



NOTICE OF RACE 2026



2026 Offshore Series



2026 Coastal Series

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Preamble

COGS is not an Organising Authority but works with the Organising Authorities for the individual races listed below to coordinate the COGS Ancasta Offshore Series and Seaware Coastal Series. This is a common NoR for the Offshore and Coastal series and has been issued jointly with the various Organising Authorities.

Competitors must note that each Organising Authority is responsible for the conduct of their individual race(s) and may issue their own NoR, in which case where any part of sections 1 and 2 of this NoR conflicts with the NoR of the Organising Authority, that part of this NoR will not apply. Competitors must comply with the Organising Authority's NoR. All matters pertaining to the running of the COGS series remain as stated in sections 3 to 11 of this NoR. The Organising Authorities will each issue the Sailing Instructions for their specific races.

Schedule of Races

The schedule of races, dates and respective Organising Authorities are set out below. The Organising Authorities have the absolute right to cancel, postpone or re-arrange races to a different date and such changes shall not be cause for redress. Sailing Instructions will be published on the COGS website and via the COGS WhatsApp group at least three days before each race and will identify the start time(s) for each race.

Date	Series	Race	Organising Authority
11 April	Coastal	Falmouth - Fowey	Royal Cornwall Yacht Club
24 April	Offshore	Salcombe	St Mawes Sailing Club
8 May	Offshore	Roscoff	Royal Cornwall Yacht Club
24 May	Coastal	Gull Rock - Manacles	Flushing Sailing Club
30 May	Coastal	Plymouth - Fowey	Saltash Sailing Club
13 June	Offshore	Eddystone	St Mawes Sailing Club
26 June	Offshore *	L'Aber Wrac'h	Helford River Sailing Club
18 July	Coastal	Falmouth - Penzance	Penzance Sailing Club
24 July	Offshore	PASAB	Penzance Sailing Club
22 August	Offshore	Wolf Rock	Royal Cornwall Yacht Club
12 September	Coastal	Fowey - Helford	Fowey Sailing Committee
27 September	Coastal	Mylor Lay-up Cup	Mylor Yacht Club

* This race will be run by HRSC as a pursuit race. Boats wishing to enter as part of the COGS series will compete in the pursuit race but for the purposes of the COGS offshore series their result will be calculated on their elapsed race time corrected by their 2026 IRC rating.

Rules: All races are governed by the Rules as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing 2025-2028. World Sailing Offshore Special Regulations (OSR) 2026-27 will apply and the category and liferaft requirements are determined by the Organising Authority for each race. Competitors must check and comply with the requirements of the Organising Authorities who may inspect boats and equipment for compliance. Competitors are referred to the IRC Rating Rule 2026, details of which are published on the IRC website, of which parts A/B/C will apply. Local regulations published in the Sailing Instructions concerning navigation in close proximity of commercial, military and dive vessels will apply.

Race	Safety Requirements
All Offshore Series races	OSR Cat 3 plus liferaft
Coastal Series Falmouth - Fowey Falmouth - Penzance Fowey - Helford	OSR Cat 4 plus liferaft
All other Coastal Series races	OSR Cat 4

1. Rule Changes: The following Rules of the RRS are changed:

- a. RRS 26, to allow VHF broadcasts in place of flag signals for starting races, to use an alternative starting procedure when a number of classes are being started in sequence and to allow staggered starts.
- b. RRS 32, to allow VHF broadcasts or WhatsApp group messaging in place of flag signals for shortening or abandoning races.
- c. RRS 33, to allow VHF broadcasts or WhatsApp group messaging in place of flag signals for changing courses.
- d. RRS 37, so that flag V for Search and Rescue will not apply
- e. RRS 44, to allow a one-turn penalty in place of a two-turn penalty.
- f. RRS 61, so that failure to receive or hear a VHF broadcast or WhatsApp group message shall not be grounds for redress.
- g. For the purposes of the definition of "Start" and "Finish" and Rules 21.1, 29.1, 30 and 44.2 (but not any other Rules) the term "hull" includes a boat's bowsprit in its normal position.
- h. The Sailing Instructions may also change other Racing Rules.

IRC rule 15.2(d) is changed to allow the use of autopilots and automatic steering devices.

IRC rule 22.4 is changed to remove the restriction on crew numbers and weight.

3. **Race Area:** Racing will take place between 3-7° W and 48-51° N, between Start Point and The Isles of Scilly and south to Brittany. Courses for each race will be in the Sailing Instructions.
4. **Eligibility & Classes:** Racing will be provided for monohull boats sailed either fully crewed or short-handed (solo or two-handed). Entry to each race is open to boats that comply with the Offshore Special Regulations category specified by the relevant Organising Authority, hold a current and valid 2026 IRC Standard Rating Certificate, have completed an entry form and paid the entry fee in full. IRC Secondary Certificates are not permitted and solo and two-handed sailors do not receive a time allowance.

Boats will sail in either IRC1 or IRC2 class and will be allocated to a class by the COGS Committee based on the number of entries received and their IRC rating in order to group together boats of similar rating. The class allocations will apply for the duration of the series.

Each participating boat shall be insured for third-party liability with a minimum cover of £3,000,000 per incident and competitors will be required to sign a declaration to this effect.

5. **Entry:** Competitors must enter online at www.cogsracing.org.uk and submit a copy of their boat's 2026 IRC certificate not later than midday on the Wednesday before the scheduled race date. An entry is not complete until the entry fee has been paid in full and a copy of their 2026 IRC Standard Certificate has been submitted. The IRC rating certificate submitted on entry will apply throughout the entire series and will not be adjusted during a series other than to correct an error or to reflect a change in rating due to mid-season changes to improve a boat's performance. Boats wishing to enter with a non-spinnaker handicap must make this election, which will apply to the entire series, prior to their first race.

6. **Fees:** The series and individual race entry fees are as follows:

Race Series		Standard Fee	Fee for owner/skipper under 35 years old
Coastal	6 races	£90	£54
Offshore	6 races	£60*	£36*
Offshore & Coastal	12 races	£140*	£84*
Individual offshore or coastal race		£25*	£15*

* Competitors in the Offshore Series must pay the Series fee as above and, if competing in the L'Aber Wrac'h or PASAB races, pay the entry fee(s) required by the Organising Authority.

NOTE: OA fees are expected to be charged for the Offshore Series L'Aber Wrac'h and PASAB races, but entrants in these races will benefit from additional prizes and social events provided by the Organising Authority.

7. **Scoring:** In each series, one race is required to constitute a series. Series scoring will be as per RRS Appendix A except as amended in Section 2. When any part of Section 2 does not apply, the following Rule changes will apply for the purpose of scoring the COGS series:

- RRS 90.3, to allow an abandoned race to be scored if at least one boat has started.
- RRS A5.3 will apply.
- RRS A2.1, to allow for a boat's worst score(s) to be excluded as per the following:

Series	Races completed	Exclusions
Coastal	6, 5, <5	2, 1, 0
Offshore	6, 5, <5	2, 1, 0

For the purposes of scoring the COGS series, boats entered in the short-handed classes in any race will be scored in both the short-handed and fully crewed classes. For the purposes of scoring the COGS series, if an abandoned race has been scored it will not be re-sailed.

8. **Prizes:** Prizes will be awarded for 1st to 3rd places in IRC1, IRC2, IRC1 short-handed and IRC2 short-handed classes for each race although this may be varied depending upon the number of entries. Prizes will be awarded for 1st to 3rd places in IRC1, IRC2, IRC1 short-handed and IRC2 short-handed classes in each race series at the conclusion of the season.

Top Yacht Trophies will be awarded at the conclusion of the season to the boat in each of the IRC1 and IRC2 classes with the least total points scored in all twelve races, without exclusions, across both series. Where a boat has been scored in both short-handed and fully crewed classes, the latter score will be used.

Additional prizes may be awarded, details of which will be published on the COGS website.

9. **Notice Board:** There is no physical notice board. The official notice board is the COGS website. Sailing Instructions will be published on the COGS website at least three days before each race.

10. **Risk Statement:** Rule 3 of the Racing Rules of Sailing states: "The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone." Sailing is by its nature an unpredictable sport and therefore inherently involves an element of risk. By taking part in any of the events covered by this notice of 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 omissions;
- 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, patrol boats and other officials and volunteers by the event organiser does not relieve them of their own responsibilities;
- f. The provision of patrol boat cover is limited to such assistance, particularly in extreme weather conditions, as can be practically provided in the circumstances;
- g. It is their responsibility to familiarise themselves with any risks specific to these venues or series drawn to their attention in any rules and information produced for the venues or series and to attend any safety briefing held for the event;
- h. They are responsible for ensuring that their boat is equipped and seaworthy so as to be able 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 and in date, and is familiar to the crew.

11. **Advertising, Media Rights & Privacy:** Boats may be required to display advertising chosen and supplied by the Organising Authority. Competitors and their guardians automatically grant to COGS and the Organising Authority and any party to which they may delegate this right, without payment the right in perpetuity to make, use and show (including via the internet) any motion pictures, still pictures, live, taped or filmed television or any other form of media, of our relating to the events. The personal information you provide will be used to facilitate your participation in the events. If you have agreed to be bound by the Racing Rules of Sailing and the other rules that govern the event (the rules), the legal basis for processing that personal information is contract. If you are not bound by the rules, the legal basis for processing that personal information is legitimate interest. Your personal information will be stored and used in accordance with the organising authority's privacy policy. When required by the rules, personal information may be shared with the RYA, your national authority and/or World Sailing. The results of the event and the outcome of any hearing or appeal may be published.



Further information is available at our website cogracing.org.uk

and by email on request from chairman@cogracing.org.uk