NOTICE OF RACE

Royal Escape Race 2027

Brighton to Fecamp (approximately 66.5NM)

Date of race: 28th May 2027

First warning signal: 08.00 BST

Organising authority: Sussex Yacht Club

1. Rules

The Royal Escape Race is governed by The Racing Rules of Sailing 2025-2028 (RRS), the prescriptions of the Royal Yachting Association when they apply, and (for boats racing in the IRC Class) the IRC Rule 2027(save as amended by this Notice of Race and the Sailing Instructions) and by this Notice of Race and the Sailing Instructions.

1.1 For all classes RRS Parts 1, 2 and 3 shall apply subject to the following amendment: Stored power may be used to operate winches and, for solo or double-handed entries only, stored power may be used for steering. RRS 52 and IRC Rule 15.2 are amended accordingly.

1.2 IRC Rule 22.4.2 shall not apply. There will be no limitations on crew number or weight except as required for boats racing in a one design class which shall comply with IRC Rule 22.4.1.

1.3 For all Yachts during the hours of darkness from sunset to sunrise, and for Escape Class Yachts under propulsion prior to rounding the turning mark, and Opted Motor Sailing Yachts, the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea will replace the relevant rules of Part 2 of the RRS.

1.4 Propulsion using an engine is permitted subject to the provisions of the Sailing Instructions.

2 Responsibility

A boat is entirely responsible for her own safety and nothing whether in the Notice of Race, Sailing Instructions, race website, race correspondence or anywhere else reduces this overriding and absolute responsibility.

2.1 It is for the boat to decide whether she is fit to sail in the conditions in which she will find herself. By going to sea the boat confirms that she is fit for those conditions and her crew is competent to sail in them.

2.2 Nothing done by the organisers can reduce the responsibility of the boat nor will it make the organisers responsible for any loss, damage, death or personal injury, however it may have occurred, as a result of the boat taking part in the race and event. ‘The organisers’ includes everyone involved in the administration of the race and the event and includes, among others, the organising authority, the race committee, the race officers and the

crews of patrol boats. The provision of patrol boats does not relieve the boat of her responsibilities.

2.3 The boat is responsible to ensure that she is equipped and seaworthy to face extremes of weather; that there is a crew sufficient in number, experience, training and fitness to withstand such weather; and that the safety equipment is properly maintained, of sufficient capacity, properly stowed and that the crew know how to use it.

2.4 That the race committee may conduct inspections does not reduce the responsibilities of the boat set out in this section (2).

2.5 The attention of all competitors is drawn to RRS Fundamental Rule 3 “Decision to Race”: “The responsibility for a boat’s decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone.”

2.6 It is a responsibility of the boat to ensure all its crew understand and accept the risks involved in competing and to ensure that crew members who are minors have the consent of their parent(s) or guardian(s) to take part.

3 Insurance

Each boat shall be covered by Third Party Liability Insurance for a minimum of £5,000,000 and shall be covered for racing risks

4 Classes and handicaps / ratings

The race is open to boats holding a valid (2027) IRC or RYA YTC certificate.

4.1 **IRC**; All yachts holding an IRC certificate including short-handed certificates are requested to race within the IRC class.

4.2 **RYA YTC;** Any yachts requiring guidance to obtain a YTC certificate are encouraged to contact Christopher.hawkes@sussexyachtclub.org.uk

4.3 Once entered, a yacht will not be permitted to change class, unless at the direction of the organising authority.

4.4 Classes may be sub-divided into a shorthanded division for boats with one or two crew (including skipper).

4.5 A class may be further subdivided into an Escape class for gaff-rigged or other yachts with limited windward performance. Inclusion in this class is by request and at the discretion of the Race Committee.

4.6 Yachts racingshall submit a copy of their valid IRC or YTC certificate by email attachment to the race committee at secretary@sussexyachtclub.org.uk no later than 08.00 on 25th May 2027. No alteration in a yacht’s IRC rating will be permitted after this date except as a result of a rating protest or to correct Rating Office errors.

5 Safety Regulations

Boats must comply with the World Sailing Offshore Special Regulations 2026 – 2027 for Race Category 3 with Life Raft, with the following exceptions:

5.1 That a suitable offshore marine life raft/s of sufficient capacity and with either a current 3 year or annual certificate (the original or a copy must be available for inspection) is acceptable. This amends WS Offshore Special Regulation 4.20.

5.2 Although it is strongly advised that boats are fitted with an AIS transponder this is not mandatory. This amends WS Offshore Special Regulation 3.29.7.

6. Sailing Instructions

6.1 Instructions will be made available in good time on the Official Notice Board for the event on the website at www.sussexyachtclub.org.uk

6.2 Changes to Sailing Instructions will be made in accordance with RRS 90.2.

6.3 The event notice board will be on the Event Website at www.sussexyachtclub.org.uk

7. Communications

7.1 Changes to the Sailing Instructions will be published on the event notice board.

7.2 On the morning of the Race, signals will be made by regular comms on VHF Ch.72 broadcast from the vicinity of Brighton Marina.

7.3

8. Prizes

Retention trophies will be awarded to 1st, 2nd, 3rd place in each class/ division.

9. Mooring fees

Entrants may be entitled to free mooring in Fecamp for the nights 28-29 and 29-30 May 2027.

10. Social

10.1 The programme of social events will be published as an addendum to this Notice of Race.

11. Entry and entry fees

11.1 Boats shall enter via the link on the event website

11.2 The closing date for entry will be 21st May 2027.

11.3 At the discretion of the Race Committee last minute entries may be accepted after the closing date on payment of the entry fee.

11.4 The entry fee will be £160 per boat

11.5 There will be a Special 50th Anniversary Offer: £110 from 2nd November 2026 to 31st December 2026.

11.6 There will be an ‘early bird’ entry fee of £130 for entries received from 1st January 2027 to 28th February 2027

11.7 Race entry fees will not be refunded if a yacht cancels their entry or retires.

11.8 In the event that for any reason the race is cancelled or abandoned by the organisers, a refund of 50% of paid race entry fees only may be made.. The organisers accept no responsibility for any other costs incurred.

11.9 No other refunds or claims for compensation will be considered.