



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 SYCA 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 (OA) 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 Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) 60.1.

1 RULES

The event will be governed by:

- a) The 2025-2028 rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing*.
- 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 event has a no sponsorship policy. Yachts shall not display advertising dockside without the written permission of the OA prior to the start of the event.

3 ELIGIBILITY, ENTRY & CANCELLATION

- 3.1 The SYCA 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 OA, 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 OA 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 OA.
- 3.7 The OA reserves the right at its absolute discretion to cancel the event completely by written notification to each yacht via email to the email address provided on the entry form. Should the event be cancelled:
 - a) Entry fees that have been received by the OA will be fully refunded.
 - b) This agreement in respect of this regatta will be terminated forthwith.
 - c) Each owner/charterer and captain hereby expressly agree that no claim of any nature whatsoever against the OA will be permitted or entertained and each owner/charterer and captain hereby expressly undertake to indemnify the OA in respect of any claim brought by anyone associated with them and/or their yacht and any costs incurred by the OA in relation to such claim.

3.8 The notice of race (NoR) sends an implicit message that the focus of the event is on safety and prudent seamanship, rather than competitive advantage. It reinforces the message that the SYCA is a congenial racing event.

3.9 If the OA receives a report of a yacht being handled in an overaggressive, unseamanlike or unsafe manner, it may exclude the yacht from the event 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

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. See Addendum 2.

6.2 The OA reserves the right to modify the schedule depending on weather conditions or other unforeseen circumstances.

6.3 The Fanous Cook Off theme is Under the Sea.

6.4 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 NoR 16), one of whom shall be nominated as the yacht's sole recipient of WhatsApp and email messages which the OA or 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 event.

10 NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board (ONB) located on the event website.

11 SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

The sailing instructions will be available on the ONB by registration.

12 [NP] BRIEFINGS

- 12.1 A pre-race 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 Each series race day a briefing will be held 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, in accordance with Addendum 3. The role is to interact closely with the other members of the afterguard on rules, tactical and safety 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 monitor the VHF safety channel continuously 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 at all times 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 event, 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 event, relieving of any responsibility the OA 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 OA and its 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 event.

21 MEDIA RIGHTS

Competitors agree to provide the OA 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

V2 – 5.11.25

ADDENDUM 1
CORINTHIAN SPIRIT DIVISIONS

Corinthian Spirit Division yachts shall comply with the following:

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

SCHEDULE

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-race 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 11:00 17:30-19:30	Briefing at the Capstans Third series race Prize-Giving Ceremony at the Admiral's Inn, between the Pillars

ADDENDUM 3
RRS AFTERGUARD MEMBER CREDENTIALS

1. A thorough understanding of:
 - a) The RRS and Appendix SY.
 - b) Racing tactics (preferably as a tactician).
 - c) The important role that active professional dialogue on the dedicated VHF safety channel plays in superyacht racing.
 - d) The event's racing documents (including the notice of race, sailing instructions and amendments).
 - e) 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.