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 **6 to 12 MARCH 2023**

**RRS AFTERGUARD MEMBER**

**BACKGROUND**

It became apparent at superyacht regattas that some designated ‘Safety Officers’ did not meet the criteria for that crew position; specifically, in many cases, being active with *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, 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.

*NoR 19.2 The RRS Afterguard Member may be the yacht’s helmsman, navigator, racing tactician or communications officer (who monitors the VHF safety channel) if they meet the stated criteria. This individual’s role is to interact closely with the other members of the afterguard. Captains should not be the designated RRS Afterguard Member due to the specific RRS related criteria that this position requires and the fact that the overall safety of the yacht is their responsibility.*

Secondly, the individual monitoring the VHF Safety Channel is 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.

As such, each yacht must submit the name of their designated ‘RRS Afterguard Member’ and Communications Officer, using page 2 of this document. In addition to answering the questions, the designated ‘RRS Afterguard Member’ is encouraged to include a sailing resume or list of relevant racing credentials and experience. The Organizing Authority will review all forms **(due no later than 24 January 2023)** and communicate any concerns or issues to the Captain.

If the designated RRS Afterguard Member submitted a form at a previous regatta and the name is listed on the SYRA website [superyra.org/after-guard](https://superyra.org/after-guard/), then the yacht is not required to resubmit the form but shall advise the race office accordingly.

**CREDENTIALS and EXPERIENCE**

The fundamental credentials and experience that the designated RRS 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). *“Currently active”* is a key component here.
* 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 and Amendments;
* 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 on page 2)*



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**RRS AFTERGUARD MEMBER COMPLIANCE & INFORMATION FORM**

Note that this form is not required if your RRS Afterguard Member previously submitted a form and it is posted on the SYRA website [superyra.org/after-guard](http://www.superyra.org/after-guard), but please advise the race office accordingly. Please answer all questions and provide additional relevant information if required by email. 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 Afterguard Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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

Position: Tactician ☐ Navigator ☐ Helmsman ☐ Strategist ☐ Communications Officer ☐

 Other ☐ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Permanent Crewmember: Yes ☐ No ☐

Part time Racing Crewmember: Yes ☐ No ☐

**Important Requirements (in bold):**

**Fully conversant in English:** Yes ☐ No ☐

**Possess a thorough understanding of the RRS:** Yes ☐ No ☐

**Is currently active with the RRS:** Yes ☐ No ☐

*(racing in multiple regattas annually as an afterguard member)*

**Has read and understands the RRS Appendix SY:** Yes ☐ No ☐

**Meets the requirements stated in NoR:** Yes ☐ No ☐

Additional information:

Afterguard experience using the RRS Appendix SY: Yes ☐ No ☐

Racing experience on this particular yacht: Yes ☐ No ☐

Include regatta names, years, and crew positions:

Other most recent racing experience in either superyachts or non-superyachts

Please include regatta names, dates, boats and crew positions and provide information that you feel is relevant:

List any additional information that is relevant to experience with and knowledge of the Racing Rules of Sailing.

Note: having a Master Captain’s license (e.g. USCG 100T license) is not relevant to the core of this racing requirement.

*If the designated RRS 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 email this to* *info@superyachtchallengeantigua.com*