



2023 Windward 500 Race Series

Organizing Authority (OA): Caribbean Ocean Racing Club in affiliation with the Barbados Sailing Association

Race start: **Tuesday, May 16, 2023**

Notice of Race (NoR)

Event website: <https://yachtscoring.com/emenu.cfm?eid=15463>

The notation '[NP]' in a rule means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule. This changes RRS 60.1(a). All times are Atlantic Standard Time (GMT-4).

1. RULES

- 1.1. The event is governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS).
- 1.2. The following additional documents apply. A copy of these documents will be posted to the "Documents & Forms" section of the event website.
 - a) World Sailing (WS) Equipment Rules of Sailing (ERS)
 - b) WS RRS Appendix RV, Reduced Visibility (RV), applies between the hours of 1830 and 0530 or when the visibility is less than 1 nautical mile.
 - c) WS RRS Appendix WP, Rules for Waypoints (WP)
 - d) WS 2022 - 2023 Offshore Special Regulations (OSR) applies as described in NoR 7.
- 1.3. No national authority prescriptions apply.
- 1.4. RRS 41(c) is replaced by:

"A boat shall not receive help from any outside source, except help in the form of information which is freely available to all boats, which shall include navigational, weather, tide or current information from any source which is available to all boats whether or not by payment of a fee or subscription, but shall not include information gathered or the subject of interpretation by, or any advice received from, any source not on board the boat and which is specific to the boat and her situation.

By way of an example and interpretation, downloading charts, weather and/or tidal GRIB files from subscription services, or having such information passed to the boat in its pure form, is permitted but receiving messages or information which is the result of interpretation as it applies to the boat is not permitted."
- 1.5. Where there is a conflict between this notice of race and the sailing instructions, the sailing instructions shall prevail. This changes RRS 63.7.
- 1.6. If there is a conflict between languages the English text takes precedence.

2. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1. The sailing instructions (SIs) will be available on the event website by 1700 on May 1, 2023.

3. COMMUNICATION

- 3.1. The official notice board is online at the event website, located at: <https://yachtscoring.com/emenu.cfm?eid=15463>
- 3.2. On the water, the race committee will make courtesy broadcasts to competitors using mobile app "WhatsApp". The specific groups will be detailed in the sailing instructions.
- 3.3. [DP] While racing, except in an emergency or as otherwise specified in this notice of race or the sailing instructions, a boat shall not make voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice or data communication that is not available to all boats.

4. SCHEDULE

Date	Time	
Wednesday, 1 March		Registration opens at: https://yachtscoring.com/emenu.cfm?eid=xxxxx
Monday, 8 May	1700	Registration and rating deadline. All registration steps (see NoR 5.4) must be completed.
Friday, 12 May	1700	Skippers and Weather Briefing via Zoom, connection info to be posted by 1600.
Tuesday, 16 May	0955	Warning Signal (follow online via YB Tracking app)
Friday, 19 May	1800	Prizegiving via Zoom, connection info to be posted by 1600

5. ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

- 5.1. The race is open to seaworthy boats a least 32 feet in length for monohulls and 30 feet for multihulls, in one of the following classes: CSA Monohull, CSA Multihull, CSA Double-handed.
- 5.2. Boats may enter the event by registering online via the event website, no later than the registration deadline. In exceptional circumstances the OA may accept an entry over the telephone.
- 5.3. All boats shall have a current Caribbean Sailing Association (CSA) rating and declare their CSA Sail Configuration in writing no later than the registration deadline. Changes to rating certificates will only be accepted after the rating deadline in exceptional circumstances at the OA's discretion.
- 5.4. No later than the registration deadline, the Person in Charge shall submit via the event website:
 - a) a signed declaration, see NoR Attachment 1, Race Entry Declaration
 - b) a completed OSR Checklist
 - c) a complete crew list including emergency contact details and immigration information
 - d) a copy of their CSA rating and their declared CSA Sail Configuration for the race
- 5.5. To be considered an entry in the event, a boat shall complete all entry requirements and pay all fees.

6. FEES

- 6.1. Entry fee is US\$ 150 and shall be paid by PayPal via the event website.
- 6.2. Cancellations before the registration deadline may be eligible for a 50% refund of the entry fee. Cancellations after that will be eligible for a refund of 25% of the entry fee.

7. EQUIPMENT AND EQUIPMENT INSPECTION

- 7.1. For boats racing the Windward-500 course:
 - a) OSR Category 3 applies, modified to also include Category 2 Liferaft (OSR 4.20), EPIRB (OSR 4.19), and AIS Transponder (OSR 3.29.13).
 - b) Boats shall attempt to ensure that their AIS Transponder is switched on (i.e. transmitting and receiving) throughout the race. Competitors shall ensure that the name of the boat is transmitted
- 7.2. For boats racing the Windward-Zero or Windward-Sprint course:
 - a) OSR Category 3 applies, modified such that an AIS Transponder (OSR 3.29.13) is optional but encouraged.
- 7.3. For the CSA Double-handed class, regardless of the course:
 - a) Automatic or wind-vane steering is permitted.
 - b) OSR 4.22.1, Locator Beacons, applies.
 - c) Crew for double-handed entries must have suitable and adequate experience and their boat must be appropriately prepared for double-handed sailing.
- 7.4. Boats may be inspected at any time.

8. CREW

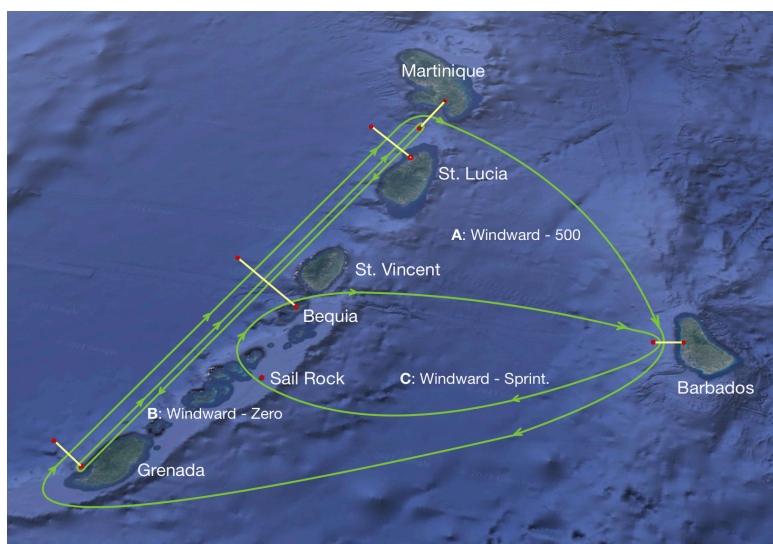
- 8.1. In CSA Monohull and Multihull classes, the minimum number of crew (including skipper) is three. In the Double-handed class, the number of crew shall be two.
- 8.2. Every crew member's attention is drawn to RRS 1.2, Life-Saving Equipment: "Each competitor is individually responsible for wearing personal buoyancy adequate for the conditions."
- 8.3. All crew shall wear a combined lifejacket/harness when: on deck between the hours of 1830 and 0530; when alone on deck; when reefed; when the true wind speed is 25 knots or above; or when the visibility is less than 1 nautical mile. See also OSR 5.02, Safety Harness and Tethers.
- 8.4. Every crew member must have experience of sailing a boat offshore and be prepared to encounter heavy weather. The experience requirement shall be completed by a minimum of 30% of the crew (but no fewer than two) including the Person in Charge, and within 18 months of the start of the race.
- 8.5. Crews should practice safety routines at reasonable intervals including the drill for man-overboard. See OSR Section 6 – Training, especially OSR 6.01.3 and 6.02.
- 8.6. At least one crew member shall have a valid first aid certificate completed within the last five years.

9. ADVERTISING

- 9.1. Boats may be required to display advertising chosen and supplied by the organizing authority.

10. COURSES

- 10.1. There are three courses. The courses shall be set in the Windward Islands between Barbados in the east, Grenada in the south, and Martinique in the north.



Course Name	Course Miles
Windward-500	≈ 500
Windward-Zero	≈ 360
Windward-Sprint	≈ 300

- 10.2. The course shall be sailed clockwise. Each course consists of a series of waypoints, islands, rocks, or exclusion zones and will be further defined in the sailing instructions.
- 10.3. The courses start and finish at the island of the boat's choosing – one of Barbados, Grenada, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Lucia, or Martinique.

- 10.4. The start/finish lines will be between a waypoint in the sea and a waypoint of a prominent point of land of the nearby island and will be further defined in the sailing instructions.
- 10.5. Each boat shall declare, before the start of the race, which course they intend to race, and which island will be their start/finish.
- 10.6. Boats will be required to record their GPS positions at the start, each course gate, and at their finish. Details will be provided in the sailing instructions.

11. PENALTY SYSTEM

- 11.1. RRS 44.2, One-Turn and Two-Turns Penalty, applies except RRS Appendix RV, Reduced Visibility, applies. When RV applies, RRS 44.3, Scoring Penalty, applies as modified in the sailing instructions.
- 11.2. A time-based penalty will be applied to boats that are OCS (On Course Side) at the start of the race. Details will be included in the sailing instructions.
- 11.3. The OA intends to appoint an international jury as provided in RRS 70.5. The right of appeal from a decision of a protest committee that is an international jury is denied as provided in rule 70.5.

12. SCORING

- 12.1. RRS Appendix A, Scoring, will apply, modified as follows.
- 12.2. One race is required to be completed to constitute a series.
- 12.3. For each course, a boat's finish place in her class will be based upon her corrected time (as determined by her class rules) regardless of her starting/finishing island. This changes RRS A3.
- 12.4. Across all courses, a boat's finish place in her class will be based upon her corrected time per mile (her corrected time divided by the length of her course) regardless of her starting/finishing island. This changes RRS A3.

13. RISK STATEMENT

- 13.1. RRS 3 states: 'The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue to race is hers alone.' By participating in this event each competitor agrees and acknowledges that sailing is a potentially dangerous activity with inherent risks. These risks include strong winds and rough seas, sudden changes in weather, failure of equipment, boat handling errors, poor seamanship by other boats, loss of balance on an unstable platform and fatigue resulting in increased risk of injury. Inherent in the sport of sailing is the risk of permanent, catastrophic injury or death by drowning, trauma, hypothermia or other causes.
- 13.2. By entering or participating in this event, each competitor agrees to release and hold harmless the organizing authority (including the race committee, protest committee, and technical committee), its sponsors, other organizing clubs and affiliated sailing associations from and for all claims and liabilities, including but not limited to claims for loss of life, personal injury or loss of or damage to any vessel or property.

14. INSURANCE

- 14.1. Boats shall be adequately and suitably insured before racing.

15. PRIZES

- 15.1. This event brings the wonders of the Windward Islands to a world eager to embrace exciting challenges. The OA may recognize competitors and partners who help promote sustainable initiatives highlighted by this event.
- 15.2. Prizes will be given to the top 3 placing boats in each class.
- 15.3. The OA may award additional prizes at its discretion.

16. FURTHER INFORMATION

- 16.1. For further information please contact <description>.

NOR Attachment 1, Race Entry Declaration

The following declaration shall be signed by every Person in Charge:

To the best of my knowledge the information I have given is accurate. I understand that yacht racing can be dangerous. I agree that the Organizing Authority, clubs, other sponsors and their agents, have no responsibility for loss of life or injury to members or others, or for the loss of, or damage to any vessel or property.

I agree to be bound by the RRS, this Notice of Race, World Sailing Offshore Special Regulations and other applicable rules.

I have paid particular attention to:

- RRS Fundamental Rule 3, which states: "The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone."
- OSR 1.02.1 which states in part: "The safety of a boat and her crew is the sole and inescapable responsibility of the Person in Charge who shall do his best to ensure that the boat is fully found, thoroughly seaworthy and manned by an experienced and appropriately trained crew who are physically fit to face bad weather."

Before racing I will ensure that my boat is adequately and suitably insured.

Before racing I will ensure that my crew is aware of:

- the undertaking in this Declaration
- the importance of effecting appropriate personal insurance
- their responsibility in rules observance, and in particular RRS 1.2 (wearing personal buoyancy adequate for the conditions).

The boat will be available for inspection. If any alteration likely to affect the handicap or rating is made, e.g. to sails, rig, mast, ballast, trim, engine or propeller, I will notify the Rating Authority and Race Committee immediately. I will ensure that no crew member races on my boat contrary to the terms of any ban imposed by World Sailing, or a National Authority or the OA.

I understand and agree that the information given in this race entry and also the race entry lists and results will be maintained on the Organizing Authority's computer to be used for all aspects of race organization.

INFORMATION TO COMPETITORS

(The below is not part of the Notice of Race. It is included for information only and do not rank as 'rules').

Thanks

The Organizing Authority has receives support from the Sailing Associations of the Windward Islands namely (in alphabetical order): The Barbados Sailing Association (BSA), Grenada Sailing Association (GSA), Martinique Sailing Association, Saint Lucia Sailing Association (SLA), St. Vincent and the Grenadines Sailing Association (VIN), Trinidad and Tobago Sailing Association (TTSA), and the Caribbean Sailing Association (CSA).

Technical guidance has been received from the RORC-Race Team, Storm TrySail Club and the Offshore Doubles International Association. Oceana has bolstered our environmental profile and offers the Sailors and the Sea program for us to associate with.

Barbados Yacht Club provides a meeting venue for the Caribbean Ocean Racing Club.

Sustainability and Environmental Guidance

The Organizing Authority wishes to acknowledge the holistic guidance on sustainability and environment matters that it continues to receive from Oceana and the OECS - CROP programs. Recognition extends to their supporting organizations which include; Global Environmental Facility (GEF), their 40 Donor Countries, and the World Bank.

Blue Economy Vision

The Organizing Authority acknowledges each Caribbean Country's Ministry or Department's vital work in Maritime Affairs and the Blue Economy. The sailing grounds and marinas where we race will surely benefit from their long-term planning and near-term projects.

Jurisdictional Authorities

The Organizing Authority intends to introduce the relevant Authorities in each Island Nation and inform them that the race is happening, the number of boats that will be competing and passing through their waters during the week of the Windward 500.

Notifications may also be shared with relevant Coast Guards, Regional Search & Rescue Centers in Trinidad and Martinique, and the RSS HQ and Air Wing in Barbados.

Before the start date the Organizing Authority will compile a list of all crew (Names, DOB, Passport Numbers etc.) on each boat, from each island and may send it to the relevant authority of the Jurisdiction. A master list of all boats and crew from all islands will be compiled and distributed to the relevant regional authorities if and as required.

Before the start, immigration information must be completed by each competitor as per Start/Finish Island Authorities, which may hold this information for the duration of the race. Competitors experiencing equipment breakdown, injury or illness and diverting course to arrive by boat to an Island other than their Start/Finish Island for assistance, are responsible for clearing Immigration and Customs upon arrival.