stream and approaches to Bermuda. These briefings are the only ones sponsored by MBCYRA.

7 CHECK IN ON THE DAY OF THE START

7.1 All yachts shall check-in on their way to the start at the RACE PATROL vessel that will be stationed near Centerboard Shoal Fl. Red Buoy "2", approximately 1.25 nautical mile (NM) north-northwest of the starting line. Check-in commences at 1000 and must be completed 1 hour before the yacht's class warning signal. Check-in is mandatory. Yachts shall pass in single file across the stern of the RACE PATROL vessel maintaining a distance of approximately 100 feet between vessels. The directions for passing the Patrol vessel may be amended at the Skippers meeting. The Patrol vessel will acknowledge the check-in by loudspeaker.

7.2 A yacht not starting shall report this to the Starting Line Committee on VHF Channel 72 or to the Offshore Communications Team at 508-538-1009 no later than the warning signal for her class.

8 THE START

8.1 Races will be started as follows:

8.1.1 The warning signal for each class will be 10 minutes before the starting signal and the preparatory signal will be 5 minutes before the starting signal. This changes RRS 26.

8.1.2 The warning signal for the first start of the Founder's Division is scheduled for June 18, 2021 at 1205 EDT. Founders Division classes will start at 15-minute intervals.

8.2 Five minutes before the warning signal for the first start of the Race, code flag "F" will be raised to warn yachts that are not beginning their starting sequence that they must be clear of the starting area in five minutes. Code flag "F" will be lowered one minute before the first warning signal of the Founder's Division.

8.3 After the warning signal for the first class to start, yachts whose class-warning signal has not been made shall keep clear of the Starting Area and of all Yachts whose class-warning signal has been made. See SI 15.4

8.4 The starting line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the Starting Line Committee boat at the starboard end, and BYC yellow can N at the port end. The buoy is approximately 1.25 NM south-southeast of Centerboard Shoal at

approximately 41°38.9 N 070°42.4 W. The starting line is approximately 4 NM from Sippican (Marion) Harbor. See Attachment A.

8.5 The Starting Area is rectangular and is bounded by yellow tetrahedral buoys. See the diagram in Attachment B

8.6 If before on-site registration a yacht anticipates starting later than ten minutes after the starting signal for her class, she shall notify the Race Committee at registration for further instructions. If on the day of the race a yacht will start more than ten minutes after the last class starting signal, she shall call the Starting Line Committee on VHF Channel 72 or, if unavailable the Offshore Communications Team at 508-538-1009 for further instructions.

8.7 A yacht's starting time will be the starting time of her class within her division.

8.8 A yacht that does not start within 4 hours of her class start will be scored DNS unless the RC has granted an exception. See 8.6.

9 RECALLS

In addition to the provisions of RRS 29.1, sail numbers of the yachts concerned may be announced on VHF Channel 72. Failure to hear such an announcement shall not be grounds for granting redress.

10 THE COURSE AND MARKS

- 10.1 The course for all divisions will be from the starting line off Marion to the finishing line off St. David's Head, leaving the islands of Bermuda to starboard.
- 10.2 Yachts shall pass north and west of both United States marks. These are the only U. S. marks of the course:

Mark Name	Type Characteristics	Lat. (N)	Long. (W)	Mark to be left to:
Penikese Island	Island	41° 27.3'	70° 55.6'	Port
Sow & Pigs Reef	Bell Buoy "36" Fl R 4s	41° 23.8'	70° 59.1'	Port

- 10.3 All yachts approach Bermuda from the North and shall pass east of:

Mark Name	Type Characteristics	Lat. (N)	Long. (W)	Mark to be left to:
North East Breaker	Beacon (45 ft. ht.) Fl W 2.5s W 15s	32° 28.7'	64° 41.0'	Starboard

Kitchen Shoal	Beacon (45 ft. ht.) Fl (3)	32° 26.1'	64° 37.6'	Starboard
Mills Breaker	Buoy VQ (3) W 5s	32° 23.9'	64° 36.9'	Starboard
Sea Buoy	Buoy Mo (A) W 6s	32° 22.9'	64° 37.1'	Starboard

12. APPROACHING THE FINISH

- 12.1 Bermuda must be approached from the North and yachts shall cross the finish line from north to south. See Attachment C
- 12.2 When a yacht is approximately five miles from the finish line, or passing Kitchen Shoal beacon, she shall contact Bermuda Radio on VHF Channel 27. She shall announce her name, sail number, and her position relative to the finish line. This call will be acknowledged by Bermuda Radio.

13. THE FINISH

- 13.1 The finish line is the intersection between the red and green sectors of St. David's Light at 276° True (bearing from seaward). The Light will bear 291° Magnetic upon finishing. The starboard (nearshore) end of finishing the line is 0.8 NM from the Light at 32° 21.752' N — 064° 38.162' W. The port (offshore) end of the finishing line is 1.2 NM from the Light at 32° 21.713' N — 064° 37.687' W. There may be a black buoy with a flashing white light near the offshore end of the line and a green buoy with a green flashing light near the inshore end of the line. Neither buoy is likely to be on the line.
- 13.2 Yachts must finish between the buoys and are advised to sail well beyond their estimated crossing of the finish line to ensure that they have actually crossed the line.
- 13.3 Each yacht shall record the date and time (hh:mm:ss ADT) of her own finish (when St. David's Light bears 291° magnetic), and shall enter that time on her Certificate of Compliance. She should also note the names and sail numbers of the boats finishing immediately before and after her, if any and if practicable.
- 13.4 Yachts shall not at any time pass through a line joining the green finish line (shoreward end) buoy and St. David's Light.
- 13.5 Yachts that have finished shall not re-cross the finish line, but shall turn to seaward of both marks, keeping well clear of the line and all yachts approaching the line.
- 13.6 After finishing, yachts should contact Bermuda Radio on VHF channel 27 (international) to coordinate transit to St. Georges or Hamilton. Yachts shall continue to monitor VHF Channel 16 while underway in Bermuda waters.
- 13.7 Yachts that have not finished by 1800 ADT June 24, 2021 shall attempt to report their positions and estimated finishing times daily to the Offshore Communications

Team between 0900 and 1800 ADT. Yachts with SSB may contact Bermuda Radio, call sign ZBR, on 4125 KHz SSB or on VHF Channel 16.

14. RUNNING LIGHTS

14.1 Yachts must show navigation lights from sunset to sunrise.

14.2 Strobe or other lights shall not be used except in an emergency. Such use will not be grounds for protest by competitors. This changes RRS 60.1 (a).

15. COMPLIANCE

15.1 In order to be placed on the finish list, each yacht that finishes must complete and turn in its Compliance Certificate. Details of when, how and to whom this should be presented will be supplied at the Skipper's Meeting.

15.2 The skipper, navigator or designee, shall be available on board for a Compliance Inspection of the yacht. Details for scheduling the Compliance Inspection will be available at the Skipper's Meeting.

15.3 The Compliance Committee will review each yacht's Certificate of Compliance, reports of the Start and Finish Line Committees, and any other material it deems appropriate to verify each yacht's complete compliance with the Notice of Race, Sailing Instructions, and any changes to these documents.

15.4 The Compliance Committee may grant time credits and assess penalties to competing yachts, without a hearing. This changes RRS 63.1. After prior races, the Committee granted time credits to yachts rendering assistance, and assessed the following penalties, included here as examples only:

- Sail number discrepancies 30 minutes
- Starting Area infringement one hour
- Failure to attend the entire Skipper's meeting one hour
- Passing the incorrect side of a mark of the course two hours
- Mid-race change from Celestial to Electronic navigation five hours
- Pre-race equipment deficiencies not corrected disqualification & recommended exclusion from future events

15.5 The Compliance Committee will post its findings on the Official Notice Board on the Marion Bermuda Race web site not later than 2000 ADT daily. As a courtesy a copy of the findings may also be posted on the RHADC Official Notice Board at the Sailing Center on the dock.

15.6 A yacht aggrieved by a posted finding may request a meeting with a representative of the Compliance Committee to hear an explanation of the finding. Details of how such a request can be made and when and where a meeting will be scheduled will be provided at the Skipper's Meeting

16. PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

- 16.1 A yacht that intends to protest another yacht shall display her protest flag for one hour after the incident. This changes the third sentence of RRS 61.1(a).
- 16.2 Request for Hearing forms are available on the Official Documents page of the MBR website. Once completed, the form should be emailed to Race@marionbermuda.org.
- 16.3 Requests for Hearings shall be delivered by two hours after the time that the yacht's Certificate of Compliance was due.
- 16.4 The Protest Committee shall extend the time limit for delivering a request for redress involving the findings of the Compliance Committee (SI 15.6) to one hour after the conclusion of the meeting. This changes the third sentence of RRS 62.2.
- 16.5 Protest notices will be posted on the Official Notice Board on the Marion Bermuda Race web site to inform competitors when and where there is a hearing in which they are parties or witnesses.
- 16.6 The Protest Committee may assess time penalties in lieu of disqualification. Such penalties will be applied to the corrected time.

17. SCORING

- 17.1 Corrected times will be calculated using ORR's Performance Curve Scoring for the Marion Bermuda Course with a distance of 645 nautical miles. Corrected times for the Double Handed Division will be calculated using the boat's ORR Double-Handed Certificate

18. WITHDRAWAL

- 18.1 A yacht that withdraws from the race shall promptly notify race officials in one of the following ways:
 - Contact the Starting Line Committee on VHF Channel 72 if this option is available
 - Telephone the MBR Offshore Communications Team at 508-538-1009
 - Contact Bermuda Radio on VHF Channel 16 or 4125 KHz.
- 18.2 Please be prepared to furnish whomever you contact with the following information:
 - The name of the yacht.
 - The sail number of the yacht.
 - The Skipper's name.
 - Your situation.
 - Yacht's position.
 - Yacht's intended destination.
 - Your phone number.
- 18.3 After withdrawing from the race, the skipper shall complete both sheets (Sections 1 through 7) of the Certificate of Compliance and email the certificate or a photograph of this Certificate (including Section 7 on a separate sheet) to Race@marionbermuda.com.

18.4 Failure to comply with any part of SI 18 will be noted as a safety violation and will affect the Committee's acceptance decisions for future Marion Bermuda Races.

19. COMMUNICATION PROCEDURES

19.1 To facilitate communications between the race committee and the competitors when they are offshore, the MBR has established an Offshore Communications Team that can be contacted at 508-538-1009 and will operate 24 hours a day from 0930 on the day of the start until Friday before the awards ceremony, or until the last yacht has finished whichever comes first. The following kinds of situations should be reported to the Offshore Communications Team when it is safe to do so:

- Withdrawal (reporting required by SI 16)
- Diversion to assist another sailor
- Request for assistance upon arrival in Bermuda
- Damage to the yacht which will affect arrival time in Bermuda
- Medical emergency being handled by Marine Medical Access. See SI 19.3).

When making a call, be prepared to identify the yacht by name, sail number or skipper name and be prepared to give a brief description of the situation.

19.2 In an emergency follow the normal at-sea procedures to involve the Coast Guard or to attract nearby yachts. Do not call the Offshore Communications Team until it is safe to do so.

19.3 In a medical emergency, contact the George Washington University Marine Medical Access service directly at 202-715-4219.

19.4 **Continuous Radio Watch:** After starting properly, all yachts for the duration of the race shall stand a continuous watch on their Satellite communications system, VHF Channel 16 radio. It is recommended that a watch is also kept on 4125 KHz if they have SSB equipment.

19.5 **AIS** Boats shall use their best efforts to enable the transmitting mode of their AIS and shall monitor AIS or VHF DSC for AIS-SART, MOB, and similar distress signals at all times. See RRS 1.1. A yacht's AIS shall transmit the name of the vessel as she is entered in the race. If this is not possible, the yachts shall inform the Race Committee of the name she will transmit on AIS.

19.6 **Satellite Phone Watch**

- Each yacht shall demonstrate that the satellite communication system operates properly by having someone from the yacht's crew place a satellite phone call to and receive a satellite phone call from the Offshore Communications Team at 508-538-1009. The Offshore Communications Team will be available for the Communications registration daily beginning from 0900 to 1600 EDT Saturday, June 12 until the end of registration.
- Yachts shall be ready to receive telephone calls via a satellite telephone installed in accordance with MBRSR 3.11, except while

making brief data connections. A log shall be kept that shows the device was checked at least every two hours.

19.7 Transponder Position Reporting

- Each yacht shall provide a periodic report of her position by means of an automatic transponder (supplied by the OA)
- If a yacht believes or is notified that her transponder is not functioning properly, she shall report her daily noon position to the Race Committee via the Offshore Communications duty officer on 508-538-1009 by 1600 Atlantic Daylight Time each day until mooring in a port. The Race Committee may ask for additional position reports at regular intervals, and may relieve the yacht of her reporting duty under this paragraph. Any yacht failing to report her position according to this paragraph shall provide an explanation with her Certificate of Compliance. The Race Committee may post reports per this paragraph on the official Notice Board.
- Automatic transponder positions will be updated on the tracking website (link to be shown on the MBR website) every thirty minutes, at approximately 5 and 35 minutes past each hour.

18. AWARDS

Awards will be announced on June 26, 2021 and procedures for collecting awards will be relayed to skippers upon arrival in Bermuda.

Attachment C Approaches to the Finish Line

