



15TH SUPERYACHT CHALLENGE
ENGLISH HARBOUR, ANTIGUA
4 to 8 MARCH 2026
NOTICE OF RACE

The Superyacht Challenge Antigua (SYCA) has one clear objective; to provide all the facilities to stage an ideal event for an exclusive selection of superyachts, where fair racing and good companionship are valued above all else.

Designed to be solely for the pleasure of superyacht owners, their guests and crew, the magnificent fleet takes part in four days of spectacular racing. Together with laid back social events, the Superyacht Challenge Antigua is a wonderful celebration of sailing and parties.

The racing is competitive, but the SYCA is dedicated to pure fun afloat and ashore, where all participants enjoy a relaxed party atmosphere, free from commercial endorsements.

The regatta will include Corinthian Spirit Divisions within each class.

An optional race around the island of Antigua is included, the record for which was set at the 2022 SYCA by the 218ft ketch *Hetairos* at 3 hours 46 minutes and 8 seconds. The Stan Pearson Trophy will be awarded to the winner of the Round Antigua Race, and a yacht that breaks the record will be awarded the skipper's weight in rum! A shorter optional Part-Island Race will be offered for yachts that do not wish to do the full Round Antigua Race.

The organizing authority is Superyacht Challenge Antigua Ltd, which is affiliated to the Antigua and Barbuda Sailing Association.

The notation '[NP]' in a rule means that a yacht may not protest another yacht for breaking that rule. This changes RRS 60.1.

1 RULES

The regatta will be governed by:

- a) The 2025-2028 rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing* (RRS).
- b) Appendix SY, Superyacht Racing Rules, to the RRS (Appendix SY).
- c) The ORC Superyacht Rule (ORC Superyachts).
- d) National authority prescriptions will not apply.

- e) Under World Sailing Development Rule DR21-01 v3, the definition *Start* is changed as follows:

Start A boat *starts* when her hull having been entirely on the pre-start side of the starting line, and having complied with rule 30.1 if it applies, any part of her hull crosses the starting line from the pre-start side to the course side either

- (a) at or after her starting signal, or
- (b) during the last three minutes before her starting signal.

When a boat *starts* in accordance with item (b) of the definition *Start*, she shall not return to the prestart side of the starting line and she shall be penalized by five minutes in addition to the amount of time she was on the course side of the starting line before her starting signal, added to her elapsed time without a hearing. RRS 29.1 will not apply and RRS A5.1 is changed.

2 [NP] ADVERTISING

The regatta has a no sponsorship policy so yachts shall obtain prior approval if they wish to promote and/or display their own sponsor(s).

3 ELIGIBILITY, ENTRY & CANCELLATION

- 3.1 The Superyacht Challenge Antigua is an invitational event, open to superyachts in excess of 30.5 metres with a valid ORCs rating certificate. Yachts 30.5 metres or less, but greater than 25 metres, with a valid certificate may request entry.
- 3.2 Corinthian Spirit Division yachts shall comply with the criteria in Addendum 1.
- 3.3 Yachts are requested to apply by no later than 1 December 2025. The entry fee is due by 1 January 2026.
- 3.4 Late entries may be accepted at the sole discretion of the organizing authority, subject to a late entry fee.
- 3.5 Completed entry forms shall be sent via email to the SYCA Race Office at info@superyachtchallengeantigua.com.
- 3.6 The organizing authority reserves the right at its absolute discretion to accept a yacht's entry. Entry will only be confirmed on receipt of a completed entry form, full payment and notification of acceptance by the organizing authority.
- 3.7 The organizing authority reserves the right at its absolute discretion to cancel the regatta completely by written notification to each yacht via email to the email address provided on the Entry Form. In the event of cancellation of the regatta:
 - a) Entry fees that have been received by the organizing authority will be fully refunded.
 - b) This agreement in respect of this regatta will be terminated forthwith.
 - c) Each yacht, Owner/Charterer and Captain hereby expressly agree that no claim of any nature whatsoever against the organizing authority will be permitted or entertained and each yacht, Owner/Charterer and Captain hereby expressly undertake to indemnify the organizing authority in respect of any claim brought by anyone associated with them and/or their yacht and any costs incurred by the organizing authority in relation to such claim.

- 3.8 If the organizing authority receives a report of a yacht being handled in an overaggressive, unseamanlike or unsafe manner, it may excuse the yacht from the regatta without a hearing.

4 FEES

- 4.1 The entry fee is US \$10,000 + an ABSAR donation of US \$500, a total of US \$10,500.
- 4.2 The fee covers entry to the regatta, the Welcome Cocktail Party, evening drinks and the Prize-Giving Ceremony.
- 4.3 A late entry fee of US \$1,000 will be assessed for payments made after 1 January 2026.
- 4.4 Payment may be made by either credit card or bank transfer at:

ECAB USD Wire Instructions

Beneficiary: SUPER YACHT CHALLENGE ANU LTD; account no: 122000067

5 DOCKAGE

Please contact Nelson's Dockyard Marina as early as possible to secure your regatta berth: info@nelsonsdockyard.com, +1 268-464-6941, or call Paul Deeth on +1 268-464-7081.

6 SCHEDULE

- 6.1 An optional Round Antigua Race / Part-Island Race and three series races are scheduled over five days.

Tuesday 3 March		Some race marks available for practice
Wednesday 4 March	09:00-16:00 17:00 18:00-20:00	Registration at the race office Pre-regatta Briefing on the race office balcony Welcome Cocktail Party at Boom Restaurant
Thursday 5 March	09:00 18:00	Round Antigua Race / Part-Island Race Cocktails & Caribbean Night at the Copper & Lumber Store Historic Inn – prizes for loudest Caribbean shirt
Friday 6 March	09:00 11:00 16:00	Briefing at the Capstans First Series Race Paddle Board Competition & Beach Party at the Superyacht Dock
Saturday 7 March	09:00 11:00 18:00	Briefing at the Capstans Second Series Race The Famous Cook Off at the Superyacht Dock Beach – theme: Under the Sea

Sunday 8 March	09:00	Briefing at the Capstans
	11:00	Third Series Race
	17:30-19:30	Prize-Giving Ceremony at the Admiral's Inn, between the Pillars

6.2 The organizing authority and race committee reserve the right to modify the schedule depending on weather conditions or other unforeseen circumstances.

6.3 The detailed social programme will be emailed to yachts prior to the event.

7 VENUE

The racing area is around and off the south coast of Antigua.

8 RACE OFFICE

The race office is located at the National Parks Antigua Events Center, Nelson's Dockyard.

9 [NP] REGISTRATION

Yachts shall register at the race office on 4 March 2026 between 09:00 and 16:00 hours. They shall:

- a) Confirm the name, local mobile telephone number and email address of the yacht's Captain, the designated RRS Afterguard Member and the Communications Officer (see notice of race 16), one of whom shall be nominated as the yacht's sole recipient of WhatsApp and email messages which the race committee may use to communicate with competitors.
- b) Confirm social arrangements.
- c) Collect two Pantaenius Laser Rangefinders, which shall be used to determine distance between yachts (operational instructions will be provided), and shall be returned to the race office after the last race of the regatta.

10 NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board located on the regatta website ([SYCA ONB](#)).

11 SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

The sailing instructions will be available on the official notice board by registration.

12 [NP] BRIEFINGS

12.1 A pre-regatta briefing will be held at 17:00 hours on 4 March on the balcony outside the race office. Attendance is mandatory for the Captain, the RRS Afterguard Member, the Communications Officer and the Racing Tactician.

12.2 A daily briefing will be held each series race day at 09:00 hours at the Capstans in English Harbour. Attendance is mandatory for any two from the Captain, the RRS Afterguard Member, the Communications Officer and the Racing Tactician.

13 STARTING FORMAT

There will be staggered starts, such that yachts start at equal increments between starts, initially with slower rated yachts starting before faster rated yachts, which may then change due to yachts' performance or weather conditions.

14 PENALTY SYSTEM

The Scoring Penalty, RRS 44.3, will apply.

15 SCORING

15.1 The Round Antigua / Part-Island Races will be scored separately from the three-race Series, and scored overall (there will be no classes).

15.2 For the Series, there will be up to three classes, which will be scored individually (there will be no overall score). One race is required to be completed to constitute a series; no score will be excluded.

15.3 Corinthian Spirit Division yachts will be scored twice – in their class and in the division.

15.4 The Round Antigua / Part-Island Races will be scored using the Weather Routing Method and the Series will be scored using the Five Ratings Method, Time on Distance.

16 [NP] RRS AFTERGUARD MEMBER & COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

16.1 Yachts shall designate a RRS Afterguard Member, who is currently active with and has a thorough understanding of the RRS and Appendix SY. Required and recommended credentials are listed in Addendum 2. The role is to interact closely with the other members of the afterguard on rules and tactical issues.

16.2 Yachts shall also designate a Communications Officer (who may also be the RRS Afterguard Member), who has a good understanding of the RRS and Appendix SY (as well as radio protocol). The role is to continuously monitor the VHF safety channel and communicate promptly with other yachts.

16.3 Captains should not be the designated RRS Afterguard Member or Communications Officer due to their responsibility for the overall safety of the yacht.

17 [NP] AIS

Yachts are requested to ensure their Automatic Identification System (AIS) is operational while afloat.

18 PRIZES

18.1 A selection of rum barrels suitably filled.

18.2 The Stan Pearson Trophy will be awarded to the winner of the Round Antigua Race.

18.3 The Gosnell Trophy is awarded to the yacht who in the opinion of the competitors and race committee has competed in the spirit of the regatta, both afloat and ashore.

19 DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

Competitors agree to be bound by the World Sailing RRS, by the notice of race and the sailing instructions. Competitors agree to take any and all responsibility for the nautical qualities of their yacht, the rigging, the crew's ability, and the safety equipment. Competitors also agree to take any and all responsibility for damages caused to third

persons or their belongings, to themselves or to their belongings, ashore and at sea as a consequence of their participation in the regatta, relieving of any responsibility the organizing authority and all persons involved in the organization under whatever qualification and to accept full responsibility for the behaviour and dress of the yacht's crew, representatives and guests.

Competitors are to be acquainted with RRS Fundamental Rule 3: "The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue *racing* is hers alone."

Competitors agree that the organizers and their agents have no responsibility for loss of life or injury to crew members or others, or for the loss or damage to any vessel or property.

20 INSURANCE

Each yacht shall be adequately insured. It is the responsibility of each yacht's Owner/Charterer and Captain to certify that all crew and guests aboard are properly insured against all liabilities and injuries incurred for the duration of the regatta.

21 MEDIA RIGHTS

Competitors agree to provide the organizing authority the right to use and show at all times, static or moving photos, films or TV recording and all duplicates of them during the event. They also give the right to use without compensation their own images on any event material.

22 FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information please contact the race office:

Email: info@superyachtchallengeantigua.com

Phone: +1 268-460-1059

Or contact Paul Deeth on: +1 268-464-7081

ADDENDUM 1
CORINTHIAN SPIRIT DIVISIONS

Corinthian Spirit Division yachts shall comply with the following criteria:

1. Headsails and spinnakers (provided they are declared on the ORCs certificate):
 - a) One headsail, which shall be attached to the forestay and can be furled. However, if it is an overlapping furling genoa >115% LP, a second non-overlapping furling jib hoisted on a fixed inner stay is also allowed.
 - b) One headsail set flying (HSF), which shall be tacked in front of the forestay and can be furled. However, a HSF recorded as 'inner' on the certificate (such as Genoa Staysail, Spinnaker Staysail, etc) is also allowed.
 - c) One spinnaker. However, in the absence of an HSF tacked in front of the forestay, a second spinnaker that has a furling system and a mid-girth-foot ratio of between 75% and 85% is also allowed.
2. Yachts shall sail in cruising mode: no cruising equipment shall be disembarked to make a yacht lighter, other than a tender, sprayhoods, biminis, anchor and chain (the last shall be declared on the certificate).
3. An event measurer shall be allowed onboard to check compliance.

ADDENDUM 2

RRS AFTERGUARD MEMBER CREDENTIALS

The credentials that a designated RRS Afterguard Member is required and strongly recommended to possess are:

Required

1. A thorough understanding of
 - The RRS and Appendix SY.
 - Racing tactics (preferably as a tactician).
 - The important role that active professional dialogue on the dedicated VHF Safety Channel plays in superyacht racing.
 - The regatta's racing documents (including the notice of race, sailing instructions and amendments).
 - VHF radio protocol.
2. Currently active as an afterguard member (helmsman, racing tactician, navigator), preferably on superyachts.
3. Conversant in English.

Recommended

4. Experience with and knowledge of the manoeuvring characteristics and limitations of their yacht, and other yachts in the race.