



**THE ROYAL WESTERN YACHT CLUB OF ENGLAND**



**The RWYC  
PLYMOUTH FASTNET 500 RACE  
2023**

**PLYMOUTH - FASTNET ROCK - PLYMOUTH**



**SAILING INSTRUCTIONS**

**SUNDAY 13<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2023**

**1200 BST**

# RWYC PLYMOUTH FASTNET 500 RACE 2023 SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

## 1. ORGANISATION

The Organising Authority (OA) is the Royal Western Yacht Club of England (RWYC).

## 2. OBJECT

The Race is intended to be a sporting event and to provide a sailing challenge to Corinthian sailors over a traditional course. A test of skill and endurance; safer by modern design, innovation, standards and training but not without risk and the need for excellent seamanship.

## 3. RULES AND REGULATIONS

- 3.1 The event shall be governed by the following documents, complemented and/or modified by the SI's:
- The World Sailing (WS) Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) 2021 - 2024 <https://www.sailing.org/inside-world-sailing/rules-regulations/racing-rules-of-sailing/> and the RYA Prescriptions, except in the rules modified in Sailing Instructions (SI) rule 3.2.
  - The WS 2022-2023 Offshore Special Regulations (OSR) Category 2 <https://www.sailing.org/inside-world-sailing/rules-regulations/offshore-special-regulations/>, except in the regulations modified in SI 3.3.
  - International Rules for Preventing Collisions at Sea Part B (Steering & Sailing) (COLREGS)
  - Class Rules as recognised by WS
  - The Dockyard Port of Plymouth Order 2020 (DPPO)* and *Plymouth Local Notices to Mariners*
  - The RWYC Plymouth Fastnet 500 NoR and any amendments
  - These RWYC Plymouth Fastnet 500 SIs and any amendments
- 3.2 The following RRS have been modified:
- Under world Sailing Test Rule DR21-01, change the definition of start as specified in NoR 4.2a.
  - Rule 44.1 is deleted
  - Rule 52 (Manual Power) is deleted
  - Rule 56.2 as changed in NoR 4.2d
  - Part 2 rules are replaced by the right-of-way Rules of International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea between the times of local sunset and sunrise.
- 3.3 The following OSR have been modified:
- Regulation 3.07.3 (Escape Hatches - multihulls) modified in NoR 6.5.1.
  - Regulation 3.29.13 (AIS) extended in NoR 6.5.2.
  - Regulation 4.01.2 (Sail Number) extended in NoR 11.
  - Regulation 5.01 (Lifejacket) extended in NoR 6.5.3.
- 3.4 The 2022-2023 OSR Category 2 rules shall be followed as closely as possible. Where a boat is unable to comply with a particular rule the boat may be permitted to compete at the discretion of the RWYC provided that an alternative measure is incorporated or embarked in the boat that provides equivalent safety and does not confer a racing advantage. In these circumstances, full details shall be submitted to the RWYC for approval when applying for entry.

## 4. NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

- 4.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the event website at <https://rwyk.org/plymouth-fastnet-500-race/>.

## 5. NOTICES TO MARINERS

- 5.1 The latest Notices to Mariners and navigation charts must be consulted in the interests of safe navigation.

## 6. SCHEDULE

- 6.1 Boats must be berthed at or near to QAB by 1800 on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> August 2023.
- 6.2 Registration must be completed by 1800 on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> August.
- 6.3 The Person in Charge must be present at the Skippers Briefing online at 1000 on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> August. ++xde
- 6.4 The Start of the Race will be at 1200 British Summer Time (BST) on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2023.

## 7. ONBOARD SAFETY

- 7.1 Lifejackets (OSR 5.01) must be worn, and crew overboard beacons (OSR 4.22) must be carried at all times whilst on deck.

## 8. YB TRACKERS

- 8.1 All boats shall carry the YB Tracker provided by the OA for the race. Tracking can be viewed on the Plymouth Fastnet 500 Race website: [www.rwyk.org/plymouth-fastnet-500-race/](http://www.rwyk.org/plymouth-fastnet-500-race/).
- 8.2 Nothing shall be done to inhibit YB Tracker transmissions.

- 8.3 Trackers are required to be returned within three hours of finishing or as soon as possible after retiring.  
 8.4 Competitors not returning a tracker will be liable for the full cost – approximately £750.00

## 9. EQUIPMENT CHECKS AND COMPETITOR INFORMATION

- 9.1 Boats are required to complete a checklist and supply the necessary documentation (NoR 9.1) to confirm their conformance to the Rules and Sailing Instructions.

## 10. AIS

- 10.1 All boats shall have their AIS transponder switched on transmitting (at least every minute) and receiving from 1 hour before the start and throughout the race.  
 10.2 A boat's AIS must transmit the boat's MMSI number and current racing name.  
 10.3 Nothing shall be done to inhibit AIS transmissions.  
 10.4 Boats unable to meet these requirements shall submit comprehensive details of the reason on their Declaration Form and may be subject to protest.

## 11. START LINE

- 11.1 The Start Line will be a line between Melampus buoy and F buoy. See Appendix 2  
 11.2 The Start/ Committee Boat shall be the RWYC motor vessel 'Fulmar'  
 11.3 The Start/ Committee Boat shall be midline and the fleet will be split monohulls and multihulls.  
 11.4 Multihulls will leave the Committee Boat to port and Monohulls will leave the Committee Boat to starboard  
 11.5 The committee boat may not be exactly on the start line.

## 12. START SIGNALS

- 12.1 The race will be started using RRS 26, except that the warning signal will be made 10 minutes prior to the starting signal.  
 12.2 Start signals

1150	Warning Signal	Numeral 1 Flag Raised	Horn
1156	Preparatory	Flag P Raised	Horn
1159	One Minute	Flag P Lowered	Horn
1200	Start	Numeral 1 Lowered	Long Horn

- 12.3 All signals may also be transmitted on VHF Channel 77

## 13. INDIVIDUAL RECALLS

- 13.1 There will be no recalls. If a boat is on the course side or crosses the start line after the One Minute Signal as specified in NoR 4.2a, a penalty of 30 minutes shall be added to her elapsed time.

## 14. THE COURSE

- 14.1 The Course: Cross the start line from northeast to southwest and leave Plymouth Sound by the Western Entrance. The course and marks are detailed in SI 15.2. Distance approximately 510 nautical miles.  
 14.2 Marks of the course:

Order	Mark	Leave to	Position (WGS84)	
			Latitude	Longitude
<b>Start</b>	Plymouth Sound – See SI 11 and Appendix 2	All boats to leave by Western Entrance.		
<b>1</b>	Eddystone Lighthouse	Starboard	50° 10.84' N	004° 15.94' W
<b>2</b>	Runnel Stone Light Buoy	Starboard	50° 01.18' N	005° 40.36 W
<b>2</b>	Fastnet TSS	Port	See Appendix 1	
<b>3</b>	Fastnet Rock	Port	51° 23.35' N	009° 36.19' W
<b>4</b>	Fastnet TSS	Port	See Appendix 1	
<b>5</b>	Bishops Rock and all outlying rocks and islets of the Isles of Scilly	Port	49° 52.37' N	006° 26.74' W
<b>Finish</b>	Plymouth – See Appendix 3 and SI 19.1			

## 15. AREAS THAT ARE OBSTRUCTIONS

- 15.1 A boat shall not enter an area designated as an obstruction when racing – See NoR 4.2d and appendix 1

## 16. FASTNET ROCK ROUNDING TIMES

- 16.1 Boats shall record their rounding time (BST) when the Fastnet Light bears 180 degrees magnetic on the Declaration Form

## 17. RETIREMENTS

- 17.1 Competitors retiring whilst racing or not starting, shall inform Race Control at the earliest opportunity.

## 18. REPORTING

- 18.1 Race Control expects a boat to report hourly if its tracker fails. Reporting should be done by SMS (text) to Race Control, email to [lrr@rwyg.org](mailto:lrr@rwyg.org) or any other means possible (see Appendix 4).
- 18.2 Reports shall include Boat Name/ Sail no, Date/Time (BST) (dd/hh/mm/ss). Position (lat/Lon) and course and speed over the ground.
- 18.3 When reporting rounding the Fastnet Rock, give the time the Lighthouse bears 180 degrees magnetic.

## 19. THE FINISH

- 19.1 **Finishing:** Enter Plymouth Sound via the Western Entrance to cross the finish line off the RWYC by sailing in an easterly direction to pass an extension of a transit from the RWYC Flag staff and a yellow and black striped transit staff on the shore below it. The outer distance limit of the line will be the mooring buoys on the south side of the main Cattewater Channel. (see Appendix 3).
- 19.1a Between 2030 and 2245 on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> August, the finish line shall be a transit between the breakwater lighthouse and Queens Grounds, a Port Lateral Buoy. Those boats shall have their elapsed time altered by an average time from the breakwater to the club line to reflect the shorter course. See Appendix 3 for the ‘Temp finish’ active between these times.
- 19.2 Boats over 20m (65ft 7in) LOA shall contact Longroom (Kings Harbour Master) on VHF Ch. 14 for clearance to enter the port and should not proceed into the harbour before receiving clearance.
- 19.3 Record Finish time.
- 19.4 On finishing, all boats shall contact Plymouth Fastnet 500 Race Control for berthing instructions.
- 19.5 **Declaration:** After finishing, boats shall complete and submit a Declaration Form to the Race Committee, and return the YB Tracker, within three hours. Every member of the crew shall sign the Declaration Form. Failure to comply with this rule may result in the boat being excluded from the results.
- 19.6 When a boat retires from the race, she shall write the reasons on her Declaration Form.
- 19.7 When, after finishing the race, a boat cannot promptly deliver the Declaration Form, she shall without delay inform Race Control that she has finished racing and give her time of finishing in BST.
- 19.8. In the event of a boat not entering Plymouth after finishing, or retiring, the completed Declaration Form may be scanned and emailed to [lrr@rwyg.org](mailto:lrr@rwyg.org) and the Tracker returned.

## 20. COMMUNICATIONS

- 20.1 **At the Start:** VHF Ch.77 – Race Control (Callsign ‘Plymouth Fastnet 500 Race Control’) may broadcast information on VHF Ch. 77 at the start. Boats are strongly recommended to listen to Race Control until clear of the start.
- 20.2 **During the Race:** VHF Ch. 16 -Boats are reminded of their legal obligation to keep a continuous watch on VHF Ch. 16 during the race. Inter-boat communication calls should not take place during the start sequence, thereafter, when possible, should be on DSC or VHF. 16 as a calling channel and VHF Ch.77 as a working channel. Boats with communications in addition to VHF should act as a link, taking other boats’ reports on VHF and passing them to Race Control or Coastguard as required.
- 20.3 **At the Finish:** Plymouth Fastnet 500 Race Control may broadcast information on VHF Ch. 77 at the finish. Boats are strongly recommended to listen to the Race Control until clear of the finish area.

## 21. BERTHING

- 21.1 The RWYC will provide 48 hours of berthing (Friday 11<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> August) at Plymouth.
- 21.2 The RWYC will also provide 48 hours of berthing at Plymouth following each competitor's finish. After this, competitors must make their own arrangements with the marina and may be required to move from their allocated berth. Boats abandoned in their allocated berth may be moved and the competitor charged for the costs and berthing fees incurred.

## 22. RULE INFRINGEMENTS

- 22.1 If a boat infringes the Rules, the Skipper shall state the circumstances on the Declaration Form. If the Race Committee considers that a gross breach or infringement of the Rules has been committed, it may disqualify a boat or impose a time penalty.

## 23. PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

- 23.1 Hearing Request Forms are available on the race website. Protests and requests for redress or reopening shall be emailed to [lrr@rwyg.org](mailto:lrr@rwyg.org) within the appropriate time limit.
- 23.2 The protest time limit is 3 hours after the protesting boat finishes.
- 23.3 Notices will be posted no later than 30 minutes after the protest time limit for the last boat to finish the race.
- 23.4 The notification of a Hearing Request by the Race or Protest Committee against a competitor as required under RRS 61.1(b) or (c) shall consist of a SMS text to the competitor.

## 24. PRIZES

- 24.1 Prizes will be awarded to overall elapsed time winners for Multihulls and Monohulls and for corrected time winners in all classes. Total prizes to be awarded in each will depend on number of entries.
- 24.2 Additional prizes may be awarded.
- 24.3 Prize Giving will be at the RWYC on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> August 2023.

## 25. RISK STATEMENT

- 25.1 Rule 4 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." and Special Regulation 1.02.1 begins: "The safety of a yacht and her crew is the sole and inescapable responsibility of the Person in Charge...."

Sailing is by its nature an unpredictable sport and therefore involves an element of risk. By taking part in the event, 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 if any, and other officials and volunteers by the organizer 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) 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 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

## 26. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

- 26.1 A boat is entirely responsible for her own safety, whether afloat or ashore, and nothing, whether in the Notice of Race or Sailing Instructions or anywhere else, reduces this responsibility.
- 26.2 It is for a boat to decide whether she is fit to sail in the conditions in which she will find herself. By launching, or going to sea, the boat confirms that she is fit for those conditions and her crew is competent to sail and compete in them.
- 26.3 Nothing done by the organizers can reduce the responsibility of a boat nor will it make the organizers responsible for any loss, damage, death or personal injury, however it may have occurred, as a result of the boat taking part in the racing. The organizers encompass everyone helping to run the race and the event, and include the Organising Authority, host Yacht Clubs, the Sponsor, the Race Committee, the race officer, patrol boats and berthing masters.

## **27. PRIVACY**

- 27.1 The personal information you provide to the organising authority will be used to facilitate your participation in the event. If you have agreed to be bound by the rules that govern the event, 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 authorities privacy policy. When required by the rules, personal information may be shared with the RYA and/or World Sailing. The results of the event and the outcome of any hearing or appeal may be published.

## **28. APPLICABLE LAW**

- 28.1 These Rules shall be interpreted in accordance with the Laws of England and the Organising Authority submit, or will submit, themselves only to the jurisdiction of the Courts of England as may be necessary to permit the resolution of legal actions regarding these Rules, the conduct and organisation of the Race.

## **29. MEDIA RIGHTS**

- 29.1 Competitors automatically grant to the OA, and any party to which it may delegate this right, without payment the right in perpetuity to make, use and show (including via the internet), any data, motion pictures, live, taped or filmed television or any other form of media, of or relating to the event.

## **30. FURTHER INFORMATION**

- 30.1 For further information:

Please visit the event website <https://rwy.org/plymouth-fastnet-500-race/>

or email: [lrr@rwy.org](mailto:lrr@rwy.org)

Competitors will be temporary members of the RWYC, and they and their families and friends are invited to make full use of the RWYC bar and catering facilities during the race subject to the COVID-19 rules in force.

The Race Office will be open from 1000 to 1600 on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> August to Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> August 2023.

Competitors should note that The Royal Western Yacht Club implements the RYA Racing Charter and that they will be required to undertake to sail in compliance with the Charter, which can be found at the front of the RYA rule book (Racing Rules of Sailing), on the Club website, or at <https://www.rya.org.uk/racing/rules/racing-charter>

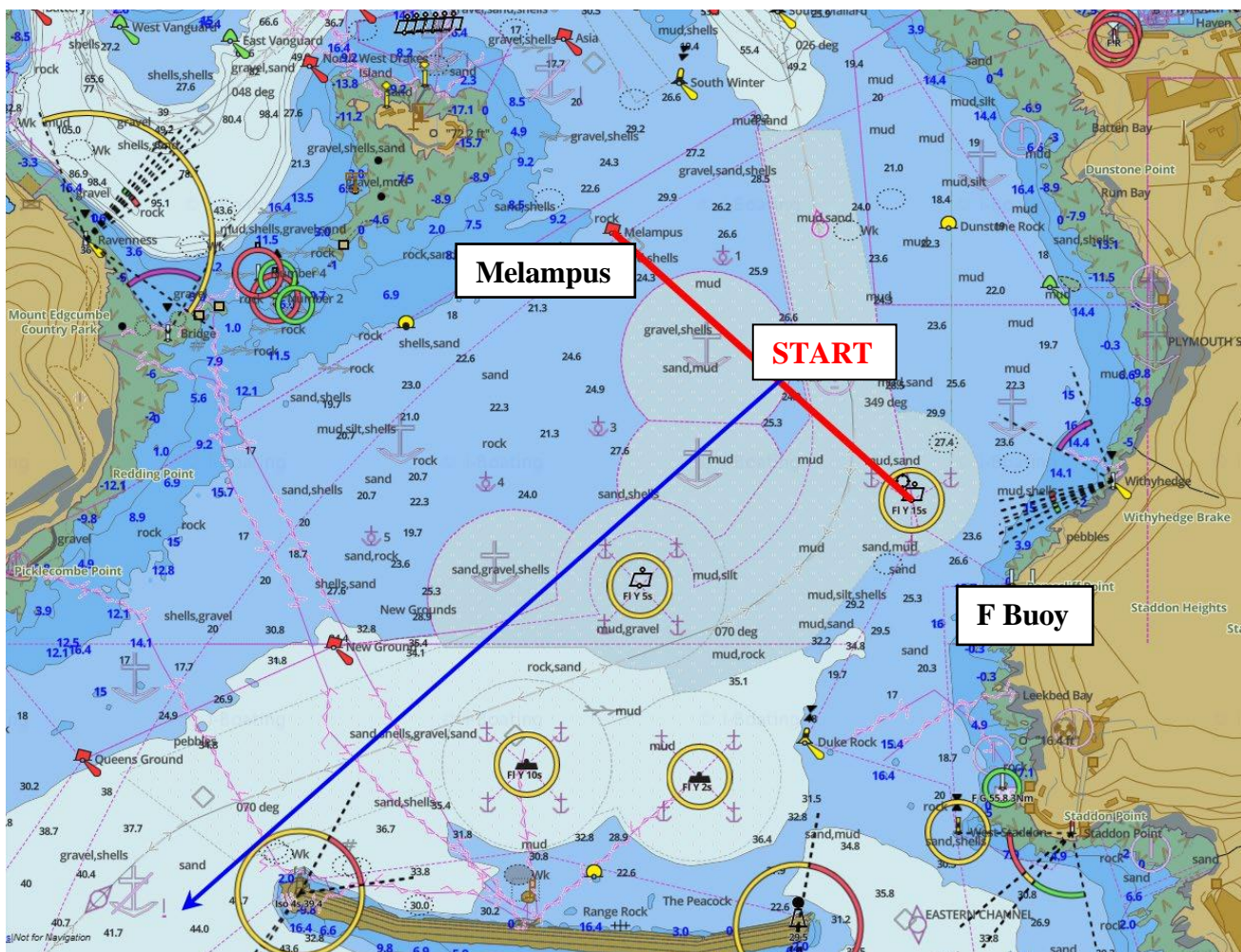
**Appendix 1 OBSTRUCTIONS**

Obstruction	Position:	
	Latitude(N)	Longitude(W) – WGS84
TSS – Off Lands End	A – 50° 20.03' N 006 05.06' W	B – 50° 20.03' N 005 49.58' W
	C – 50° 00.99' N 005 49.58' W	D – 49° 53.54' N 006 05.06' W
TSS – South of Scilly Isles	A – 49° 46.00' N 006 29.50' W	B – 49° 46.00' N 006 16.50' W
	C – 49° 35.50' N 006 16.50' W	D – 49° 35.50' N 006 34.15' W
TSS – West of Scilly Isles	A – 50° 04.07' N 006 48.53' W	B – 50° 01.18' N 006 32.78' W
	C – 49° 52.33' N 006 36.73' W	D – 49° 52.33' N 006 53.78' W
TSS – Fastnet Rock	A – 51° 21.10' N 009 36.60' W	B – 51° 22.90' N 009 27.30' W
	C – 51° 17.10' N 009 24.60' W	D – 51° 15.45' N 009 33.90' W

Positions are the corners of each TSS box.

## Appendix 2 START LINE

- The Start Line will be a line between Melampus buoy and F buoy.
- Start/ Committee Boat will be the RWYC Motor Vessel 'Fulmar'.
- Motor Vessel Fulmar shall be midline and the fleet will be split monohulls and multihulls.
- Multihulls will leave the Committee Boat to port and Monohulls will leave the Committee Boat to starboard
- The committee boat may not be on the start line.
- The Finish will be in the 'Temp Finish' position during times shown in 19.1a

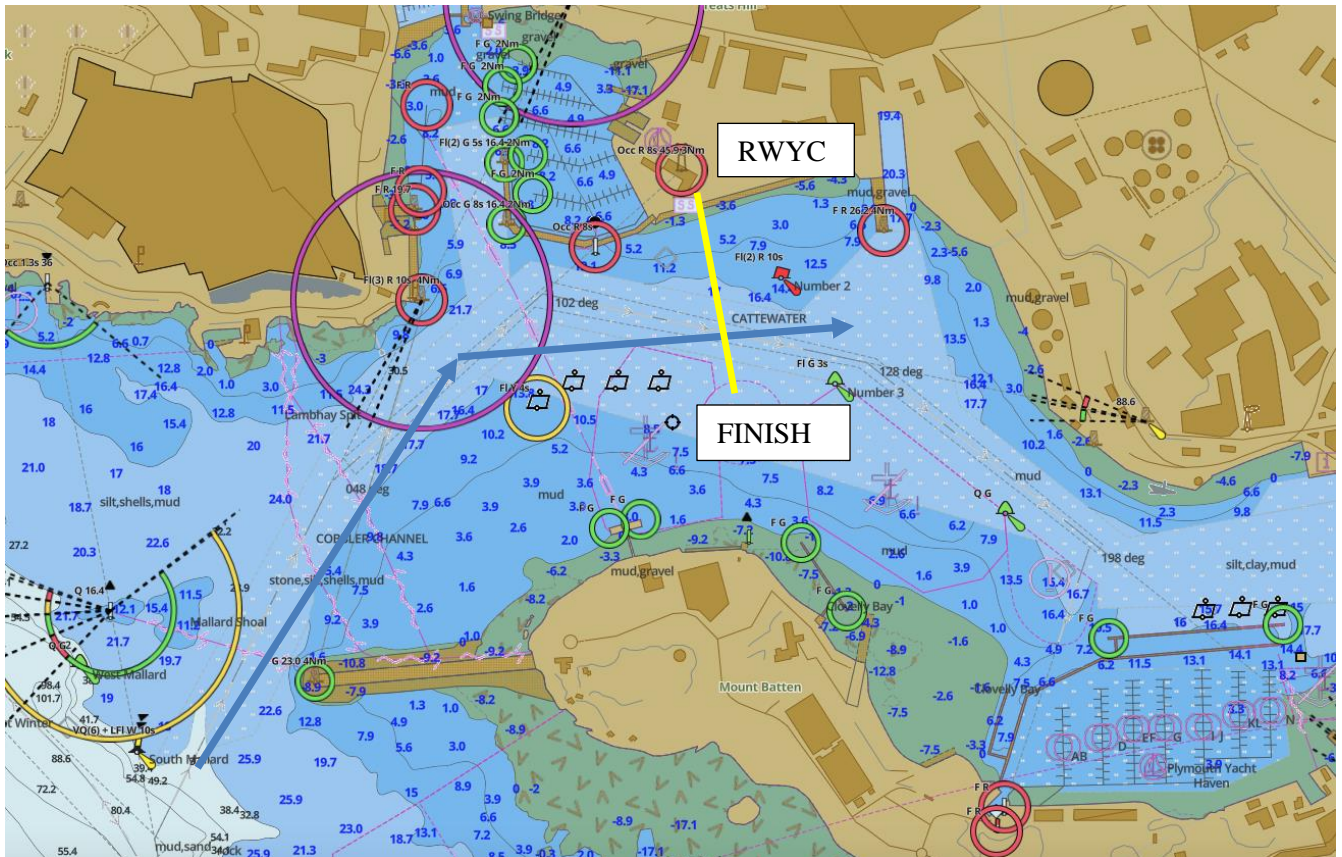


Not to be used for navigation

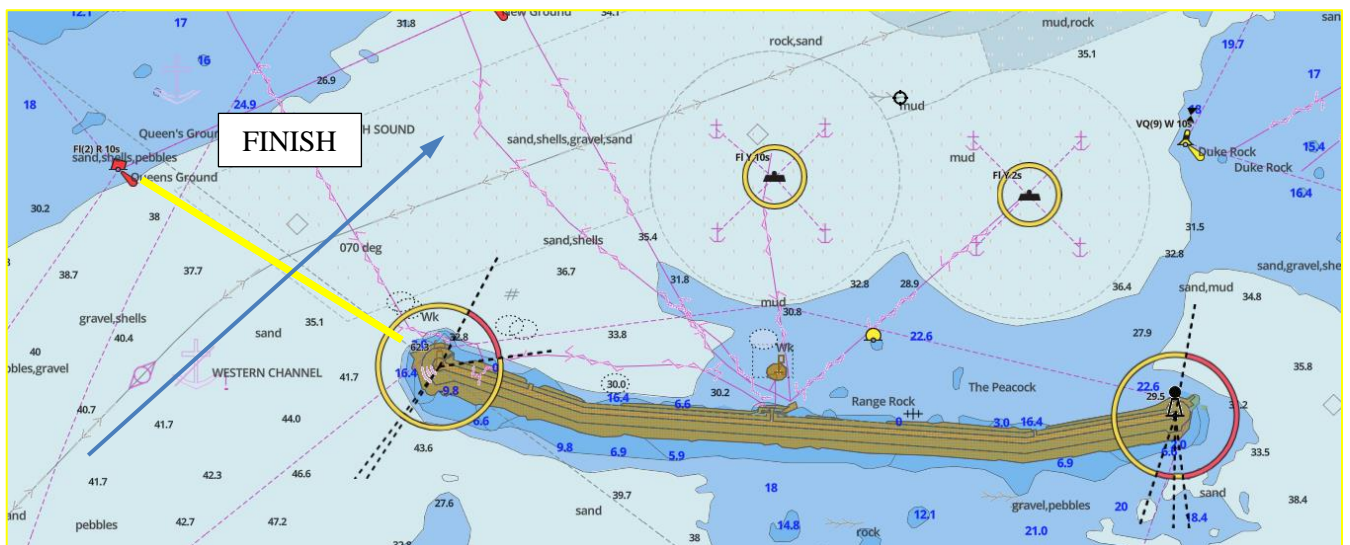


### Appendix 3 FINISH LINE

**3.1 Finishing:** Enter Plymouth Sound via the Western Entrance to cross the finish line off the RWYC by sailing in an easterly direction to pass an extension of a transit from the RWYC Flag staff and a yellow and black striped transit staff on the shore below it. The outer distance limit of the line will be the mooring buoys on the south side of the main Cattewater channel.



**3.2 Temporary Finish Line Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> August, 2030 – 2245 h. See SI 20.1a**



## Appendix 4 COMMUNICATIONS

### Contact Details

<b>Start:</b>		
Race Committee	Callsign	"Fastnet 500 Race Control"
	VHF Channel	77
Coastguard	Callsign	"Falmouth Coastguard"
	MMSI	002320014
<b>At Sea:</b>		
Listening watch	VHF Channel	16
Intership	VHF DSC	MMSIs distributed before start
Coastguard	Callsign	"Falmouth Coastguard"
	MMSI	002320014
	Telephone	+44 (0)1326 317575
Coastguard	Callsign	"Valentia Coastguard"
	MMSI	002500200
<b>Finish:</b>		
Race Committee	Callsign	"Fastnet 500 Race Control"
	VHF Channel	77
	SMS / Voice	+44 (0)7841590747
Race Office	Address	Royal Western Yacht Club Queen Anne's Battery, Plymouth PL4 0TW
	Telephone	+44 (0)1752 660077
	Email	<a href="mailto:lrr@rwyc.org">lrr@rwyc.org</a>