



Safe Harbor Race Weekend
August 11 – 13, 2023 Newport, Rhode Island

Notice of Race
Exhibit 3
**RRS Afterguard Member
COMPLIANCE AND INFORMATION FORM**

(submit no later than July 25, 2023)

DESIGNATED RRS AFTERGUARD MEMBER COMPLIANCE

The Safe Harbor Race Weekend requirement for a designated 'RRS Afterguard Member' can be found in Part 2 of the Notice of Race, Section 13.

BACKGROUND:

It became apparent at superyacht regattas that some designated 'Safety Officers' did not meet the criteria for that crew position; specifically, in many cases, being active with The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS). Additionally, it was revealed that in some instances no member of the afterguard had an adequate level of experience and expertise with the RRS, leading to unexpected encounters and undesired outcomes on the racecourse.

Hence, the SYRA and superyacht regatta organizers took two important steps:

First, it is **required** that the captain ensure that at least one afterguard member is active with the *Racing Rules of Sailing* (RRS) and has a thorough understanding of the RRS and the Appendix SY.

NOR 13.3 The RRS Afterguard Member may be the yacht's helmsman, navigator, racing tactician or communications crew member (who monitors the VHF safety channel) if they meet the stated criteria. This individual's role is to interact closely with the other members of the afterguard. Captains should not be the designated RRS Afterguard Member due to the specific RRS related criteria that this position requires and the fact that the overall safety of the yacht is their responsibility.

Secondly, the individual monitoring the VHF Safety Channel is designated the 'Communications Officer' as opposed to the 'Safety Officer'. The previous terminology 'Safety Officer' was misleading because the captain is the individual who has the ultimate responsibility for the safe operation of the yacht at all times. It is now **required** that each yacht have a Communications Officer. It is **recommended** that the Communications Officer, in addition to having experience with radio protocol, also have experience with and an understanding of the RRS.

As such, each yacht must submit the name of their designated 'RRS Afterguard Member' and Communications Officer, using the appropriate form (fillable PDF form available on SHRW Yacht Scoring page). In addition to answering the questions in Exhibit 2, the designated 'RRS Afterguard Member' is encouraged to include a sailing resume or list of relevant racing credentials and experience. The Organizing Authority will review all forms (due no later than July 25, 2023) and communicate any concerns or issues to the captain.

If the designated RRS Afterguard Member submitted a form at a previous regatta and the name is listed on the SYRA website superyra.org/after-guard, then the yacht is not required to resubmit the form.

CREDENTIALS and EXPERIENCE:

The fundamental credentials and experience that the designated RRS Afterguard Members are required and recommended to possess:

Required:

- Currently active and fully conversant with The Racing Rules of Sailing (routinely racing as an afterguard member – in either large yachts or smaller boats). "Currently active" is a key component here;
- A thorough understanding of racing tactics, preferably active in the role of tactician;
- A thorough understanding of the RRS Appendix SY;
- Experience with VHF radio protocol and an understanding of the important role that active, professional dialogue on the dedicated VHF Safety Channel plays in superyacht racing;
- A thorough understanding of the regatta's racing documents (rules) including the Notice of Race, Sailing Instructions, Amendments and Exhibits;
- Conversant in English.

Strongly Recommended:

- Experience racing large yachts as a member of the afterguard (helmsman, racing tactician, navigator);
- Experience with the RRS Appendix SY (as a superyacht afterguard member);
- Experience with and knowledge of the maneuvering characteristics and limitations of his or her superyacht, as well as those of other competitors.

(RRS Afterguard Member Compliance Form)

Please refer to the Notice of Race (Part 2 Section 13) for details on the RRS Afterguard Member. Note that this form is not required if your RRS Afterguard member previously submitted a form and it is posted on the SYRA website superyra.org/after-guard. Answer all questions and provide additional relevant information if required via email (ybrown@shmarinas.com). A sailing resume is encouraged. This form will be reviewed by the Organizing Authority (OA) and retained by the OA and the Superyacht Racing Association (SYRA).