

NOTICE OF RACE

NORTH SOUND

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20-24 MAR
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2026 North Sound Maxi Regatta

19th – 24th March 2026

Virgin Gorda, British Virgin Isles

NOTICE OF RACE (Amended 10th February 2026)

1. RULES

- a. The Organising Authority is Valea Regattas in collaboration with the host Yacht Club - Bitter End Yacht Club.
- b. The event is governed by the rules as defined in the 2025-2028 Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS).
- c. [DP] World Sailing Offshore Special Regulations Category 4.
- d. [DP] All boats' AIS shall be active from 2 hrs. before the first warning signal until returning into Gorda Sound after racing each day.
- e. RRS 48.1 does not apply to water used in a water ballast system that is declared and described in a yacht's measurement certificate (changes RRS 48.1).
- f. If declared on the measurement and/or class certificate, steering, ram, and winch systems powered by force other than manual, as well as moveable appendages, trim tabs, water ballast and canting keels are permitted (this changes RRS 51 and 52).
- g. [DP] For Maxi 100 and Maxi Grand Prix classes, the IRC Rating rules: 2026 IRC Rule, Parts A, B and C;
 - i. For IRC Rules 21.1.5 (d) and (e), this regatta is on consecutive days, and the sails carried on board need to remain the same for each day of racing, but not for the duration of the whole event. For this rule, the day begins when a boat leaves Gorda Sound for the first time each day and ends when the boat returns to Gorda Sound after racing;
 - ii. IRC Rule 22.4.2 is deleted and replaced with: "The maximum number of crew members on board shall be the crew number printed on her certificate. There is no weight limit". Crew cannot be changed once the boat leaves the mooring for the first time each day.
- h. [DP] For the Performance Class using ORCs:
 - i. IMS Rule
 - ii. ORCs Rating Systems Rule
 - iii. Sails carried on board may vary from day to day but shall remain the same for each race day, including days with multiple races, even in the case of damage to sails. The race day begins when the boat leaves Gorda Sound and ends when the boat returns to Gorda Sound.
- i. Exceptions to RRS 77 may be granted by the organising authority upon written request before the close of registration (this changes RRS 77).
- j. [NP] denotes a rule that shall not be grounds for protests by a boat and for which the Protest Committee may refuse to hold a hearing. This changes RRS 60.1 and 63.2(a).
- k. No National Authority prescriptions apply.

2. ADVERTISING AND EQUIPMENT SUPPLIED BY THE ORGANISING AUTHORITY [DP] [NP]

- a. Advertising will be in accordance with World Sailing Regulation 20. Boats are responsible for informing their own sponsors that no activities or advertising any brand will be permitted ashore

within the harbour area without written consent from the organising authority before the start of the regatta.

- b. Boats may be required to display advertising chosen and/or supplied by the organising authority, including the following throughout the period starting one hour after the completion of registration and ending one hour after the finish of the last race of the series;
 - i. Event sponsor pennant on the backstay or the centre back stanchion;
 - ii. Event flag hoisted on the forestay while moored in the harbour;
- c. The organising authority may request the installation, at no cost to the competitors, of on-board cameras, at the owners' discretion.

3. COMMUNICATION

- a. The official noticeboard (ONB) will be available online at www.maxiregatta.com
- b. [DP] All boats shall be equipped with a Marine VHF transceiver of at least 25 watts operating on VHF channels 09, 16, 71 and 72.
- c. A WhatsApp messaging community will be used. Sign-up details for the WhatsApp group will be provided at registration. Failure to receive WhatsApp messages shall not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 61.4(b)(1).
- d. Whilst racing, except in an emergency, a yacht shall not make or receive a voice transmission that is not available to all yachts.

4. ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRIES

- a. The organising authority welcomes entries in the Maxi 100 (IRC), Maxi Grand Prix (IRC) and Performance Class (ORCs) classes. Yachts will be allocated to a class by the organising authority, at their sole discretion.
- b. Each entry shall have a valid endorsed IRC or ORC measurement certificate issued no later than 1st March 2026.
- c. For a boat to have entered, its current IRC or ORCs measurement certificate and the following documents shall be emailed to the event organiser:
 - i. policy document for a valid third-party liability insurance of Euro 5,000,000;
 - ii. liability acceptance form, correctly filled out and signed;
- d. Crew members who are less than 18 years old shall present at registration a declaration form, available on the event website, signed by parents or a legal guardian who must give consent.
- e. Yachts are encouraged to enter before 31st January 2026 by completing the entry form and making the full payment of the entry fee.
- f. In accordance with the decision made by World Sailing to suspend participation of Russian and Belarusian competitors, the following are not eligible to take part in this event if this decision is still in place at the time of the close of entry:
 - i. Competitors with a Russian or Belarusian passport or representing these countries;
 - ii. Boats whose owner or person in charge is a national of Russia or Belarus; or
 - iii. Boats registered in Russia, Belarus, or with a sail number from these countries.

5. ENTRY FEES

- a. Entries completed before the entry deadline are subject to a \$15,000 USD entry fee (net of any bank charges).
- b. The cost for electricity, water, tenders, containers, and parking is not included in the entry fee.
- c. The organising authority is not responsible for any cost incurred by the non-acceptance of a yacht's entry nor for any cancellation of the event. Entry fees paid will not be refunded if the yacht does not participate in the event.

6. SCHEDULE

- a. Registration takes place at the Bitter End Yacht Club on Thursday, 19th March, between 09:30 and 11:30 hrs. All boats must complete the registration requirements before racing.
- b. Dates of racing:

Friday	20 th March	First warning signal not before 10:45 hrs.
Saturday	21 st March	First warning signal not before 10:45 hrs.
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>22nd March</i>	<i>Separate race day – “Triple Head Sunday” 11:00 hrs.</i>
Monday	23 rd March	First warning signal not before 10:45 hrs.
Tuesday	24 th March	First warning signal not before 10:45 hrs. Prize Giving after racing

- c. No warning signal will be displayed after 13.30 hrs. on Tuesday, 24th March.
- d. On each race day, there will be a briefing at 08:45 hrs. at the Bitter End Yacht Club.
- e. It is intended to complete up to five (5) races, with no more than two (2) windward-leeward races.
- f. Details for the “Triple Head Sunday” on 22nd March will be provided separately. The races sailed on this day will be scored independently, not as part of the overall series.
- g. Event social details are available separately.

7. EQUIPMENT INSPECTION

- a. Boats shall be available for any inspection and checks at any reasonable time throughout the regatta period.
- b. A list of the boat ratings will be posted on the event website by 17.00 on Wednesday, 18th March. The list will remain posted on the Official Notice Board during the event. The Protest Time Limit for rating protests by boats, except relating to changes made during the regatta, will expire at 12.30 on Thursday, 19th March.
- c. The fact that race officials may conduct inspections of a boat does not reduce the responsibilities of each competitor set out in the rules.

8. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- a. The Sailing Instructions will be available on the Official Notice Board by Monday, 16th March.

9. COURSES

- a. Details of the race area and courses will be provided in the Sailing Instructions. It is intended to provide a mixture of windward-leeward and coastal races in the area adjacent to the North Sound and Virgin Gorda.

10. PENALTIES AND HEARINGS

- a. A One-Turn Penalty replaces the Two-Turn Penalty of RRS 44.1.
- b. Penalties for breaches of a rule other than a rule of Parts 1 or 2 and rule 31 of the RRS may be less than disqualification if the protest committee decides so.
- c. Actions by official boats, drones or helicopters shall not be grounds for requesting redress by a boat. This changes RRS 61.1(a) and 61.4(b)(1).

11. SCORING & TROPHIES

- a. Race results will be calculated based on the following:
 - i. IRC (Maxi 100 and Maxi Grand Prix) – ‘Time on Time’;
 - ii. ORCsy (Performance Class) will use the Five Numbers Scoring Method using ‘Time on Time’.
- b. The “Low Point” scoring system of Appendix A shall apply, except that there will be no discard.
- c. One race is required to be completed to constitute a series.
- d. There will be trophies for the winners of each class: Maxi 100, Maxi Grand Prix and Performance Class. **An overall trophy will be awarded to the winner of the combined Maxi 100 and Maxi Grand Prix class.** Other prizes will be awarded at the organising authorities' discretion.
- e. The racing on Sunday, 22nd March, will be scored separately and not part of the overall series, and there will be a trophy & prizes for the winners of the Triple Head Sunday Races.

12. SUPPORT TEAM, SUPPORT VESSELS AND DRONES

- a. All support teams shall register at the Race Office during registration. By registering as a support person, each support person agrees to be governed by the rules.
- b. [DP][NP] All support vessels shall be registered at the Race Office during registration. Support vessels may be required to assist the Race Committee.
- c. The risk and responsibility for flying a drone at any time is with the person flying the drone. Images from within the race area shall be shared with the Organising Authority, Race Committee, Protest Committee, or competitors upon reasonable request.

13. [DP][NP] BERTHING

- a. Subject to availability, and based on dimensions and order of entries, entrants will be provided at no charge with a berth at the Bitter End Yacht Club from Tuesday, 17th March until Wednesday, 25th March.
- b. Mooring buoys with suitable ground tackle will be laid; full details of the equipment used will be provided to the captains & representatives of the vessels.
- c. Please note that the Bitter End Yacht Club, nor the mooring provider or event organisers, can take any responsibility for failure of equipment.

14. [DP] HAUL-OUT RESTRICTIONS

- a. Boats shall not be hauled out during the event, except for the purposes of repairing damage and only after written permission from the Race Committee. While hauled for the above purpose, cleaning and polishing of the hull below the waterline will not be permitted.

15. [DP] MEDIA RIGHTS

- a. Competitors, and owners, grant absolute rights and permission to the organising authority for any photography and video footage taken of persons and boats during the event, to be published and/or broadcast in any media, including but not limited to TV advertisements, whatsoever for either editorial or advertising purposes or to be used in press information.

16. INSURANCE

- a. Participants shall be insured with valid third-party insurance with a minimum cover of Euro 5,000,000. The responsibility to hold adequate insurance cover for Liability and Third-Party Insurance (Property and Persons) is to the owners or the skippers alone.
- b. The OA is not responsible for verifying the status or validity of insurance certificates.

17. RISK STATEMENT

- a. RRS 3 states: "The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone". Sailing, by its nature, is an unpredictable sport and therefore inherently involves an element of risk. By taking part in the event, each competitor agrees and acknowledges that:
 - i. 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;
 - ii. They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat, and their other property, whether afloat or ashore;
 - iii. They accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omissions; Their boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the event, and they are fit to participate;
 - iv. The provision of a race management team and other officials and volunteers by the event organiser does not relieve them of their own responsibilities;
 - v. The provision of support boat cover, if any, is limited to such assistance, particularly in extreme weather conditions, as can practically be provided in the circumstances;
 - vi. It is their responsibility to familiarise themselves with any risks specific to this venue or this event drawn to their attention in any rules or information produced for the venue or event, and to attend any safety briefing held for the event.

18. [DP] TRASH DISPOSAL

- a. Recalling the RRS Basic Principle stating: "Participants are encouraged to minimise any negative environmental impact of the sport of sailing, we recommend the utmost attention to environmental protection during the event. Attention is drawn to RRS 47 - Trash Disposal, which requires vessels to keep an eye on the sea and to clean any trash/debris from the water when possible.

19. AMENDMENTS TO THE NOTICE OF RACE

- a. This Notice of Race may be changed. Amendments will be posted on the Official Notice Board.

OTHER INFORMATION

Event web site: www.maxiregatta.com
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