



Spirit of Bermuda Charity Rally *for the Benefit of the*



Start July 6, 2020

INVITATION TO RALLY

Public release June 5, 2020

1. RULES

- 1.1. The purpose of the rally is to offer an offshore sailing opportunity to qualified sailors and to raise awareness and program funds for the Bermuda Sloop Foundation. The program delivers youth development programs, taking young 13-yr old Bermudians on week long experiential voyages of self-discovery and teamwork on the STV “[Spirit of Bermuda](#)”. Since her maiden voyage in 2006, over 5,000 students have benefited. Covid-19 stopped these school trips and sponsorship is increasingly difficult now. The yacht and crew that raise the most funds for the program will be specially recognized. All entry fee and funds raised will go to Spirit of Bermuda after any minimal costs of providing the event.
- 1.2. The Event Host (EH) is East End Mini Yacht Club. Operational Support in St. George’s will be provided by [Bermuda Yacht Services](#).
- 1.3. The rally will be sailed under the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS).
- 1.4. Because this is an informal rally there will be no enforcement for safety regulations or for the RRS. Therefore, there will be no protest hearings. The EH instead will rely on the integrity of yacht owners and crew to adhere to the Corinthian spirit on which this rally is based and on their concern and respect for the integrity of our sport and safety of all yachts and crew. There will be, however, certain conditions that must be followed **to be scored** for any of the three courses.
- 1.5. The EH strongly encourages yacht skippers to limit their access to outside information to the following: “Help in the form of information freely available to all boats even if that information is only accessible at a cost. However, such “at a cost” information should not include private forecasts or advice, or information customized for a particular boat or group of boats or their situation.”

- 1.6. As per the usual request for any long distance race to a location as distant as Bermuda and for the sake of safety, the EH strongly encourages yacht owners to follow relevant guidelines. If any lifesaving equipment is lost overboard, it should be retrieved. If recovery is not possible, the loss of any equipment that floats should be reported immediately to the relevant marine authority.
- 1.7. Yacht owners or Person-in-Charge are strongly encouraged to review the International Regulations for the Prevention of Collisions at Sea (COLREGS) carefully before the rally.
- 1.8. For safety and other reasons, yachts should actively transmit on AIS, leave their satellite communication constantly on and always monitor VHF Channel 16.
- 1.9. Communications among participants by any means, including VHF, email, blogs or otherwise is encouraged and will not violate RRS41.

2. HEALTH and SAFETY

- 2.1 Yacht owners and captains are strongly encouraged to follow safety and equipment guidelines adhered to for similar long distance races to Bermuda.
- 2.2 Yacht owners and captains should reference the [Offshore Special Regulations](#) (“OSR”) from the World Sailing site.
- 2.3 It is also strongly suggested that only those yachts that have raced to Bermuda in recent years or had intended to race in 2020, should participate in the rally to ensure that usual safety and equipment regulations are followed.
- 2.4 All participants are strongly encouraged to have taken or to take the excellent on-line “US Sailing Safety at Sea” course and to view the safety materials on both the CCA and Storm Trysail web sites.
- 2.5 All participants shall agree to comply with all requirements of the Bermuda Government and authorities and shall abide by any and all protocols determined to be required by any group working on their behalf and to comply with any other regulations or restrictions.

3. ELIGIBILITY

- 3.1. The rally is open to any offshore capable yacht by invitation. Generally monohulls with a LOA 32 feet or greater and to multihulls with a LOA of 55 feet or greater that meet the safety requirements along with crew that meet experience requirements for long distance ocean races.
- 3.2. In order to be scored, an owner must have a valid 2020 ORC rating from an ORC Club or ORCi certificate. To get a valid 2020 ORC Club certificate, do the following:
 - a) for anyone with a past ORC certificate, contact offshore@ussailing.org to renew your prior certificate. Make sure to include your boat name and sail number. The fee for an ORC Club certificate for US Sailing members is \$100.
 - b) for anyone with a current or prior ORR or IRC certificate, apply for an ORC Club certificate using US Sailing’s application portal at: <https://form.jotform.com/72144318847157>.
 - c) for anyone with only a PHRF or no past or current certificate of any type, apply at www.orc.org/clubapplication to get started on the process.
 - d) Entries will receive a free ORC Speed Guide polar performance data based on their certificate available both in numerical and graphical formats. Any questions contact usa@orc.org.
- 3.3. The owner or person-in-charge of each yacht and each crewmember shall sign the waiver on the entry website.
- 3.4. To be scored each yacht must obtain and consistently use a Yellowbrick (YB) transponder.

4. FEES and ENTRY

All qualified yachts are encouraged to enter and show their level of interest at our [entry system yachtscoring.com](http://yachtscoring.com), so we can get an estimate of numbers (the entry fee is not due until June 20). The majority of the entry fee is a donation to Spirit of Bermuda, the sail training vessel of Bermuda www.Bermudasloop.org. The entry fee of \$500 plus the cost of the YB transponder (\$200 plus the normal security deposit) shall be paid no later than June 20, 2020. Only boats which have met the entry requirements shall be registered as official entries and be scored.

5. SCHEDULE

- 5.1. The race is targeted currently to start in International Waters off Block Island and Chesapeake Light on July 6, 2020 but giving enough time for entrants coming from US Ports to get to the virtual starting area.
- 5.2. The owner or person-in-charge of each yacht will be responsible for receiving all information from the Rally website and Rally Official Notice Board (virtual on YachtScoring.com).
- 5.3. The details for the start and courses shall be in the Sailing Instructions (SI) to be published on the Rally Official Notice Board.

6. COURSES

- 6.1. The Courses will be from each starting area to Bermuda, leaving Bermuda and its reefs always to starboard. There will be a “Rally to Bermuda” (RTB), a “Rally from Bermuda” (RFB) and a “Rally around Bermuda” (RAB) which is the combination of both the RTB and RFB. The Starts and Finishes will be at a location in International waters off Block Island and separately off Chesapeake Light, simultaneously.
- 6.2. Rally To Bermuda: Starts will be in a location to be determined closer to the start date with virtual lat/long starting points offshore in international waters. Leaving Bermuda and its reefs to starboard, the Finish will be off Mills Buoy near the entrance to Town Cut at St. George’s, with further details to be outlined in the SI’s.
- 6.3. Rally From Bermuda: The Start location will be the same as the Finish line of the RTB and leaving Bermuda and its reefs to starboard, the Finishes will be at the same place as the Starts of the RTB.
- 6.4. Rally Around Bermuda: The RAB will be the combination of the RTB and RFB and will allow for stops in Bermuda (or not) by excluding the time of any stop the yacht chooses to make in Bermuda. The restart time from Bermuda may be at the yacht’s choosing based on their stopover plans and the scoring will normalize the weather differences.
- 6.5. Stopover in Bermuda: yachts may choose to stop in St. George’s Harbour, Bermuda. [Bermuda Yacht Services](http://BermudaYachtServices.com) will welcome yachts and provide berthing and provisions, subject to government regulations and permissions in operation at the time of arrival.

7. LOGISTICS IN BERMUDA AND CREW CHANGES

It is expected that crew changes will be permitted and Competitors will be allowed off their vessels while in St. George's. Bermuda is expecting to be in their Covid Phase 4 (completely open with social distancing) and it is expected that some commercial airline service will resume before the arrival of the fleet. In Phase 4 we believe renting a place on the island and being a tourist with family may be allowed. This information is subject to change and we will try to keep people up to date regarding any Quarantine rules and other rules by the Bermuda Government on the Notice Board or through communications with potential competitors.

8. SCORING & PRIZES

A yacht will be scored for the courses it completes, based on its YB tracker information. Scoring will be based on the 2020 ORC rating for each yacht using the Sailing Yacht Research Foundation ([SYRF](#)) "SYRF Offshore Scoring" will be used to score yachts. (Please see explanation of the Scoring in the SI's). **Special Recognition shall be given to the yacht and crew that raise the donations for Spirit of Bermuda.**

9. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

Competitors participate in the rally **entirely at their own risk** and agree to not make any claims to EH or any affiliated organizations or persons, for liability, damage or personal injury, or death sustained in conjunction with, prior to, during, or after the rally.

It is the sole responsibility of the Owner or Person-in-Charge of each yacht to ensure that she is seaworthy in hull, rig, and gear and that she is properly equipped and competently manned and sailed for this event.

Waivers from all captains and crew members **shall be required** from all participating yachts and these will shortly be available on www.SpiritOfBermudaRally.org

10. MEDIA RIGHTS

By entering this rally, the owner or person-in-charge and crew members on competing yachts grant at no cost, the absolute right and permission to use their names, voices, images, likenesses, and biographical material, as well as representations of their yacht in any media (including television, print, and internet), to the EH and any event sponsors.

11. FURTHER INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION

For further information, we have provided a FAQ sheet or please email go our the event website www.SpiritOfBermudaRally.org or email us at info@SpiritOfBermudaRally.org.