

2024 IRC Welsh National Championship



Notice of Championship

Incorporating the Celtic Championship - Featuring

- IRC Inshore
- Cruisers



17th - 19th May



Introduction

The 2024 IRC Welsh National Championships (incorporating the Celtic Championship) will provide racing for IRC rated yachts.

To compliment the Championship there will be racing for competitors who do not hold an IRC certificate, in a Cruiser Class using the RYA YTC.

Racing will be conveniently located in sheltered waters, with weak tides and uninterrupted by commercial traffic, located to the south west of Pwllheli harbour in probably one of the best sailing waters in the UK. The mountains of Snowdonia, mid Wales and the outstanding scenery of the Llyn Peninsula will provide the fleets with a superb picturesque backdrop to the fun and serious racing.

Tremadog Bay already a regular host for World and International sailing championships and many ISORA starts and finishes is ideal for multiple racing areas needed for Windward/Leeward, round the cans and coastal and Ancient Castle racing.

A traditional warm welcome awaits you at Pwllheli Sailing Club located in the Welsh National Sailing Academy and Event Centre as soon as you arrive with a Championship reception and entertainment.

All in all, Great racing, Great entertainment and Great food - A Great Championship!





1. Organising Authority

- 1.1. The Organising Authority is Plas Heli Cyf and Clwb Hwyllo Pwllheli Sailing Club (CHPSC). Race Management assistance will be given by Royal Dee Yacht Club.

2. Rules

- 2.1. The Event is governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing*.
- 2.2. IRC rules part A, B & C shall apply to IRC racing.
- 2.3. Handicapping by RYA YTC shall apply as appropriate.
- 2.4. It is strongly recommended that the boat and crew, as a minimum, comply with ISAF Offshore Special Regulations Category 4.
- 2.5. Due to potential Welsh Government (Pandemic) Regulations Crew numbers may be limited, these restrictions (if any) will be reviewed and confirmed in the Sailing Instructions.

3. RYA Racing Charter

- 3.1. Plas Heli and Clwb Hwyllo Pwllheli Sailing Club, implement the RYA Racing Charter which requires both competitors to sail, and organisers to provide, racing in compliance with the Charter, which can be found at the front of the RYA rule book (Racing Rules of Sailing 2021-2024) or at www.rya.org.uk/racing/charter.

4. Advertising

- 4.1. Boats may be required to display advertising chosen and supplied by the organising authority.

5. Eligibility and Class

- 5.1. The Championship is open to all boats holding an IRC Certificate and/or YTC handicap for the Classes listed below and to any other Classes accepted by the OA.
- 5.2. Fleets :
- IRC fleets (IRC Certificate)
 - YTC cruiser fleets (YTC handicap)
- 5.3. Sports boats and Sonatas will be embedded in the relevant IRC fleet and a trophies given for the highest placed sports boat and Sonata.
- 5.4. IRC fleets class split will not be decided until after the closing date of 16th May 2024.
- 5.5. YTC is a free handicapping system. Competitors in the cruiser class must apply for a YTC rating online at www.swytc.org.uk in advance of the event.
- 5.6. Depending on the number of entries, the Organising Authority reserves the right to merge or subdivide any class, combine the starts of classes, or cancel racing for any class.
- 5.7. A minimum entry of 3 boats per class is expected for a start. Consideration will be given to entries from other classes to those listed above, subject to a minimum entry.

6. Entry

- 6.1. Yachts shall belong to or be chartered to and be under the control of a member of a yacht club affiliated to the RYA or other equivalent national authority.
- 6.2. Entries shall be made online through the [IRCWelshChamps.com website](http://IRCWelshChamps.com).



- 6.3. Entries should be received by 13th May.
- 6.4. Late entries will be accepted.
- 6.5. In the event of a race being abandoned or cancelled, entry fees will not be refunded.
- 6.6. If the Championship is cancelled because of Pandemic or Health restrictions a full refund will be provided.
- 6.7. Confirmed entries will be posted on the event website.
- 6.8. The Race Committee reserves the right to refuse any entry and/or to ask any boats to complete further undertaking or declarations before accepting their entry.

7. Mobile phones and WhatsApp

- 7.1. The race committee may post changes to SI, and courses on WhatsApp, and other important information using a single mobile telephone number that has been registered to the boat.

8. Measurement

- 8.1. IRC Boats shall present a valid 2024 IRC certificate with the race entry form, or submit at registration, and this copy shall be available for inspection by another competitor at any time.
- 8.2. IRC certificates shall have a VALIDITY DATE no later than 13th May 2024.
- 8.3. No alteration in a boat's TCC will be permitted after this cut-off date except as a result of a rating protest, or to correct Rating Office errors. Such errors shall be certified in writing as such by the Rating Office.
- 8.4. A boat's owner and any other person in charge shall ensure that the boat is maintained to comply with her measurement and that her rating certificate remains valid for all races in the series.
- 8.5. The name/s of the equipment inspector/s and/or measurer/s shall be published on the official notice board for the duration of the event [RRS 78].
- 8.6. The validity date may be extended in extraordinary circumstances at the sole discretion of the OA. The boat seeking the extension shall apply in good time in writing setting out the grounds for the extension.
- 8.7. The OA reserves the right to inspect any boat to ensure compliance with IRC certificates.
- 8.8. IRC Rule 22.4 shall not apply. There may be a limitation on crew number see 2.5.
- 8.9. Cruiser class should obtain a valid YTC certificate online at www.swytc.org.uk in advance of the event.

9. Sailing Instructions – Registration and Skippers Briefing

- 9.1. Sailing Instructions will be available on the WhatsApp group after registering and online at www.ircwelshchamps.com as a downloadable pdf file.
- 9.2. Changes to Sailing Instructions will be posted two hours before the warning signal of the race they effect.
- 9.3. Details of registration will be communicated via the website and the WhatsApp group.
- 9.4. A skipper's briefing will be communicated via the WhatsApp by 12:00hrs on Friday.

10. Schedule

- 10.1. Briefings - all fleets - Friday 17th May 12:00.
- 10.2. The race schedule will be as follows:
 - Friday 17th May 14:55 – 17:45
 - Saturday 18th May 09:55 – 15:00
 - Sunday 19th May 10:25 – 15:30



- 10.3. **All Fleets:** The scheduled time of the warning signal for the first start will be 14:55BST on Friday 17th, 09:55 BST on Saturday 18th and 10:25 BST on Sunday 19th. The latest warning signal on Sunday is 14:30 BST.
- 10.4. It is intended that IRC fleets will have a Committee boat start. Cruisers will have a PSC bridge start.
- 10.5. IRC fleets - The target will be to achieve nine races over the three days of the event (IRC Welsh National Championship) with no more than 5 races sailed on any one day. The format of racing will include Windward /Leeward, fixed marks racing, and a passage race.
- 10.6. IRC fleets - a short coastal race may be held on any day, if this race is run, then there will be a maximum of two races only on this day and the coastal race result is none discardable.
- 10.7. Cruisers: up to two races per day, second race back to back or as advised.

11. Scoring

- 11.1. IRC fleets: Scoring will be in accordance with Appendix A of the Racing Rules of Sailing.
- 11.2. Two races are required to be completed to constitute a series.
- 11.3. After 4 races completed, 1 discard will apply. If 6 or more races are completed 2 discards will apply see 10.6 above.
- 11.4. Cruisers: one race is required for a series.
- 11.5. Racing will be on 'The Race-Course Areas' in Cardigan Bay covered by Admiralty Charts Numbered 5609
- 11.6. The Courses sailed may be as follows:
- Windward/Leeward
 - Olympic Triangle
 - Trapezoid
 - Fixed Mark Courses
 - Day Coastal/Bay Race
- 11.7. Cruisers will not usually sail Windward/Leeward courses and may have courses set using the fixed and geographical marks. The courses will be announced by the Race Officer. A schedule of marks and chart will be provided with the Sailing Instructions.

12. Berthing & Lift – In Lift -out

- 12.1. Visiting yachts will be raft berthed on the Academy events and visitor pontoons at no charge for the duration of the Championship.
- 12.2. Visitors requiring a free berth before and during the championship in the Academy events pontoons must advise the Championship Secretary not later than 13th May 2024 but preferably earlier. Free berths may be restricted in number so early application is advised to secure.
- 12.3. Competitors requiring berths outside the Championship dates should make arrangements with the Championship Secretary by e-mail to secretary@ircwelshchamps.com or with Plas Heli by email to pontoons@plasheli.org.
- 12.4. Boats must remain in their allocated berth for the duration of the Championship unless directed otherwise by the Championship Secretary, Plas Heli or their representative.

13. Responsibility and Disclaimer of Liability

- 13.1. RRS Rule 3 of the Racing Rules of Sailing states: "The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone."
- 13.2. Sailing is by its nature an unpredictable sport and therefore inherently involves an element of risk. By taking part in the event, each competitor agrees and acknowledges that:
- (a) They are aware of the inherent element of risk involved in the sport and accept responsibility for the exposure of themselves, their crew and their boat to such inherent risk whilst taking part in the event,
 - (b) They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat and their other property whether afloat or ashore,
 - (c) They accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omission,
 - (d) Their boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the event and they are fit to participate.
 - (e) The provision of a race management team, patrol boats and other officials and volunteers by the event organiser does not relieve them of their own responsibilities,
 - (f) The provision of patrol boat cover is limited to such assistance, particularly in extreme weather conditions, as can be practically provided in the circumstances,
 - (g) They are responsible for ensuring that their boat is equipped and seaworthy so as to be able to face extremes of weather; that there is crew sufficient in number, experience and fitness to withstand such weather; and that the safety equipment is properly maintained, stowed and in date and is familiar to the crew.
- 13.3. The organisers accept no liability whatsoever for loss, damage, death or personal injury of any description whatsoever that may be sustained by boats, owners, crews or guests taking part in this series of races using jetties, ramps, moorings, parking premises or any other facilities or using or accepting assistance from launches or boats by them or otherwise, however occasioned – whether by negligence of their members or servants or not.

14. Insurance

- 14.1. It is a condition of entry for each boat owner to have their boat adequately insured against any risk, including civil liability to third parties and to ensure that such insurance remains valid for the entirety of the Event, in the sum of at least £3,000,000.

15. Safety

- 15.1. The Race Committee reserves the right to inspect any yacht to verify that the regulations have been complied with. Inspections will be carried out by Equipment Inspectors on behalf of the Race Committee.
- 15.2. Anchors shall not be carried forward of the stem or with any part outboard, except when anchoring.

16. Personal Safety

- 16.1. RRS 1.2, and 40 shall apply and it is the sole responsibility of the skipper to ensure that Life Jackets/Harness lines are carried for each member of the crew.
- 16.2. The wearing of personal floatation devices is strongly recommended at all times.

17. Temporary Membership

- 17.1. Competitors in the IRC Welsh Championships and their guests shall be Temporary Members of Clwb Hwyllo Pwllheli Sailing Club for the duration of the Championship and shall be bound by the rules of the Club who reserves the right to withdraw the Temporary Membership.

18. Prizes

- 18.1. Prizes will be awarded for each class, with trophies presented by RDYC/CHPSC and prizes provided by our Sponsors.

19. Social

- 19.1. Plas Heli will be open for drinks and meals, with the normal menus in operation. A Deck party is planned with live music and a BBQ subject to the weather.
- 19.2. Drinks with the Flag Officers is planned for after racing Friday 17th May – further details will be published on the website.
- 19.3. The social program will be published on the web site www.ircwelshchamps.com.
- 19.4. Why not consider staying after the Championship for a full program of Club and ISORA racing - check www.pwllhelisailingclub.co.uk/racing.

20. Entry Form

- 20.1. The entry form is on-line and available on the dedicated web site www.ircwelshchamps.com.
- 20.2. Competitors will be asked to make a safety declaration, a declaration about data and confirm that they have no objection to images and videos taken during the event being used for promoting sailing.

21. Privacy

- 21.1 The personal information you provide to the organizing authority will be used to facilitate your participation in the event. If you have agreed to be bound by the Racing Rules of Sailing and the other rules that govern the event (the rules), the legal basis for processing that personal information is contract. If you are not bound by the rules, the legal basis for processing that personal information is legitimate interest. Your personal information will be stored and used in accordance with the organizing authority's privacy policy. When required by the rules, personal information may be shared with the RYA, your national authority and/or World Sailing. The results of the event and the outcome of any hearing or appeal may be published.

Plas Heli – The Welsh National Sailing Academy and Events Centre



CHPSC at Plas Heli The Welsh National Sailing Academy and Event Centre