CRUISER OWNERS ASSOCIATION

2026 Autumn Macau Rally

Co-Organized by the Cruiser Owners Association (COA) &
Clube Nautico de Macau (CNM)
Thursday 1st & Saturday 3rd October 2026
Preliminary Sailing Instructions (SI)

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1. Rules

1.1. COA 2026 Autumn Macau Rally (This Rally) will be governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing 2025-2028* (RRS)

1.2. The Prescriptions of the Hong Kong Sailing Federation (HKSF) will apply.

1.3. The Notice of Rally and the Sailing Instructions for This Rally, The RRS Appendix WP (Rules for Racing Around Waypoints); The HKSF PHS system including PHS PIPS; the IRC Rules parts A, B and C (except that IRC Rule 22.4 shall not apply. There will be no limitations on crew number or weight); the ISAF Offshore Special Regulations Category 4 Monohulls and Category 4 Multihulls will be applied.

1.4. Succeeding items listed in Sailing Instruction 1.3 will take precedence.

2. Notices to Competitior

2.1. Notices to Competitors for This Rally will be posted by emails and / or the Event WhatsApp Group that set up for This Rally. The group will be removed 1 month after the event.

* Each boat entering This Rally is required to provide a designated phone number which has WhatsApp installed for submission of Rally declarations and sending & receiving notices and messages in Macau.
* Information posted in this WhatsApp Group will be deemed to receive by all participating boats immediately upon posting, and failure to read such notices will not be grounds for protest.

3. Changes to the Sailing Instructions

3.1. Any changes to the Sailing Instructions or the schedule for Leg One from Hong Kong to Macau will be posted on the Event WhatsApp Group by 21:00:00 on the day before Leg One.

3.2. Any changes to the Sailing Instructions or the schedule for Leg Two from Macau to Hong Kong will be announced through the Event WhatsApp Group before boats leaving CNM Marina on the day of Leg Two.

3.3. All other changes will be made on the water in accordance with RRS Rule 90.2(c) by the Mother Boat by radio using **VHF channel 72**. Any announcements will be communicated to all boats affected before their starting times, and is deemed to have been received by boats and is not subject to protest.

4. Classes and Divisions

4.1. This Rally will be held in the following classes :

* **Sailsys PHS Class**
* **Family Class** – Boats with family(ies) members on board (husband and wife also count)

4.2. Boats entered This Rally in **Double Handed** are allowed to use auto-pilot / auto-helm device

4.3. Boats' PHS corrected time results will be scored as their scorings in the COA 2026 PHS.

5. Schedule of Rally

5.1. Detailed Schedule for This Rally will be before the Rally:

6. Committee Boat, Start Lines, Course Marks, Gates and Finish Lines

6.1. **There will be no committee boat in This Rally. A "Mother Boat" will be designated as communication station for the Rally and any announcements will be made on VHF Channel 72.**

6.2. Unless specifically specified, there will be no physical mark buoys in This Rally. Start line, course marks, gates and finish lines will be using virtual lines and GPS Waypoints with given GPS Longitude / Latitude and specified distance limits to charted landmarks or navigation buoys / lights. This changes RRS 28 and is not subject to protest.

6.3. Boats need to sail rounding / passing / crossing the lines / marks / gates specified in the Course List to complete the Rally course. Failing to fulfill such requirements will be scored DNF without a hearing and is not subject to protest.

6.4. The GPS Coordinates given in this Rally SIs are referring to GPS Datum WGS84. Participants please refer details in The RRS Appendix WP (Rules for Racing Around Waypoints)

7. Start Of This Rally

7.1. **Detailed information of Start Lines** for This Rally is given in document **"COA Macau Rally - Standard Course List & Time limits".**

7.2. **Boats are required to log onto eStela with the provided code for their boat via the phone App from leaving base moorings/berths to record the boat's track record on each Rally day until they reach the Marina in Macau in Leg One, and reach their home base in Leg Two.**

* Please follow the "eStela User Guide".

7.3. **There will be no individual recall for OCS boats**. Boats' time passing the start line in their eStela Track record will be used as their starting proof. This changes RRS 29 and is not subject to protest.

* Boats finding themselves OCS can go back to the start line to restart. The eStela Track Record will show the re-starting actions as proof.
* Boats found OCS from their eStela Track Record will be given a time penalty of 5% of their elapsed time in the Rally without a hearing. This changes RRS 30 and is not subject to protest.

7.4. **Boats approaching the start line, that are required to cross the East Lamma Channel, should do so as quickly as possible at right angles and avoid hindering any vessels using the East Lamma Channel.**

7.5. To qualify, any boat must start within 30 minutes of their allocated start time window.

7.6. **The Start for Leg One will be a *Pursuit Start***. Boats will be allotted with different start times according to their PHS rating and should start the Rally within 30 minutes from their allotted start times.

* Activate eStela Phone App to record the boat's Track record Before leaving your berth

7.7. **The Start for Leg Two will be using Free Style Start.**

* Having completed the departure immigration and port clearance in Macau, boats can leave the Marina after obtained Macau VTC permission and go to the start line directly.
* Activate eStela Phone App to record the boat's Track record BEFORE leaving the Macau Marina
* Please note that Macau Marine Regulations demanded that boats are not allowed to hoist sail before reaching the Macau Buoy M2 – Ensure that your engine is in good condition for motoring in & out Macau Channel.
* After arriving at M2 buoy, boats may motor or sail to the start line. Any boat using its engine shall ensure that the engine is stopped before crossing the start line from West to East.
* Your eStela Track record will record your time when your boat passing the start line.

8. Finish Of This Rally

8.1. **Detailed information of Finish Lines** for This Rally is given in document **"COA Macau Rally - Standard Course List & Time limits".**

8.2. After boats finished, boats are required to keep recording their eStela Tracking until they arrived Macau Marina in Leg One and returned to their home base in Leg Two. Please use USB charging source on the boat to supply power to the phones for the 42+nm distance.

9. Rally Courses

9.1. Detailed Rally Courses for both Leg One and Leg Two Rallies are provided in the **"COA Macau Rally - Standard Course List & Time Limits".**

Warning: If there is any "No Entering Zones" demanded by Mardep when approving the race permit, boats must not enter the "No Entering Zones" during the Rally Course.

* See Course List for details of the "No Entering Zones" if any.
* Mardep will monitor us in their radar system.
* Boats found entered any of the "No Entering Zones" in their "eStela" track record will be disqualified in the Rally.

10. Rally Cut-Off, Cut-Short Provisions And Time Limits

10.1. Detailed Rally Cut-Off and Cut-short Provisions and Time Limits for both Leg One and Leg Two Rallies are provided in the **"COA Macau Rallys - Standard Course List & Time Limits**".

10.2. If the **"Leading Boat"** fails to pass the gates / finish lines by the Cut-Off time specified, the Rally results will be calculated from the times taken at the previous **Gate**.

10.3. If the **"Leading Boat"** fails to pass the **Gate 1** by the Cut-Off time specified, the Rally will be cut short at Gate 1. Boats sailed pass Gate 1 before the Gate 1 time limit will score a result.

* *The leading boat should inform other boats via VHF Channel 72 to report the GPS time that she passed each gate / finish line, and get acknowledge from the mother boat or any boats in the fleet.*
* *A boat's time (in "eStela" Record) of arrival at the defined cut short Longitude will be used as the finish time of a boat in the Rally.*

11. Retirals

11.1. Each boat shall as far as practicable to advise that it has retired by **calling the Mother Boat on VHF Channel 72** and obtaining an acknowledgement or by **leaving** a message **to the Event WhatsApp Group**

12. Motoring Class

12.1. There is no motoring class in the Rally. Boats selected to use engine apart from emergency situation, will score DNF.

13. Rally Declarations

13.1. All boats must lodge their Rally declaration by uploading ALL of their eStela Track Records to the eStela System by the end of Rally Day when they have phone data service.

13.2. Boats failed to upload their eStela Track records by the end of the Rally Day may score DNF in the Rally.

14. Protests and Requests for Redress

14.1. COA always promotes fun and leisure sailing events with or without competition. Any event should be regarded as gentlemen sport and protest is not encouraged unless there are collisions and damages.

14.2. In case of necessary, Protest Form will be available upon request. Protest hearings will be held as soon as possible in Hong Kong at a time to be arranged by the Protest Committee.

14.3. Protests and requests for redress shall be lodged with the COA office or the Rally Committee or its representative (and accompanied with HK$500 which will be refunded in the event of a valid Protest), before the protest time limits, which are as follows:

Leg One from Hong Kong to Macau: When Macau Immigration Office closed on the day of the Rally.
Leg Two from Macau to Hong Kong: 12:00:00 on the first working day after the Rally.

15. Scoring, Results and Prizes

15.1. The Low Point System of RRS Appendix A will apply.

15.2. **Results for both Leg One and Leg Two Rallies will be established using boats' PHS corrected time**.

* Boats' PHS corrected time results will be dual scored as their scorings in the COA 2026 Championship Series

15.3. **Prizes will be awarded in each Leg of the Rally to:**

* The first 3 boats with the lowest corrected times in each Class.
* The boat with the lowest corrected time in the Fleet Overall PHS Results and sailed the same course with the same finish line.

15.4. **A prize will be awarded for combined scores for Leg One and Leg Two in the Rally to:**

* The boat with the lowest combined scores in each Class.
* The boat with the lowest combined scores in fleet overall PHS results

15.5. **Other prizes may be awarded by the discretion of the Rally Committee.**

16. Tropical Cyclone Warning Signals & Low Visibility

16.1. The Rally Committee will not start a Rally if tropical cyclone warning signal number 3 or higher has been issued or is likely to be issued.

16.2. Also, to further enhance the event safety, the racing event shall be terminated or closed when: the visibility is less than 1 nautical mile or typhoon warning signal no.3 or above is issued.

17. Advertising

17.1. Advertising shall be in accordance with ISAF Regulation 20 (Advertising Code) and with the rules established by the HKSF for advertising on boats racing in events in Hong Kong.

17.2. Boats shall be required to display event advertising chosen and supplied by the organizing authority in accordance with ISAF regulation 20.4.

18. Rubbish Disposal

18.1. Boats / crews shall not dispose rubbish and anything unwanted in the water.

19. Self-Steering and Powered Devices

19.1. The use of electronic, mechanical and wind-vane devices for steering are prohibited for normal entries

19.2. The use of electronic, mechanical and wind-vane devices for steering are allowed for double handed entries.

20. Radio Communications

20.1. Boats are required to monitor **VHF Channel 72 and Channel 63** during the Rally.

20.2. Except in an emergency, a boat shall neither make radio transmissions while racing nor receive radio communications that are not available to all boats. This restriction also applies to mobile telephones, PDAs and computers.

20.3. A boat shall sign on to the Rally Leg by calling the Mother Boat, on VHF Channel 72, at least 10 minutes before its scheduled start time window and obtaining an acknowledgement.

20.4. Boats entering Macau after finished Leg One **MUST call "Macau VTS** (中文:澳門交管)" **on VHF Channel 10** to ask for permission, and obtain approval, to entering Macau before passing the Macau outer bridge.

20.5. Boats entering Clube Nautico Macau Marina SHALL announce themselves on Ch72 to receiving mooring instructions.

20.6. After docking in Clube Nautico de Macau for Leg One, *boats shall maintain a listening watch on Channel 72 for announcements until their boat has been cleared by Immigration Department in Macau. Failure to monitor the VHF message may cause you to miss your place and be put to the end of the immigration queue.*

20.7. Boats leaving Clube Nautico de Macau Marina for Leg Two **MUST call "Macau VTS** (中文:澳門交管)" **on VHF Ch 10** to ask for permission, and obtain approval, to leaving Macau before passing the Macau outer bridge.

21. Disclaimer of Liability

21.1. Competitors participate in this event entirely at their own risk. See RRS Rule 4, Decision to Race. The organizing authority will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after the Rally.

22. Insurance

22.1. All boats shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of HKD$5,000,000 or equivalent.

22.2. All entrants are reminded that their insurance coverage must include racing risks in all waters traversed during the Rally (i.e., covering the distance to Macau Waters, > 50 nm). The Rally Committee will inspect each boat's insurance certificate.

22.3. If a Boat's insurance policy does not cover Macau waters, the boat shall be insured with an additional Compulsory 3rd party liability insurance with a minimum cover of MOP$1,000,000 with a Macau Insurance Company for entering Macau Waters which is in forced by Autoridade Monetaria De Macau.

* COA will help participants to arrange such insurance. Owners should inform their insurers of the existence of this policy and request guidance on their insurer's sub-rogation claims procedures if necessary.

23. Safety Guidelines & Regulations

23.1. Boats are required to follow the requirements of: International Regulations for the Prevention of Collisions at Sea (IRPCS) Fundamental Rules in Part 1 of the RRS Keep clear of the Traffic Separation Schemes unless crossing them at right angles.

23.2. As boats will start the Rally in staggered time within the start time window, the Rule that requires boats shall not race with an anchor or equipment of a similar nature positioned or projecting outside the sheer-line of the boat is eliminated.

23.3. A boat will use motor if necessary in order to keep clear of hazards when required. This must be declared but will not result in disqualification. A time penalty might be applied if an advantage is gained but this will be at the discretion of the Rally Committee.

23.4. Boats entering or leaving Macau SHOULD NOT SET SAILS and must motoring in / out via the Inner Harbour Access Channel, which extends to Buoy No "M2", and must not impede the passage of any high-speed ferry or any other commercial traffic.

23.5. Warning: The Macau access channel is shallow & narrow and is subject to strong tidal streams, boats must ensure to have depth sounder, sufficient engine power and fuel to negotiate the channel safely.

24. Right to Use Name and Likeness

24.1. 24.1 By participating in this event, competitors automatically grant to the organizing authority and the event sponsors the right, in perpetuity, to make, use, and show, at their discretion, any photography, audio and video recordings, and other reproductions of them made, without compensation.

25. Contact Details

Clube Nautico de Macao	**VHF Channel 72**	**(853) 2822 1476 / 6326 8179**
Rally Mother Boat: O'Sea	**VHF Channel 72**	**(852) 9305 6803**
Macau VTS (中文:澳門交管)	**VHF Channel 10**	
Macau Marine Department Duty Officer	**Telephone:**	**(853) 2872 6766**
HK Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre	**Telephone:**	**(852) 2233 7999**
Vessel Traffic Centre of Marine Department	**Telephone:**	**(852) 2233 7801**
COA Administration Department	**Mobile:**	**(852) 5596 6982**

End of Sailing Instructions