



OPEN NORTH SEA CHAMPIONSHIP 2009

GENERAL SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

These General Sailing Instructions are common to all regattas selective for the Open North Sea Championship 2008 and eventually for the other non-selective regattas announced on the web: <http://onzk.vyf.be/rules.htm>

Each Organizing Authority will also provide Local Sailing Instructions to complete these General Sailing Instructions when appropriate.

*Times given in these Sailing instructions or in any other instructions concerning the races are referring to the official **local** times.*

1. Rules

1.1. The races will be governed by the following rules:

- The International Racing Rules of the I.S.A.F and the prescriptions of the KBYV-FRBY.
- The ISAF Offshore Special Regulations, Category 4, except for the race Oostende-Ramsgate for which Category 3 with life raft shall apply.
- The IRC Regulations.
- These General Sailing Instructions, except as changed or amended by the Local Sailing Instructions of one event.
- The Notice of Race.
- The Local Sailing Instructions.

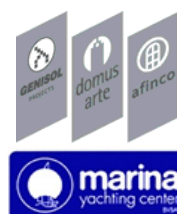
1.2. A yacht participating in a regatta must carry a sail number corresponding with the one of her measurement certificate and according to RRS 77. This is a warning as mentioned in RRS G4. Belgian yachts participating in a regatta must carry a sail number issued by the KBYV-FRYB.

1.3. Between sunset and sunrise, the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (IRPCS) will replace the ISAF RRS Part 2.

1.4. When encountering other ships than racing yachts, the rules of part 2 are replaced by the right of way rules of the IRPCS or the local rules.

2. Notice to competitors.

Notice to competitors will be posted on the official notice board located near to the race office (*See Local Sailing Instructions,*), accordingly with International Code flag “L”.





3. Changes to Sailing Instructions

Any change to the Sailing Instructions will be posted before 08.00 on the day 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.

4. Signals made ashore

See Local Sailing Instructions.

5. Schedule of races

5.1. Dates of racing: see Local Sailing Instructions.



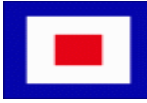


5.2. Number of races: see Local Sailing Instructions.

5.3. Warning signal: see Local Sailing Instructions.

5.4. When more than one race will be sailed on the same day, the warning signal for each succeeding race will be made as soon as possible after the finish of the previous race. To alert boats that another race or sequence of races will begin soon, the postponement signal will be displayed for at least 4 minutes before a warning signal is displayed.

6. Class flags

The flag in accordance with the Class shall be prominently displayed from a backstay when racing.

IRC 1 (TCC \geq 0,980)	
IRC 2 (TCC < 0,980)	
CR A	
CR B	
CR C	





7. Racing Area

See Local Sailing Instructions.

8. The courses

See Local Sailing Instructions.

9. Marks

See Local Sailing Instructions.

10. Areas that are obstructions

See Local Sailing Instructions.

11. The start

11.1. Races will be started by using RRS 26 with the warning signal given 5 minutes before the starting signal. Four minutes before the warning signal flag F will be displayed with one sound.

11.2. The starting line: See Local Sailing Instructions.

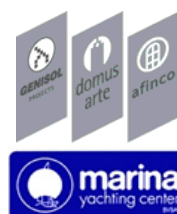
11.3. Yachts which preparatory signals have not been displayed shall keep clear on any point within 100 meters of the starting line when other yachts are starting. An infringing yacht protested by a “starting” yacht or by the race committee, can be penalized with 20% of the total number of yachts starting and a minimum of three places.

11.4. In addition to RRS 29.1, the race committee may also announce individual recalls on VHF, using the words “X-Ray”. Individual recall details such as “Sail numbers” and/or “Yachts names” may subsequently be given, but not necessarily immediately after the start. It remains the individual responsibility of a yacht to start correctly under RRS 29.1 and RRS 30.1.

11.5. In addition to RRS 29.2, the race committee may also announce general recalls on VHF, using the words “General recall”.

11.6. A yacht starting later than 15 minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start. This changes rule A4.

11.7 IRC1, IRC2 and CR will each get a separate start.





12. Change of the next leg of the course

- 12.1.** To change the next leg of the course, the race committee will lay a new mark (or move the finishing line) and remove the original mark as soon as practicable. When in a subsequent change a new mark is replaced, it will be replaced by an original mark.
- 12.2.** Except at a gate, boats shall pass between the race committee boat signaling the change of the next leg and the nearby mark, leaving the mark to port and the race committee boat to starboard. This changes rule 28.1.

13. The finish

See Local Sailing Instructions.

14. Penalty system

- 14.1.** The scoring penalty, RRS 44.3 will apply as follows: a yacht which fails to admit an infringement described in the RRS 44.3(a) and whereby after the hearing, the protest committee decides that she has infringed a rule of chapter 2, can be penalized with 50% of the total number of yachts starting, with a minimum of 5 places in accordance with the RRS 44.3(c). A yacht that admits an infringement before the hearing can be penalized with 20% of the total number of yachts starting, with a minimum of 3 places.
- 14.2.** For a yacht that may have infringed a rule other than a rule of chapter 2, the penalty will be in place. The scoring penalty in accordance with RRS 44.3 will not be lower than 10% of the total number of yachts starting, with a minimum of 1 place.
- 14.3.** RRS 42.1 will be applied. As foreseen in the Fundamental Rule of the I. S.A.F (assistance) or to recover a person who fell overboard, the RRS 42.3(f) (propulsion) allows using the engine or other means of propulsion. Such an incident must be declared at the finish of the race and shall be reported on the race **declaration**. In case of unforeseen circumstances, a yacht may be in a position whereby she is bound to use the engine or other means of propulsion, so as not to infringe in International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (IRPCS) or the governing right-of-way rules applicable to the area. Such an incident must be reported on the race declaration. In this case, the jury may announce a disqualification if it is convinced that the involved yacht gained a significant advantage.

15. Time limits

See Local Sailing Instructions.





16. Protests and requests for redress

- 16.1.** Protests shall be written on forms available at the regatta offices and lodged before the end of the protest time. The time limit for lodging protests for all classes will be 60 minutes after the last boat of the last class finishes. This time will be posted at the official notice board.
- 16.2.** The jury will hear protests as soon as possible, approximately in order of reception. Parties involved in protests (including witnesses) shall remain in the vicinity of the jury room until the protest has been heard. After the final race on the last day of a regatta, protests which may affect the awarding of a prize will be heard as soon as possible after they are lodged. Protests which do not affect the awarding of a prize may be heard after the prize giving ceremony, at the discretion of the jury.
- 16.3.** For the purpose of RRS 66, the time limit will be 30 minutes after the hearing of the last protest of the series concerned.
- 16.4.** A notice, posted on the official notice board before the end of protest time shall be deemed to comply with RRS 61.1(b). By display of such notice, competitors shall be considered adequately informed of a protest by the race committee or the jury.

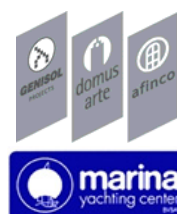
17. Scoring

17.1. The ONZK is made up of five major events composed as follows:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| 1. Oostende-Ramsgate | 21/05/2009 |
| 2. Wenduinebank Race I (Blankenberge-Oostende)
Oostende & Stroombank Race | 27/06/2009
28/06/2009 |
| 3. Breskens Sailing Weekend | 28-29-30/08/2009 |
| 4. Light Vessel Weekend
Breskens–Zeebrugge
Zeebrugge | 4/09/2009 20.00h
5-6/09/2009 |
| 5. Nieuwpoort Sailing Weekend | 19-20/09/2009 |

During these events, the ranking for each individual race will be made according to the IRC formula time on time whereby Corrected time = Elapsed time x TCC

- 17.2.** Only yachts that participate with an IRC or CR measurement certificate, will be ranked in the final results of the ONZK.
- 17.3.** An individual race for a class will only be scored if three or more boats started the race.





17.4. For the ranking of each regatta: see Additional Sailing Instructions.

17.5. The final results of the ONZK will be scored as provided in Appendix A4 of RRS ISAF, using the “Low Point System”. All major events will count for overall points, taking into consideration that the major event with the worst score will be discarded, except the last major event.

A major event that consists of two or more separately organized regattas will be considered as a series. The score for such a major event will be determined using the “Low Point System” provided in Appendix A4 of RRS ISAF, without discard.

A competitor who does not participate in at least one regatta of a major event will score for that major event the points of a DNC+1, taking into consideration the maximum entered number of yachts in her class for one of the five major events. This changes rule A9.

17.6 When a race or an event is cancelled it will be considered as it did not take place. When one event is cancelled the overall ONZK results will be calculated best 3 of 4 events, when two or more events are cancelled there will be no discards.

18. Safety Regulations

18.1. Any yacht which retires must immediately show her national flag and report ASAP to the race committee.

18.2. Before the first warning signal of the first race of the day, each yacht will pass the starboard end extension of the starting line within 2 boats lengths of the race committee signal boat. If a breakwater is used as a signaling platform, yachts shall pass the breakwater at a recognizable distance. Each yacht shall have her sail number acknowledged by the race committee.

18.3. A yacht finishing after sunset shall report upon arrival to the race committee by VHF on the channel used for information by the race committee (see Additional Sailing Instructions).

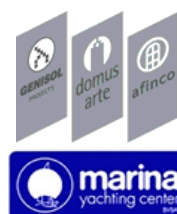
19. Replacement of crew or equipment

See Local Sailing Instructions.

20. Equipment, advertising and measurement checks

20.1. The organizing clubs may execute a safety inspection on any yacht at any moment before or after the races.

20.2. Verification of the measurement will be executed by means of a draw. When a measurer concluded that a yacht does not comply with her measurement certificate, the fees for a new measurement are to be paid by this yacht. The measurer will report to the jury.





20.3 An Individual Advertising License is required for competitors displaying advertising on their boats

21. Official Boats

21.1. Committee vessels will display an orange flag.

21.2. Jury boats will display a flag or pennant with the letter “J”, or the word “JURY”.

21.3. Yachts shall keep clear of official boats, and actions of official boats shall not be ground for redress.

21.4. In circumstances of commercial traffic, either before, during or after the race, directions given by official boats or the authorities to competitors shall be followed and immediately executed.

22. Support boats

See Local Sailing Instructions.

23. Haul-out restrictions

See Local Sailing Instructions.

24. Diving equipments and plastic pools

See Local Sailing Instructions.

25. Radio Communications

25.1. Radio communication may be used by the competitors only in case of :

- i) Safety
- ii) Communication with authorities at sea or in the harbours
- iii) Informing the RC of retirement
- iv) Informing the RC about their position
- v) Reply to the RC when questioned by RC
- vi) To inform another competitor he is protested (see RRS 61)

25.2. The VHF channel used for information by the race committee: see Local Sailing instructions

25.3. When sailing in harbours, the harbour approaches and crossing the shipping lanes in the Southern North Sea and the Westerschelde, either before, during and after the race, yachts equipped with VHF shall keep a continuous listening watch on the appropriate channels.





26. Prizes

26.1. The final prize giving ceremony of the Open North Sea Championship 2009 will be organized in collaboration with the VYF, date and location will follow

26.2. All yachts which raced at least 3 major events receive a prize. Prizes will not be delivered to owners who are not present during the prize giving ceremony.

26.3. Challenges and cups 2009 competition :

- The Cup RYCO for the third yacht in IRC 1
- The Cup WSKLuM for the third yacht in IRC 2
- The Cup RSYB for the first yacht in IRC 1
- The Cup BRYC for the first yacht in IRC 2
- The Cup KYCN for the second yacht in IRC 1
- The Cup RNSYC for the second yacht in IRC 2

- Belgium Gaëtan Janssens : to determinate

- Cr prizes : to determinate

26.4. Regular attendance prizes: the ‘Frans Louwers’ Trophy offered by the RBSC for the club with the best three yachts.

26.5. One small plate souvenir for each participating yacht and diploma for the first three competitors of each Class.

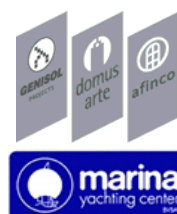
27. Disclaimer of liability

Owners or skippers are responsible for any loss, damage, injury, death included, or inconvenience to their yachts or persons. They are to take into consideration the degree of training of their crew and the material state of their yacht. Only at such time, are they to decide to enter the regatta depending on the weather, the sea state and the weather forecast.

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 regatta.

28. Insurance

Each participating boat shall be insured with a valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of **€ 1.500.000,00 (one and a half million Euro)** per event or the equivalent.





29. Further prescriptions

Yachts cannot protest each other on the ground of these prescriptions.

30. Berthing facilities

For berthing facilities, including free berthing arrangements, see the Notice of Race of the organizing club. The instructions of the harbour masters must be strictly followed.

31. Registration and entry fee

Entry fee: see the Notice of Races of the organizing club. The Sailing Instructions will be supplied following formal registration and presentation of a valid measurement certificate and at least 1 valid sailing licenses per 2 participating crew members. The IRC measurement certificate must have been issued at least one week before the regatta. To avoid any unnecessary travel, the inscription may be made by the website from the organizing club.

In any case the measurement certificate and the sailing licenses must be presented to the race committee before the start of the race, the entry fee will also be paid at the same time. If this rule is not followed, the yacht will not be ranked for this race.

