

## 1 GENERAL

- a) SORC Channel Week 2026 comprises up to 4 races 20 - 26 May. **Note that this amends Section 5 of the Notice of Race.** These Sailing Instructions (SIs) provide specific details for Races 1, 3 and 4 of SORC Channel Week and apply in conjunction with the SORC 2026 Notice of Race 1.0 dated December 2025 as amended herein and General Sailing Instructions 1.0 dated March 2026.
- b) Race 2 (Brighton to Fecamp) of SORC Channel Week 2026 is the Royal Escape Race (RER), organised by the Sussex Yacht Club. Competitors are referred to the RER home page (<https://www.sussexyachtclub.org.uk/royal-escape-race/>) for the Notice of Race, Sailing Instructions and entry procedures. Results from this race will be extracted and included with those of Races 1, 3 and 4 to determine series results for SORC Channel Week.
- c) At all times, including whilst on passage to the start and after the finish, boats shall comply with the Port of Southampton Byelaws ([http://www.southamptonvts.co.uk/Port\\_Information/Regulations/Byelaws/](http://www.southamptonvts.co.uk/Port_Information/Regulations/Byelaws/)), Cowes Harbour General Directions ([http://www.cowesharbourcommission.co.uk/general\\_directions](http://www.cowesharbourcommission.co.uk/general_directions)) and King's Harbour Master (KHM) Portsmouth General Directions (<https://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/khm/portsmouth/safety-and-regulations/regulations>). Particular attention is drawn to the regulations relating to the Port of Southampton Precautionary Area and KHM direction concerning the Exclusion Zone for underway warships.
- d) All positions given use WGS84 and are approximate. All times are in BST.

## 2 COMMUNICATIONS

Race Director (RD)	Chris Morton	email	<a href="mailto:chris.morton@bam.com">chris.morton@bam.com</a>
		mobile	+44 7770 223416
Race Officer (RO)	Kirsteen Donaldson	email	<a href="mailto:kirsteen@jadeconsultants.co.uk">kirsteen@jadeconsultants.co.uk</a>
		mobile	+44 7803 162893

## 3 CLASSES AND START TIMES

- a) Each yacht shall carry her class and SORC pennants on her backstay. Classes and flags are expected to be as follows

Class 1	Solo IRC rated boats with TCC of 0.975 or higher	NP1 and SORC pennant
Class 2	Solo IRC rated boats with TCC of 0.974 or lower	NP2 and SORC pennant
Class 3	Solo boats without an IRC rating	NP3 and SORC pennant
Class 4	Double-handed IRC rated boats	NP4 and SORC pennant
Class 5	Double-handed boats without an IRC rating	NP5 and SORC pennant

- b) It is anticipated that all starts will use the Competitor Start Boat (CSB) procedures specified in the General Sailing Instructions
- c) It is intended to give a time check on VHF (Channel 72 [preferred] or Channel 77 [back-up]) at 30 minutes before the first expected start. This will normally be GPS time; however, in the event of discrepancy, the time announced by the RC will take priority.
- d) Starts will use a 5-4-1-go sequence. Anticipated times are shown in Appendix A.

- e) Changes to anticipated start times will if possible be notified via the SORCRaceControl WhatsApp group or email by 2000 on the evening before the race and will be announced on VHF after the time check and at 20 and 15 minutes before the first start.
- f) Starting signals and recalls will be made on VHF and not signalled visually, changing RRS 26, 29 and 30.
- g) If conditions are unsuitable for the planned start, boats may be directed to motor in the direction of the course at a speed of not less than 5.5 knots and must try to stay together. The race may start at any time using the CSB procedures.

#### 4 COURSE

- a) It is intended to send the course via the SORCRaceControl WhatsApp group, if possible by 2000 on the evening before each race, and to confirm it on VHF after the time check. In exceptional circumstances, the course may differ from that given out the previous evening.
- b) The courses are expected to be Race 1: Solent - Brighton; Race 3: Fecamp - Cherbourg; Race 4: Cherbourg - Solent, as detailed in Appendix A.
- c) Alternative courses appropriate to the weather conditions may be set. The courses may use any of:

- Standard navigation marks in the central English Channel
- Marks from the SCRA Solent Mark Designations dated 23 Feb 2026 (see <https://www.scra.org.uk/solent-marks/solent-marks2> )
- Virtual waypoints as specified in the course announcement. World Sailing guidance on Racing Around Waypoints Version 2.0 dated January 2025 will apply. This document may be found at:  
<https://www.sailing.org/document/2025-2028-appendix-wp-rules-for-waypoints-jan-2025/>

Boats shall ensure they carry charting and pilotage information sufficient to cover possible alternatives.

- d) Competitors are reminded that:
  - if any mark of the course is missing, it should be regarded as a virtual waypoint in its charted position
  - all traffic separation schemes rank as obstructions
  - all marks are rounding marks unless otherwise stated

#### 5 WIND FARMS

All wind farms rank as obstructions. Boats shall not pass inside any outermost turbine or within 50 m of any outermost turbine and shall comply with any exclusion zone notified in Notices to Mariners. Note in particular:

- Rampion Wind Farm <https://www.rampionoffshore.com/>
- Fecamp Wind Farm <https://parc-eolien-en-mer-de-fecamp.fr/naviguer-dans-le-parc/les-regles-de-navigation/>
- Centre-Manche 1 [https://www.gem.wiki/Centre\\_Manche\\_1\\_wind\\_farm](https://www.gem.wiki/Centre_Manche_1_wind_farm)

#### 6 FINISHING AND SHORTENING COURSE

- a) The finish will be as in Appendix A or as otherwise announced with the course.
- b) There is no time limit.
- c) Competitors must take their own finish time in hours, minutes and seconds.

- d) Amending RRS 32.2, 'SORC RACE CONTROL' or a nominated competitor may shorten the course by announcement on VHF identifying the new finish mark and bearing. In this event, take your own time when the finish mark is at the required bearing.
- e) You are reminded that bearings are taken from the normal helming position.

## **7 DECLARATION, RETIREMENT AND REPORTING**

By text or WhatsApp to 07803162893; see General Sailing Instructions Section 7.

## **8 SCORING, RESULTS AND PRIZES**

- a) Results will be published on the SORC website as soon as possible after racing.
- b) It is intended that informal prize givings will be held after Races 1 and 3.

## Appendix A: Race Schedule

All times BST

Race	Start Date	HW Dover	Start Vicinity & Time		Course	Finish Mark		Distance
1.	Wed 20 May	1422	Mark 4M Hill Head	1900	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>S Pullar to P</li> <li>Owers to P</li> </ul>	Brighton	W Breakwater Head at 50° 48.50N, 000° 06.28W bears 000°	50 NM
2.	Fri 22 May	RER see <a href="https://www.susseyachtclub.org.uk/royal-escape-race/">https://www.susseyachtclub.org.uk/royal-escape-race/</a>						
3.	Sun 24 May	0609 1826	Approaches to Fecamp	0900	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Start to Finish</li> </ul>	Cherbourg	Roches du Nord-Ouest red buoy at 49° 40.64N, 01° 35.28W is within 100 m and on transit with La Truite red buoy at 49° 40.33N, 01° 35.49W (approximate bearing 200°) ie both buoys to P.	80 NM
4.	Tue 26 May	0839 2051	Grande Rade	0800	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bembridge Ledge buoy (6F) to P</li> <li>Horse Sand Fort (6B) to S</li> </ul>	Solent	North Sturbridge buoy (5F) within 100 metres and bears 045° magnetic ie leave the buoy to S. The race may be shortened at Bembridge Ledge buoy. Record your time when the buoy bears 270° even if the course is not shortened	75 NM

*All positions (WGS84) and distances are approximate; all times BST*