

Around Australia Ocean Race and Rally

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers.

#	Race or Rally	Question	Answer
1	Race	Please explain the recent changes in the Race plan concerning Hobart as a stop-over port. What is Division 0?	This question concerns the legs Adelaide to Melbourne and Adelaide to Hobart to Melbourne. A proportion of the Race fleet owners have expressed that they do not wish to navigate the west and south coast of Tasmania to reach Hobart during July (the time boats starting from Bunbury, Esperance, and Adelaide, will be in the region). These owners will have the option of taking the Adelaide to Melbourne leg keeping King Island to port. Other owners with boats and crews more suited to handling very severe conditions such as may be met on an Adelaide to Hobart leg do wish to pit-stop in Hobart. A race fleet Division 0 has been established to allow these boats and crews to sail Adelaide to Hobart to Melbourne arriving in Melbourne in time to join the balance of the fleet in the Melbourne to Sydney Yacht Race. Division 0 boats are approaching Category 0 rating with exemptions.
2	Race	Are there any restrictions on crew changes at stop-over ports?	No restrictions. A fee of AU\$ 250 per race crew change will apply. (see question 29) All adult crew members must complete a YA approved Safety Sea Survival Course or hold a current YA SSSC Certificate (or approved equivalent).
3	Race	Are you getting interest and allowing older boats in the Race?	Yes. The benchmark we are adopting with respect to eligibility of older boats is the same as is applied to enter the Sydney-Hobart Race.
4	Race	What period of time are you looking at for the Race stop-overs?	This will vary with a minimum stop-over time of 48 hours for the smaller boats in the Race fleet. Some stop-over ports are several days. Our Draft Race Event Timeline diagram does indicate minimum stop-over durations for each port.
5	Race & Rally	Are the start dates for each port locked in?	The Draft Race Timeline diagram available on the event web site indicates start dates for each Race Start/Finish Port. For the Rally there is a Draft Around Australia Ocean Rally Timeline Masterplan incorporating a number of Rally Rendezvous Ports with Rally arrival/departure dates from each Rally Rendezvous Port. (Please go to Questions 32 and 34 for more information). Rally Sector Plans are in production and will be posted on the event web site during 2010.

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6	Race	What happens to race boats that are struggling to make the start dates for the next leg?	We have calculated the passage time of each Race event leg based on making good around 130 nm per day. At a point in time when we have the fully committed Race entrant list we will be in a position to analyse the fleet and determine if some boats should, where practical, leave earlier to ensure adequate time to reach stop-over ports.
7	Race	Will it be a point scoring event?	Yes. The Race event provides a number of competition opportunities across legs and overall. Line Honours, Handicap systems, Lowest Points Scoring. More on this later.
8	Race & Rally	Will you be advising overseas competitors on Australian immigration and customs rules and regulations?	Yes. We are working with the relevant authorities in Australia to facilitate long-term stay-overs for boats, customs, immigration and quarantine requirements, and long stay crew multiple-entry visas and will be sending out information bulletins on this subject over the coming months. Overseas competitors are invited to contact us at admin@sailaroundaustralia.com.au to obtain more information.
9	Rally	We understand the Race event will incorporate a minimum of around 55 days in port. Will the Rally be 55 days in port also?	The Race incorporates thirteen stop-over ports and a minimum of 55 days total spent in port. The Around Australia Ocean Rally – Rally Sector Cruise Plan - incorporates several ‘Rally Rendezvous Ports’ at key locations around the Australia coastline and suggested anchorages around the Australian coastline. The Rally spans over 12 – 13 months. The Rally will incorporate some existing Rally events. ‘Rally Rendezvous Port’ stop-over times will be calculated to allow adequate time for yachts to reach each port before the fleet heads towards the next Rally Rendezvous Port stopping over in bays and inlets and small ports en route. (Please go to Question 32 for more information).
10	Rally	We can’t take off 12 months+ to complete the Rally. Can we join Sectors of our choice and participate for a shorter period.	In principle yes. However preference will be given to Rally participants that intend to complete the circumnavigation. We have set a maximum Rally fleet of 150 yachts and expect we will be oversubscribed. Safety regulations requiring that all crew members must have a current Yachting Australia Safety Sea Survival Course Certificate will apply regardless of the period of time that a yacht joins the Rally.
11	Rally	The San Francisco to Hawaii Rally lets smaller boats go first. Is this something that will be contemplated?	Yes. More on this as the make-up of the Rally fleet becomes firmly established.

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12	Rally	For the Rally event organiser support and land support is crucial. Will the event provide such support?	Yes. This is very much part of our Rally Sector, Rally Sector Captain, and individual Rally Sector Cruise Plan event format that is being prepared and will be issued to participants. Many yacht clubs around the coastline of Australia will be involved and in many cases offer to incorporate their existing rally programs and be involved in providing hosting and logistics support.
13	Rally	What would be the ideal size boat for the Rally?	This is an important question for which there is no quick answer. How large or how small (the minimum overall length allowed is 30 feet). Monohull or Multihull? Crew numbers, and experience of the boat crew, degree of comfort, safety provisions, are all important considerations. In general terms the smaller the yacht the lesser the crew and therefore the more critical yacht suitability and crew experience becomes. In all cases each yacht must meet the requirements of Yachting Australia Special Regulations for Category 1 events and resistance to capsize requirements. Yachting Australia Racing Rules of Sailing 2009 – 2012 which incorporates recommended regulations for Cruising Boats is essential reading.
14	Rally & Race	Is the Rally event open to Superyachts?	Yes. We are encouraging Superyachts from around the world to participate in the Race and the Rally. There are many excellent Superyacht service facilities around the Australia coastline.
15	Rally & Rally	Will the Race and Rally organisers be providing information on marina and shore accommodation, repair and service facilities, victualling, fuel supplies, vehicle hire, containers, and all the local and logistics knowledge we will need in each and every stop-over port?	<p>Yes. A comprehensive Race Guide and Rally Sector Guide information pack will be issued to every participant providing data on all these subjects and more.</p> <p>Commercial operators and yacht clubs in every stop-over port around the Australian coastline will be participating in the provision of marina berthing, support logistics, and hospitality services.</p> <p>We are in discussions with an international hotel chain with many hotels around Australia interested to provide a special reduced room rate price for our Race and Rally participants.</p> <p>Discussions are underway with pre-order food, beverage, and equipment services providers.</p>
16	Rally	Will the Rally fleet be in Broome for the Broome Cup?	The Broome Cup (one of the most famous outback horse races in Australia) is run in August each year. The Rally fleet will be in the area at this time however this is peak tourist time in Broome and on-shore accommodation if required will need to be booked well in advance.

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17	Rally	What period of time is the Rally planned to take?	Please refer to our Rally Event Draft Timeline Masterplan Diagram downloadable from the even web site www.sailaroundaustralia.com.au . The Rally is planned to span 12 – 13 months. Participants can take in all or part in this the inaugural event and another part in the next running in 2013/14 if they wish.
18	Race & Rally	How frequently will the Race and Rally be run?	The intention is that 2013/14 will see a repeat of both the Race and Rally event with both events occurring at two-three yearly intervals thereafter. The frequency of the staging of both the Race and Rally event will be dictated by competitor demand.
19	Race	To compete in the Melbourne to Sydney Race is it necessary for boats from Queensland to come down to Melbourne?	No. The Melbourne to Sydney Race will be held twice during the course of the Race event. The first running will be when the Bunbury+Esperance +Adelaide +Hobart+ Melbourne boats leave Melbourne and head for Sydney. The fastest and handicap times then set become the benchmark times for the second running which is when the Sydney, Gold Coast, Brisbane, Hamilton Island boats reach Melbourne and race from Melbourne to Sydney. The latter group will know the times they will need to beat! The overall winner of the Melbourne-Sydney Race will not be determined until the second running is completed. See the Draft Race Timeline Diagram for more information.
20	Race & Rally	With a total of 300 yachts anticipated for the Race and Rally, has there been any thought given to discounted purchases of all of the charts required for the circumnavigation?	<p>Yes indeed. The requirement for a wide range of services across both the Race and Rally event will be very significant and we will be working to maximise the best deal for items from A-Z for all participants.</p> <p>We are working on providing relevant Race Leg and Rally Sector paper navigation charts to each participant for each Race Leg and Rally Sector.</p> <p>At the end of each Race Leg and Rally Sector the charts are the swapped for the next Race leg or Rally Sector. This will allow each yacht to carry the charts they immediately need only. More on this later.</p>

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21	Rally	<p>What are the safety requirements for the Rally? What is a safety audit?</p>	<p>Yachting Australia Special Regulations Part 1 for Racing Boats and recommended for Cruising Boats including Monohulls and Multihulls based on ISAF Special Regulations governing – structural features, boat equipment, personal equipment, crew qualifications, and yacht stability (Section 2 2.01.2 Category 1) will apply. In addition to these regulations all adult crew participating in the Race and the Rally must have a Yachting Australia Safety and Sea Survival Course Certificate (or approved equivalent) current for the duration of the Race or the Rally. This applies to all crew that may join the Race and Rally for legs of the Race or Sectors of the Rally. The event organisers may require in some instances mature aged and senior aged crew members to have a SSSC certificate no older than 6 months from date of issue. (Please see Question 22 for more information).</p> <p>Carrying of position location beacons, satellite telephones, VHF/DSC and GMDSS and radio equipment, adequate tools and spare parts, forms part of the Race and Rally safety provisions.</p> <p>Every yacht that intends to enter the Rally must have all Category 1 safety provisions checked by a Yachting Australia accredited Equipment Auditor/Inspector and the yacht owner and the inspector must each complete a 2009-2013 YA Special Regulations Equipment Audit Form – Category 1 with declarations made by both the yacht owner and the Equipment Auditor/Inspector. Safety provisions must be strictly adhered to. Any yacht not maintaining these safety requirements during the Rally will be asked to withdraw from the Rally without any recompense by the Rally organisers. (Please see Question 38 for more information).</p>
22	Rally	<p>Why are the Rally safety requirements Category 1? Why do all crew members need to have a current YA SSSC certificate?</p>	<p>In planning a Rally around Australia the event organisers must consider that whilst Rally boats will avoid passage making in adverse weather conditions the reality is that at some time any yacht can get caught in un-forecast severe storm conditions close to the coast. Coastal passage making is potentially more hazardous than long distance blue sea passage making. The equipment requirements of Category 1 when studied will be seen to be largely common-sense provisions that any prudent yacht owner that is intending offshore coastal passage making would be wise to comply with. All crew members completing an approved Yachting Australia Safety and Sea Survival Course (or approved equivalent) is prudent safety precaution and in the best interests of all boat owners, person in charge, and individual crew members. (Please see Question 37 for more information)</p>

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23	Race	The Western Australia Race boats will start first from the Port of Bunbury in late June 2011. How do allow for different weather conditions that part of the Race fleet may experience?	The total Race fleet will be together for 70% of the circumnavigation. The total Race extends over 7300 nm. The time at sea for the smaller Race boats is estimated to be +/- 58 days. The Race leg from Bunbury to Esperance for example is 480nm with a time allowance of 4 days. From Esperance to Adelaide, across the Great Australia Bight is 850 nm with a time allowance of 6 days. 10 days out of 58 days is 17% of the Race duration. The Bunbury and Esperance participants will be the only participants in the Race that will Race from Bunbury to Adelaide at a different time period (July) to the balance of the Race fleet (October). Bureau of Meteorology Monthly averages for Esperance indicate July has predominantly West, North-West winds, mean 9am wind speed 15 (Km/Hr). For October the winds in Esperance are predominantly South-West, West, mean 9am wind speed 15 (Km/Hr). Temperatures – July mean maximum in Esperance is 16.7C and in October 20.4C. The event scoring system makes no allowances for a proportion of the Race fleet sailing some legs of the Race in different time periods. If this is of particular concern to a participant that participant can choose which start/finish port he or she feels is most advantaged weather wise.
24	Rally	Will the Rally fleet go around Tasmania?	The Rally Sector that incorporates Tasmania is Rally Sector 3 which is in time zone February – March. This time period coincides with the Van Diemens Land Circumnavigation Rally (800nm over 5 weeks) conducted by the Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania during the months of February and March..
25	Race & Rally	Will there be marina accommodation in all Race Stop-Over Ports and Rally Rendezvous Ports?	<p>No. In Darwin for example both the Race and Rally fleet will anchor in Fannie Bay directly in front of the Darwin Sailing Club.</p> <p>In Broome the Race and Rally Fleet will anchor in Gantheaume Point and Roebuck Bay.</p> <p>Both Darwin and Broome experience severe tide variations (in Broome up to 11 metres) which bring with it some challenging logistics issues. Deep draft Race boats will need special consideration. Discussions are underway with the relevant port authorities, and private marine organisations, in both locations and solutions are being worked through.</p> <p>Geraldton, Bunbury, Esperance, are WA ports providing limited marina accommodation but adequate deep water moorings and anchorage close to shore.</p>

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26	Race & Rally	How many participants will there be in the Race and the Rally? When will entry fees need to be paid?	<p>The limit set for the Race is 150 yachts made up from Australian and overseas entrants. The limit set for the Rally is 150 yachts made up from Australian and overseas entrants. The first call on RALLY entry fees (50%) will be 01 October 2010. The balance of RALLY entry fees (50%) will be payable 01 December 2010. The first call on RACE entry fees (50%) will be 01 December 2010. The balance of RACE entry fees (50%) will be payable 01 April 2011.</p>
27	Rally	Will the 150 yachts in the Rally travel together?	<p>No. The Rally fleet will gather as yachts join the Rally as it passes their home port or designated Rally Rendezvous Port. The Rally fleet will be substantially together when the Rally fleet leaves north Queensland and heads across to Darwin. Where practical the Rally fleet will be divided into groups of around 30 yachts with each group being a number of days apart. Provision will be made for yachts to interchange with other groups.</p>
28	Race & Rally	Will there be Race and Rally information seminars held in ports around Australia?	<p>Yes. Representatives of the Race and Rally management team will hold Race and Rally information seminars in ports around Australia and in New Zealand starting in June 2010.</p>
29	Race & Rally	What are the Race and Rally entry fees?	<p>For both the Race and the Rally the following entry fees apply (subject to change): Take the overall length of your yacht and multiply by AU\$100 per metre length. For each and every crew member, including crew added or changed during the Race or the Rally apply AU\$250 per crew member including the skipper. Once the crew fee is paid for an individual crew member that crew member can make multiple changes without further fee costs. A crew member making multiple changes only pays once.</p>

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30	Race & Rally	How do I enter?	<p>Go to the event web site www.sailaroundaustralia.com.au and complete a Slot Reservation Form and pay the AU\$100 Slot Reservation fee by separate EFT through your bank.</p> <p>This will secure your slot reservation in the Race or the Rally event. There is no limit on the Slot Reservations we will take. The first 150 Slot reservations that meet the specified safety provisions and safety audits for the Race and for the Rally and that have fully paid up entry fees will qualify to enter the Race or the Rally event.</p>
31	Race & Rally	<p>What are Race and Rally crew age limits?</p> <p>Can we take children on the Rally?</p>	<p>For the Race a minimum age in of 16 years of age will be considered under special circumstances which will be a function of the yacht size, numbers of crew on bord, child and crew experience, guardian on board, and holding a current YA SSSC (or approved equivalent) certificate etc.</p> <p>Adult Race crew members must hold a current YA SSSC (or approved equivalent) certificate. Mature aged crew members (45-64 years) and Senior age crew members (65 years +) if holding a YA SSSC certificate (or approved equivalent) older than 2 years from date of issue are advised to complete a refresher course. (Please see Question 37 for more information).</p> <p>Safety and Sea Survival courses are under continuous review. It is a wise precaution to complete a YA SSSC refresher course before Racing or Cruising around the coastline of Australia.</p> <p>For the Rally the age limit of crew members less than 16 years of age will be considered where the skipper of the yacht or an experienced crew member is the guardian of the child and it can be demonstrated that adequate care of the child crew member will be exercised (ratio of adult crew for each child for example), appropriate child protection safety drills are practiced, and man-overboard alarm equipment and child flotation devices are provided and permanently worn by the child and suitable child safety equipment is on board the yacht.</p> <p>Adult Rally crew members must hold a current YA SSSC (or approved equivalent) certificate. Mature aged crew members (45-64 years) and Senior age crew members (65 years +) if holding a YA SSSC certificate older than 2 years from date of issue are advised to complete a refresher course. Consideration should be given to not taking child crew members on board for some Rally Sectors. Sector 02 for example which involves crossing the Great Australia Bight.</p>

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32	Rally	What are Rally Sectors , Rally Sector Captains , Rally Sector Plans , and Rally Rendezvous Ports ?	<p>For the ‘Around Australia Ocean Rally’ the coastline of Australia is divided into eight Rally Sectors. Each Rally Sector has an optimum weather window in which to navigate that Rally Sector. Please go to www.sailaroundaustralia.com.au and click on Draft Rally Timeline Diagram for information.</p> <p>Rally Sector Captains are highly experienced yachtspersons who are very experienced with passage making in a particular Rally Sector. Rally Sector Captains are involved in the preparation of the Rally Sector Plan for their Rally Sector.</p> <p>The Rally Sector Plan is your ‘cruise plan’ for the Rally Sector you are in, or are about to enter, with arrival and departure times for places of interest and Rally Rendezvous Ports.</p> <p>Rally Rendezvous Ports are designated within each Rally Sector – typically two ports with marina facilities per Rally Sector. Rally Sector Plan timelines will designate the time the Rally fleet within each Rally Sector will assemble at the Rally Rendezvous Port for provisioning, repairs and maintenance, crew changes, collecting Rally data and materials, and briefings, before progressing on with the next phase of the circumnavigation of Australia.</p>
33	Rally	How do I apply to become a Rally Sector Captain ?	Please go to our web site Home page www.sailaroundaustralia.com.au and go to Rally Sector – Rally Sector Captains – Expressions of Interest - for information on how to apply.
34	Rally	When do I join the Rally if I live in Brisbane? When will I return to Brisbane?	<p>The following are dates that Rally participants from Around Australia and overseas can join the Rally:</p> <p>Rally Sector 1 – West Coast of Australia – late January 2011</p> <p>Rally Sector 2 – South West Australia – Adelaide – February 2011</p> <p>Rally Sector 3 – Adelaide to Sydney – February /March 2011</p> <p>Rally Sector 4 – Sydney – Brisbane – April 2011</p> <p>Rally Sector 5 – Brisbane to Airlie Beach/Hamilton Island – May/June 2011</p> <p>Rally Sector 6 – Airlie Beach/Hamilton Island to Cairns – June/July 2011</p> <p>Rally Sector 7 – Cairns to Darwin – leaves Darwin late July 2011</p> <p>Rally Sector 8 – Darwin to Carnarvon – July/August 2011</p> <p>The Rally circumnavigation takes around 12 months. This allows a two months lay-over period in the south west of Western Australia (December/January) waiting for best conditions to navigate the Great Australia Bight. Yachts starting from Brisbane in April 2011 will arrive back in Brisbane April/May 2012.</p> <p>Go to www.sailaroundaustralia.com.au and click on Draft Rally Timeline Diagram for more information.</p>

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35	Rally	What will it cost to do the Rally?	<p>See question 29 for rally entry fee costs. You may incur cost in bringing your yacht to comply with Yachting Australia Category 1 Safety provisions. You may incur costs with the requirement for all crew members to hold a current Yachting Australia Safety and Sea Survival Course Certificate (or approved equivalent).</p> <p>You will be required to carry a YA approved VHF/DSC, GMDSS, Marine Transceivers and Satellite Telephone.</p> <p>All Rally yachts are encouraged to have equipment to enable them to receive and send emails. You will know best the cost of cruising your yacht for a voyage extending over 12 months.</p>
36	Race & Rally	When will all Race and Rally rules and regulations be issued?	<p>A 'Notice of Race' and 'Notice of Rally' will be posted on the event web site in second half of 2010.</p>
37	Race & Rally	<p>What do you mean by Yachting Australia Safety and Sea Survival Course – 'or approved equivalent'?</p> <p>What are the approved equivalents?</p>	<p>Yachting Australia will accept as an equivalent course to the Yachting Australia Safety and Sea Survival Course, any Safety and Sea Survival Course delivered outside Australia within the past five years and to the standard of the ISAF model course as laid out in Appendix G of the ISAF Special Regulations, which results in a certificate bearing the Member Nation Authority (MNA) and ISAF logos bearing the words "ISAF Approved".</p> <p>Course must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be a Sea Safety course of equivalent standard to the ISAF model course • be conducted outside Australia • be delivered within the past five years <p>Certificate must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be a certificate of competence • bear the words "ISAF Approved" • bear the MNA and ISAF logos <p>See here for national sea survival course providers http://www.sailing.org/sailors/21158.php</p> <p>If your overseas yacht club is an ISAF affiliated yacht club they should be able to provide assistance and more information on this important subject.</p>

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If you have a question that is not adequately covered here please email your question to info@sailaroundaustralia.com.au and we will email you a prompt reply.