



ROYAL MALTA YACHT CLUB

Ta' Xbiex Seafront, Ta' Xbiex.

Date : January 2026

RACING CLASSES – 2026

IRC CATEGORY

Racing at the RMYC will use the IRC rating rule to calculate corrected times using a time on time basis. All boats participating in races organised by RMYC are required to have an IRC Rating, which can be obtained through the RMYC office who is Malta's local Rating Authority.

Boats are required to have a current and valid IRC rating certificate to be able to participate in a race or regatta. No alteration to a boat's rating certificate will normally be permitted within one week of the start of a race or series of races except as a result of a rating protest, to correct an error in a certificate or at the discretion of the racing committee, to include a genuine amendment which does not seek to gain unfair advantage contrary to the spirit of the IRC rule.

An IRC certificate, revalidation, or a renewal must be applied for, in writing, to the RMYC on info@rmyc.org. Applications should be sent to the RMYC on the Rating Office Forms in good time as these need to be forwarded to the IRC Rating Office at least 5 working days before they are needed for racing to avoid Expedited Processing Fees.

Boat owners requesting their first certificate for a boat, may contact the club Rating Officer for assistance with their application and measurement.

IRC Sub-Divisions

Three boats are required to constitute a class, unless otherwise specified by the Notice of Race of a particular event. For every event, the RMYC will accept entries in either the Racer Division or the Cruiser Division, subject to the number of entries, and subject to any provision within the Notice of Race which may limit the number of classes.

Each Division may be further split into sub-divisions or classes, generally on the basis of TCC according to the following bands:

Racer Class 1 - TCC 1.050 and greater
Racer Class 2 - TCC 1.049 and lower

These bands may be adjusted at the discretion of the Race committee, to be appropriate to the fleet entered in the event.

Boats in both divisions of this Category may display advertising as allowed by WS Regulation 20 – Advertising Code. Part D of the IRC rule does not apply.

IRC Racer Division

Boats in this division may race with any configuration permitted under and conforming with the IRC rule 2026 and must be rated accordingly.

Standard items of furniture such as doors and tables may only be removed from the boat if declared in the boat's rating application or revalidation applications.

IRC Cruiser Division

The IRC Cruiser Division is limited to cruising boats with an IRC rating that typically race as they cruise. Boats in this Division shall have a fully fitted interior without any standard items of furniture removed and shall be sailed with all normal cruising equipment on board, and in their normal cruising position, including batteries, warps, fenders, tools, galley equipment and at least 1 anchor with an adequate length of chain (in the bow locker).

A boat is considered to have a fully fitted interior if it has all of the following:

1. Cabins with berths and mattresses / cushions
2. Enclosed head
3. Galley with fridge and oven
4. Saloon with Sofa's and table adequately sized for dining

Boats in this division must have an IRC Hull Factor less than or equal to 8.5

Boats in the Cruiser Division shall race with a single roller furling headsail set on a functional furling system besides a Storm Jib and Heavy Weather Jib as defined in the Offshore Special Regulations. This limitation shall not apply to boats of classic design that may have hanked on head sails.

Boats in this Division may race with up to 3 downwind sails in line with their IRC rating. Downwind sails may be set on a pole or a bowsprit so that STL is not greater than 120% of their J measurement.

Furthermore, to be eligible for this division boats must have the characteristics described below and must have been maintained in their original configuration without modification to the hull, or appendages. In this Cruiser Division the use of Carbon in the hull, appendages, rig or sails is expressly prohibited. The boats shall conform to current standards for pleasure craft, have a fully fitted interior suitable for cruising of extended duration and be equipped with a number of cruising characteristics from the following as stated below:

- Furling headsail with sail installed or headsail on hanks
- furling mainsail
- complete teak decks
- propeller with fixed blades
- untapered mast
- anchor winch on deck
- anchor winch in dedicated pit with anchor and chain of adequate weight and at least three times LOA
- watermaker of suitable capacity
- Low-tech sails (dacron and other polyester fibres, nylon and other polyamide fibres, cotton and in any case fibres of low elastic modulus which are woven without lamination)
- Iron bulb deep or shallow (in case when the series also provided for a lead option)
- bow thruster in open tunnel
- single downwind Sail on board
- air conditioning
- water heater
- Lazyjacks in place
- Bimini
- Generator

At least **four** of these characteristics are required if they include low tech sails, otherwise at least **five** are required. In all cases the Furling headsail or headsail on hanks and, for boats whose hull length is greater than 11.40, the anchor winch as described above, are mandatory. The Organising Authority may modify this list for any event if stated in a Notice of Race.

IRC 2-Handed Division

A Two-Handed Class within IRC may be formed subject to any limitations of the Notice of Race and depending on entries. Boats will race under IRC and will be eligible for both Two-Handed and

IRC class trophies. Entries must satisfy the committee that they have suitable and adequate experience and that their boat is appropriately set up for Two-Handed sailing.

Compliance with IRC Rules

The RMYC as the Organizing Authority and the IRC Rule Authority for Malta, may require a boat to be submitted for measurement at any time without giving reasons according to IRC Rule 13.6.

RMYC Sportboat Class

The RMYC Sportboat Class is limited to keelboats whose hull length is not less than 6.0m and not greater than 10m. whose empty weight does not exceed 4000kg and whose DLR based on empty weight does not exceed 162. Boats in this class shall race with an IRC rating. Boats that are a one design class shall conform to class rules. Boats in this class are not required to carry an outboard motor.

One Design Classes

A separate class may be formed by a minimum of four boats from a one design class racing on a level rating, provided they form part of a class association and class rules are presented to the race committee by the association.

RMYC Club Rating Class

The Club Class is for unrated keelboats, which comply in all respects with the requirements of the IRC Cruisers Division. The restriction on the use of Carbon in Rig, Appendages, Hull or sails is not applicable.

Boats will be scored using a World Sailing Empirical Handicap system based standard configuration with a Single Furling Headsail Only besides OSR Heavy Weather Sails and downwind sails.

An additional rating credit will be applied to boats of 2% for no downwind sails and 3% for a fixed propeller and a penalty of 1% for Carbon equipment.

An additional performance factor may be applied to boats that have characteristics which are considered to be of a high performance nature as considered appropriate by the Race Committee.

RMYC Pursuit Class

The RMYC Pursuit Class is open to all type of Sailing boats. The Organizing Authority (OA) will assign a Performance handicap to a boat based on the World Sailing Empirical Handicap and IRC rated boats will race under IRC in one class.

Each boat will get a start time By the OA based on your rating

The race can be run either on a fixed duration or a fixed course. In the case of a fixed course the boat placing is simply the order over the finish line. In the case of a fixed duration race the finish will be at the specified time and position will be determined by position at the finish time. In case of disputes boats will be placed based on distance to the next mark

Miscellaneous

Boats in all classes are required to be carry all safety equipment necessary to comply with the Category of World Sailing's Offshore Special Regulations (OSR) as may be stipulated in the Notice of Race of each particular race / regatta. Boats will be inspected from time to time to make sure they comply with the event's relevant OSR category

Prizes

Unless otherwise stated in the Notice of Race, prizes shall be awarded as follows:

- 1) IRC Overall – 1st
- 2) IRC Racers – 1st, 2nd, 3rd. (per sub division)
- 3) IRC Cruisers – 1st, 2nd, 3rd
- 4) RMYC Club Cruiser – 1st, 2nd, 3rd

Classes prize eligibility

- 1) up to 4 Boats 1st prize.
- 2) up to 5 boats 1st and 2nd.
- 3) 6 boats and over 1st, 2nd and 3rd.

IRC Ratings 2026.

The RMYC is offering their **Full Members** special discounts of 50% on the cost of the Initial and annual revalidation certificates for their boat till 31st May 2026. Amendment certificate & Secondary certificate costs will be discounted by 30% of cost for 2026 for applications done before 1st October 2026

RMYC Racing Committee