

Get ready for the 24-Hour Endurance Yacht Race 2019

I was invited to the October Exec meeting to provide an overview of 'where we are at' with the 24-Hour Endurance Yacht Race. Back in April of this year, the Exec unanimously supported the plans for the 2019 24-Hour Endurance Yacht Race in its current format and that's what VC Brent and I have been working on. The new Executive, led by Commodore Max, confirmed that earlier decision, but not without a robust debate about safety.

Safety on the water has always been of paramount importance to us, as we are well aware that the weather conditions we have enjoyed in the first two races won't be a permanent feature – it will get rough. Hopefully, not so rough that the Race Officer has to abandon the race, but Wellington being what it is, sailing in 20 knots can be, will be a challenge. We are planning for that and you as the skipper intent on entering the race should do so as well.

As mentioned above, the format of the 24-Hour Endurance Yacht Race will be the same as the previous two years:

- A 24-hour race on the weekend of 16 and 17 March 2019.
- Open to keel boats and trailer yachts 20ft+. Trailer yachts must have complying life lines.
- Keel boats to comply with Cat 5 and trailer yachts Cat B (modified by LBYC as the organising authority)
- Minimum of four crew (including the skipper) on every boat
- Entry fee \$125

The Notice of Race will be published before Christmas. In the meantime, I suggest that you have a good look at the relevant safety regulations published by Yachting New Zealand. Click here <https://www.yachtingnz.org.nz/racing/safety-regulations> You can also purchase a hard copy through YNZ website for \$25.00. Click here to order your copy. <https://www.yachtingnz.org.nz/shop/ynz-racing-rules-sailing-2017-2020>

All participating yachts will be inspected prior to the race to ensure that they comply with the relevant safety regulations. We have been a bit slack with this in the past, but you, your crew and your yacht's safety are of paramount importance to us. The rules that govern the racing are not there for show; we will implement them. Our advice; don't leave till the last moment, plan ahead.

There will be a few minor changes to the format. In all likelihood we will start the race at 11.00 hours on Saturday the 16th of March, not at 12.00 noon as in the first couple of races. This makes it possible to include two long harbour circuits (instead of one) during daylight hours, before embarking on the shorter course at the northern end of the harbour by the time dusk sets in. The Race Officer on the day may change it back to one long circuit if wind and weather conditions demand that.

The start is likely to be from Days Bay wharf, as access to Point Howard wharf may be denied due to (part) demolition work to the wharf. Logistics will still have to be discussed with the ferry operator.

Earlier this year we had three Raven 26 yachts competing. We hope they will come back and convince some other R26 owners to sign up as well. We will introduce a prize for the winner of each one-design class competing in the 24-Hour Endurance Yacht Race. A one-design class fleet shall consist of a

minimum of three yachts entering the race. There are plenty Young 88s, Ross 930, Ross 780, Noelex 25 and Lotus 9.2 in the Wellington area.

That's it for now. Watch this space for further developments.



Theo Muller

Race Director 24-Hour Endurance Yacht Race.