



11 to 15 MARCH 2020

## DESIGNATED RRS-SAFETY AFTERGUARD MEMBER COMPLIANCE

### BACKGROUND:

It has become apparent in recent superyacht regattas that some designated 'Safety Officers' did not have the required qualifications or experience for that crew position; specifically a thorough understanding of *The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS)*. Additionally, it was revealed that in some instances no member of the afterguard had an adequate level of experience and expertise with the RRS, leading to unexpected encounters and undesired outcomes on the racecourse.

Hence, the SYRA and superyacht regatta organizers have taken two important steps:

First, the individual monitoring the VHF Safety Channel will be designated the 'Communications Officer' as opposed to the 'Safety Officer'. The previous terminology 'Safety Officer' was misleading because the Captain is the individual who has the ultimate responsibility for the safe operation of the yacht at all times. It is now **required** that each yacht have a Communications Officer. It is **recommended** that the Communications Officer, in addition to having experience with radio protocol, also have experience with and an understanding of the RRS.

Second, it is **required** that the Captain ensure that at least one afterguard member is active with the *Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS)* and has a thorough understanding of the RRS and the Appendix SY. The Captain will determine what crew position that individual assumes (tactician, helmsman, navigator, strategist, communications officer, etc.) As such, each yacht must submit the name of their designated 'RRS-Safety Afterguard Member' and Communications Officer, using the appropriate form (page 2 of this document). In addition to answering the questions, the designated 'RRS-Safety Afterguard Member' is encouraged to include a sailing resume or list of relevant credentials and experience. The Organizing Authority will review all forms and communicate any concerns or issues to the Captain.

### QUALIFICATIONS AND CREDENTIALS:

The fundamental credentials and qualifications that the designated RRS-Safety Afterguard Members are required and recommended to possess:

#### Required:

- Currently active and fully conversant with *The Racing Rules of Sailing* (routinely racing as an afterguard member – in either large yachts or smaller boats);
- A thorough understanding of racing tactics, preferably active in the role of tactician;
- A thorough understanding of the RRS Appendix SY;
- Experience with VHF radio protocol and an understanding of the important role that active, professional dialogue on the dedicated VHF Safety Channel plays in superyacht racing;
- A thorough understanding of the regatta's racing documents (*rules*) including the Notice of Race, Sailing Instructions, Amendments and Exhibits;
- Conversant in English.

#### Strongly Recommended:

- Experience racing large yachts as a member of the afterguard (helmsman, racing tactician, navigator);
- Experience with the RRS Appendix SY (as a superyacht afterguard member);
- Experience with and knowledge of the manoeuvring characteristics and limitations of his or her superyacht, as well as those of other competitors.

(RRS-Safety Afterguard Member Compliance Form overleaf)



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**RRS-SAFETY AFTERGUARD MEMBER & COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER  
COMPLIANCE & INFORMATION FORM**

Please answer all questions below and use a second page if necessary to provide additional relevant information. Attaching a sailing resume is encouraged. This form will be reviewed by the Organizing Authority (OA) and retained by the OA and the Superyacht Racing Association (SYRA).

Yacht Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Boat Captain: \_\_\_\_\_

Designated RRS-Safety Afterguard Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: Tactician  Navigator  Helmsman  Strategist  Communications Officer   
Other  \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent Crewmember  Part time Racing Crewmember

Fully conversant in English: Yes  No

Possess a thorough understanding of the RRS: Yes  No

Currently active with the RRS as an afterguard member: Yes  No

Recent racing experience **in other than superyachts as an afterguard member** (past 3 years). Include regatta names, years, boats, and crew positions:

Has read and understands the RRS Appendix SY: Yes  No

Recent **superyacht racing as an afterguard member**, using the Appendix SY. Include regatta names, years, yachts and your crew positions (recommended, not required, if you have afterguard racing experience in other than superyachts):

Racing experience on this particular yacht: Yes  No  (include regatta names, years, and crew positions):

List any additional relevant credentials, classifications or qualifications (e.g. International or National Judge, Marine Industry Professional, etc.):

If the Designated RRS-Safety Afterguard Member is not going to be the yacht's Communications Officer, please provide name, email address and mobile phone number of the Communications Officer:

Designated 'Communications Officer' Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please include any relevant documents, such as your sailing resume, and return this form by e-mail to [acym@apuinet.ag](mailto:acym@apuinet.ag)