



2026 DIAMOND COAST RACE

NOTICE OF RACE

1. Preamble

- 1.1. Port Owen Yacht Club takes pleasure in announcing the staging of the second edition of the Diamond Coast yacht race between Port Owen and Lüderitz, Namibia starting on 21st March 2026, in accordance with the rules below.
- 1.2. Lüderitz is situated approximately 400 nautical miles North of Port Owen, and this route offers an exciting and accessible introduction to blue-water sailing with the bonus of a very interesting foreign destination.
- 1.3. All enquiries should be addressed to the:
Race Secretary, Port Owen Yacht Club:
Email: sail@diamondcoastrace.co.za
Telephone: + 27 (0) 83 393 393

2. Organizing Authority

- 2.1. The Organizing Authority is the Port Owen Yacht Club (POYC). The race will be under the management of the race committee, as appointed by the race organizing committee.
- 2.2. The race notice board, bearing the name of the race, shall be located at the Port Owen Yacht Club prior to the start and at the Lüderitz Yacht Club after the start.

3. Course and Date

- 3.1. The race will start in St Helena Bay, South Africa, and finish off Lüderitz, Namibia
- 3.2. The race is scheduled to start on Saturday 21st March 2026 at 12h00 South African time. Final details regarding the start or starts will be furnished no later than the 14th of March 2026.

4. Time Limit

There is no time limit.

5. Eligibility

- 5.1. The race will be open to Monohull and Multihull yachts with a valid ORC Rating Certificate (ORC Club, ORC MH or ORC International).
- 5.2. Depending on the number of entries, the fleets may be subdivided into different classes at the race organizers discretion.

6. Rules

- 6.1. The race will be governed by the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS), the 2026 ORC Rating Systems and the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, including the Special Regulations in Schedule 1 which forms part of the Notice of Race.



- 6.2. The provisions of the Merchant Shipping (National Small Vessel Safety) Regulations of 2007, together with Marine Notice Number 13 of 2011, shall apply. This is classified as a Category A event.
- 6.3. Part 2 of the RRS (When Yachts Meet) shall only apply until three hours after the start, after which right of way shall be determined by the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea.
- 6.4. The minimum crew shall be two aboard.
- 6.5. Yachts are permitted to use self-steering devices and automatic pilots. This changes RRS 52.
- 6.6. All participating yachts are required to comply with all local legal requirements regarding “going foreign”.
- 6.7. Regarding weather forecasting or routing information, outside help shall be permitted in the form of information freely available to all yachts, even if that information is only accessible at a cost, provided that such “at cost” help shall not include private forecasts or tactical advice, or information customized for any yacht. This changes RRS 41(c).
- 6.8. A yacht may be required to carry a tracking device supplied by the race committee.
- 6.9. The term “skipper” as used in this notice of race and other race documents, means the person in charge under RRS 46.
- 6.10. Yachts shall be no less than 9 meters in length and should be considered fit for purpose. The final decision shall be vested with the race committee.

7. Rating Certificates and Handicaps

- 7.1. Yachts racing shall have valid current ORC Rating Certificates (ORC Club or ORC MH or ORC International).
- 7.2. The corrected time will be the elapsed time multiplied by the relevant yacht’s ORC time-on-time correction factor for ORC weather routing system issued by ORC on the day of the start.
- 7.3. Valid ORC Certificates must be lodged with the race secretary no later than 17:00 on Friday, 06 March 2026, after which no changes may be made to a yacht’s rating certificate. The race committee reserves the right to extend the above time limit in exceptional circumstances.
- 7.4. A list of ratings for each yacht in the fleet will be published on the race notice board no later than 17h00 on the 14th of March 2026.
- 7.5. The race committee reserves the right to correct, up until the prize giving, measurement and calculation restraints relating to any yacht’s rating certificate,

8. Infractions

If a yacht infringes any of the provisions of this notice of race or of the sailing instructions,



or of any of the rules and regulations referred to in this notice, the penalty may at the discretion of the protest committee be less than disqualification.

9. Safety Requirements and Scrutineering

- 9.1. The skipper of each South African entry must satisfy the race committee by no later than 17h00 on Friday, 6th March 2026 that he or she holds a SAS Yachtmaster: Offshore Skippers Certificate (the minimum legal requirement). The Race Committee office will advise the requirement for foreign entries.
- 9.2. Each yacht must by 17:00 on Friday, 6th March 2026, have sailed a total of at least 500 nautical miles since launching and the onus shall be on the owner to satisfy the race committee thereof.
- 9.3. All yachts shall be scrutinized by the race committee to ensure compliance with the requirements of Schedule 1. A yacht which has not passed scrutiny by 17:00 on Friday 6th March 2026 may not start the race, and the onus shall be on the skipper to ensure that his yacht is scrutinized timeously.
- 9.4. If a yacht does not comply with these regulations its entry may be rejected, or it may be liable to disqualification, or such other penalty as may be prescribed by the protest committee.
- 9.5. Notwithstanding anything in this notice of race, the safety of a yacht and its crew shall, at all times, remain the sole responsibility of her skipper, who must satisfy himself/herself that the yacht is fully sound, thoroughly seaworthy and manned by an experienced crew who are capable of handling the yacht in bad weather. The skipper must ensure that all safety equipment has a current certificate, is properly maintained and stowed and that all crew know where it is kept and how it is to be used. It is the sole and exclusive responsibility of each yacht to decide whether to start or to continue with the race. All those taking part in the race, do so at their own risk.
- 9.6. The crew list, on the prescribed form provided, together with a copy of each crew member's passport, shall be submitted to the race secretary by no later than 17:00 on Friday, 6th March 2026. Contingency corrections to this crew list, complying with the copy of passport requirements, may be made up to 48 hours before the start of the race.

10. Skippers Briefing

There shall be a Compulsory Skippers/Safety Briefing which will be compulsory for the Skipper and Navigator to attend. This will take place on Saturday, 14th March 2026 at 16h30 at Port Owen Yacht Club.

11. Entries

- 11.1. An entry, on the prescribed entry form, must be submitted, together with proof of payment of the entry fee, to the race secretary by no later than 17:00 on Saturday 21st February 2026.
- 11.2. The entry fee shall be R 5 500.00 (Five Thousand, Five Hundred Rand Only) per yacht plus R 650.00 (Six Hundred and Fifty Rand only) per crew member.



- 11.3. The entry fee is not refundable
- 11.4. Payment of entry fees shall be made directly into the following bank account:

Port Owen Yacht Club,
Standard Bank,
Account number 083 352 589
Beneficiary Reference: DCR 26 + Yacht Name.

12. Advertising and Reference to the Race

- 12.1. The organizing authority may require yachts to display race advertising in compliance with World Sailing Regulation 20 at times specified in the sailing instructions.
- 12.2. Details of race advertising, size and placement will be furnished in the sailing instructions.
- 12.3. The name of any yacht, whether displaying advertising or not, must be acceptable to the race committee. No entry will be accepted from a yacht displaying advertising or having a name which conflicts with any interests of the race sponsor or any sub-sponsor of the race.
- 12.4. The owner and skipper of all yachts participating in the race shall ensure that nothing is done by them or any of their crew or promoters or agents which will, or is reasonably likely to, injure, bring into disrepute, ridicule or lessen the public reputation, goodwill or favorable image of the race, the organizers and the race sponsors.
- 12.5. Participants in the race shall supply the organizers with a copy of all press releases and all promotional material issued by or on behalf of themselves or their sponsors relating to the race.
- 12.6. The owner and skipper of all yachts shall ensure that no “ambush marketing” or “hijack signage” is carried out by, or on behalf of, themselves or their sponsors with reference to the race and that nothing else is done which might undermine the race, the rights of the race sponsor or any other sponsor or participator in the race.
- 12.7. The organizers and sponsors shall be entitled to make use of any photograph, film or other form of electronic reproduction of or relating to all yachts participating in the race, their owners and crew and to make use of all interviews, broadcasts and reports by any of them for any purpose relating to or arising from the race or the sponsorship thereof.

13. Sailing instructions

Sailing instructions will be issued to all entrants no later than 7 days before the start.

14. Prize Giving

- 14.1. The prize giving is scheduled to take place on Saturday, 11th April 2026 at 15h00 at Port Owen Yacht Club.
- 14.2. The “Diamond Coast Race Trophy” will be awarded to the overall winner on handicap.

