



NOTICE OF RACE

AROUND FRENCH ISLAND

NATIONAL CATAMARAN CHALLENGE

Saturday 23rd March 2024 at 1200 hrs

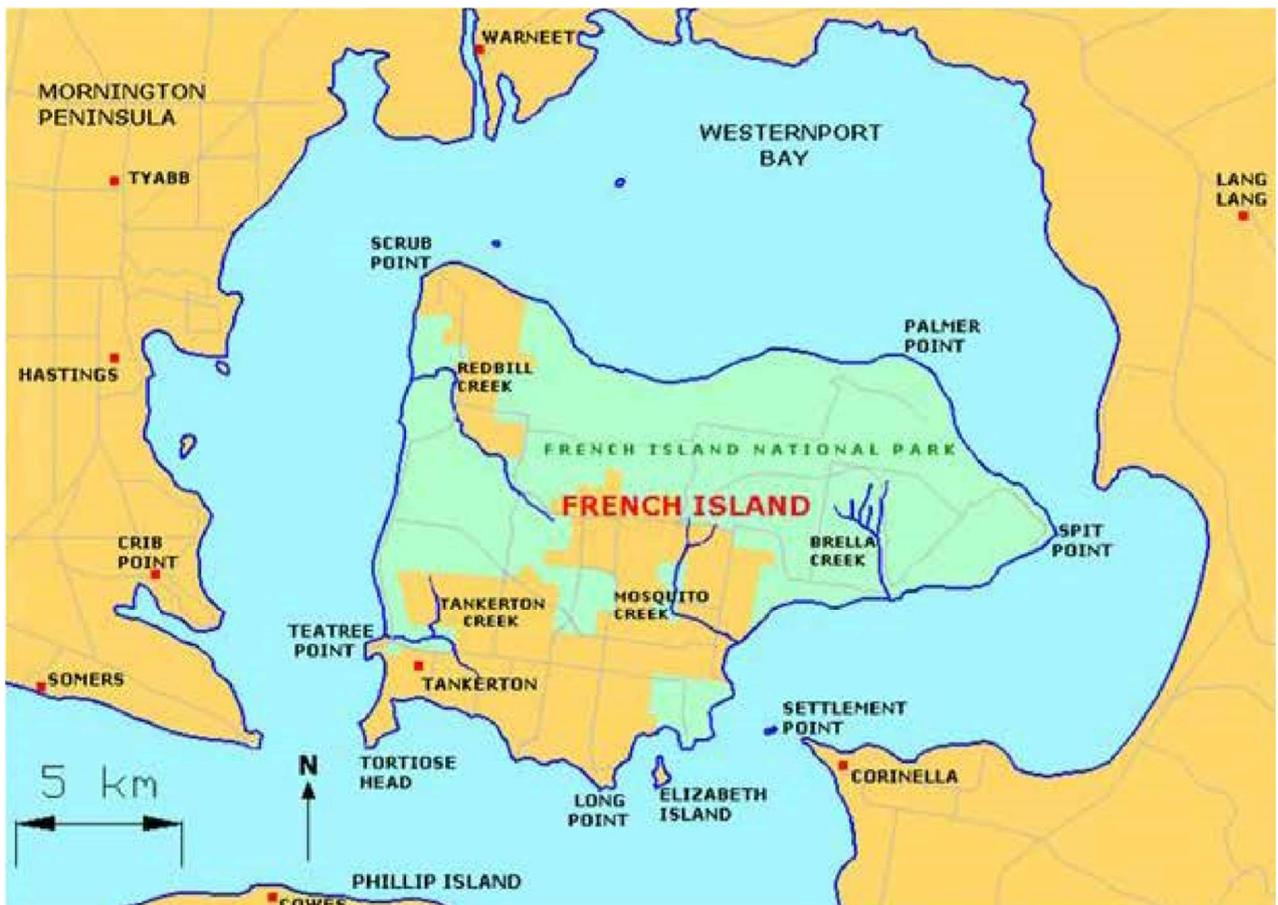
(Provision for Resail Sunday 24th March 2024)

For all Off the Beach catamarans with a current AS yardstick handicap of 83 and lower. For more information, sailing Instructions and entry go to www.cowesyachtclub.com/AFI

Organising Authority:

AFI 2024 Coordinating committee: AFI@COWESYACHTCLUB.COM

CYC Commodore: Tim Modra (tim.modra@modra.com) 0418 515 479





1. The Race

- 1.1. The aim is to circumnavigate French Island within the defined time limit starting and finishing from Cowes Yacht Club (CYC), Phillip Island.
- 1.2. The Race will be started in accordance with Rule 26 in the waters off the Cowes Yacht Club at 1200 hrs with the warning signal at 1155 hrs Australian Eastern Daylight-Saving Time. Multiple starts may be employed with the first start being the warning signal for the next division and so on.
- 1.3. There will be a briefing by the Officer of the Day at the club approximately 2 hours before the scheduled race start time.

2. Provision for a resail.

- 2.1. Provisions for a resail due to extreme weather is scheduled for Sunday the 24th March 2024.

3. The Rules

- 3.1. The race will be governed by the current Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) and the Australian Sailing (AS) Special Regulations, and each Yacht Class Association concerned, except as any of these as altered by the race sailing instructions. The safety regulations prescribed in RRS Australian Sailing Special Regulations Part 2 (Off the Beach Boats) shall apply to all Off the Beach Boats competing in this event.
- 3.2. The following changes to the RRS apply:
- 3.3. Rule 27.3: Postponement and Signals made ashore: see Sailing Instructions
- 3.4. Rule 32.2: Shortening Course: see Sailing Instructions
- 3.5. RRS 44.1 is changed so that the Two-Turns Penalty is replaced by the One-Turn Penalty.
- 3.6. Rule 50.1 has been supplemented by Clause 4.4 of this NOR.

4. Eligibility

- 4.1. All entrants must be registered with Australian Sailing (AS) and be a financial member of a AS affiliated Yacht Club. The entrants AS number and club name must be listed for both skipper and crew on the Entry Form.
- 4.2. All boats entered must be multihulls and have a current Australian Sailing yardstick of 83 or under.
- 4.3. All boats must carry three litres of water per crew person plus one waterproof LED torch as a minimum. Catamaran righting lines must be installed and functional. Inspections will be carried out pre-race and disqualification applied for noncompliance.
- 4.4. Hydration packs ('Camelbaks') will be allowed during this race for hydration purposes only (up to 2 litre capacity). Penalties (up to and including disqualification) may apply for packs exceeding this size. Competitors should also consider the increased potential for injury if using these items due to the extra weight being carried for a sustained period of time (particularly on younger competitors).



- 4.5. The installation and use of the GPS position tracking system is mandatory. All entrants will have a Tracking unit issued on the day. The supplier's staff will issue the unit and be available to answer any questions on race day. The issue of the unit will require a signature as will the return of the unit post-race. These signatures will constitute the official race sign on and sign off.
- 4.6. The carrying of a VHF marine handheld waterproof radio and/or a Personal Locator Beacon is highly recommended but not mandatory for this event.
- 4.7. Each boat or skipper in charge of a boat must have valid racing insurance that provides third - party legal liability cover to a minimum level of \$10,000,000. Evidence of a current and valid insurance document (in digital format) must be provided at time of registration for the event or entry to the event will be denied.

5. Entry fee and form

- 5.1. The Early Bird Entry Fee is \$100 paid on or before Wednesday 20th March 2024 11.59 pm. The Late Entry Fee of \$150 will be charged for entries received after this date until entry closes on Friday 22nd March 2024 11.59 pm after which no more entries will be allowed. The fee must be paid in full to Cowes Yacht Club as part of the online entry process. Online entry and online payments are the only methods of entry, please see www.cowesyachtclub.com/AFI website for online entry links.
- 5.2. Entries will be capped at 70 boats and accepted on a first come, first served basis. No further entries will be accepted unless there are places available due to withdrawals prior to the entry closing date.

6. Refund Policy

- 6.1. CYC wishes to encourage entry to this event, however the event is expensive to organise and run. As such, no refund will be available after Friday 15th March 2024 11.59 pm. Cancellations prior to this will be assessed on an individual basis, a cancellation fee to cover committed expenses may be charged.

7. Scoring and Presentations

- 7.1. Scoring will be done in accordance with Appendix A of the Racing Rules of Sailing 2021-2024
- 7.2. Australian Sailing yardsticks will apply.
- 7.3. Minimum prize pool of \$10,000.00 is available on the day.
- 7.4. Results and prizes will be presented at Cowes Yacht Club as advised by the Organising Authority on the day.
- 7.5. A perpetual trophy called the "Cowes Isle of Wight" trophy, and all other prizes will be presented at the race results post-race.



8. Boats and trailers

8.1. Cowes Yacht Club members will be positioned on the day to guide entrants for unloading boats and rigging. Trailers must be parked outside the Yacht Club after unloading boat and rigging. With a high number of entrants anticipated there will be limited yard space available. Alternate launch sites are available, and entrants will be given details on the Cowes Yacht Club website – See www.cowesyachtclub.com/AFI .

9. Disclaimer.

9.1. All those taking part in the race do so at their own risk and responsibility. Crew acknowledge this and release the CYC and their respective officers, employees, volunteers and members, from all liability by entering their names on the crew list. Specific attention is drawn to RRS Fundamental Rule 3, which states:

“The responsibility for a boat’s decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone”.

10. Media Rights.

10.1. It is a condition of entry that the owner of the yacht and all crew members acknowledge that the CYC owns all media rights to the Around French Island National Catamaran Challenge and may exercise those rights as it sees fit, including but not limited to advertising on competitors’ boats. Also, crews grant the CYC the unconditional, perpetual right and authority to publish and broadcast anywhere in the world, for any purpose and in any media, the names, images and biographical information relating to the crew and photographs, video footage and audio recordings taken of the yacht and its crew prior to, during and after the race.

11. Covid Statement

11.1. By taking part in the event covered by the Notice of Race, each competitor agrees and acknowledges that they are responsible for complying with any regulations in force with respect to COVID-19 at the time and complying with the Cowes Yacht Club COVID Safety plan.

12. Further Information

For the latest information on the race contact one of the organisers shown below or to get some background history of the race visit the CYC website - <https://www.cowesyachtclub.com/sailing/AFI/>