



2018 ST BARTHS BUCKET Notice of Race - Exhibit "90' Class" Initiative

Background

The Bucket is legendary for its uniquely beautiful venue, spectacular racing and fantastic shore side socials (bucketregatta.com/2017-st-barths-bucket-videos). It is an invitational, non-commercial event committed to ensuring the enjoyment of the yacht owners and their guests (www.bucketregatta.com). In the years before 2017, certain yachts that did not meet the 100 foot/30 meter LOA eligibility criteria were grandfathered and invited to compete. This led to classes with excessively wide rating bands and yachts with extremely disparate sailing characteristics. Given some of the inherent advantages of smaller, more nimble yachts, it also puts large cruising superyachts at a competitive disadvantage. Going forward, the Bucket Stewards desire to be as inclusive as possible without negatively impacting the participating superyachts. They are pleased to introduce the "90' Class" initiative for the 2018 edition of the Bucket.

As with the J Class racing in St Barths last year, this new class of performance oriented sloops would have a fleet start and race under the conventional Racing Rules of Sailing. By establishing a relatively narrow rating band, the race managers will be able to minimize mixing with the J Class and the superyacht fleet, which will feature the traditional pursuit racing format. For all classes, the longstanding Spirit of the Bucket will be on full display with an emphasis on fun, safe and competitive racing.

Eligibility Criteria & Class Specific Rules

- Sloop rigs only;
- Preliminary LOA range 24.0 – 30.4m (approximately 80'– 100');
- Preliminary rating band: ORCs_y (moderate-strong/flat seas) 320 – 370 (approximate IRC rating band 1.39 – 1.55);
- The LOA and rating band ranges are preliminary and may be refined going forward;
- A valid ORCs_y Rating Certificate is required (for those boats without a valid ORCs_y certificate, the IRC TCC rating bands can be used to verify the eligibility of boats);
- Minimum of 5 entries required with entry applications submitted / fees paid by 15 December, 2017.

Handicapping Policy and Procedures

- The rating rule for the St Barths Bucket is the ORCs_y (<http://www.orc.org/index.asp?id=201>);
- The 90' Class entries must submit their rating application (<http://www.orc.org/index.asp?id=202>) no later than 15 December, 2017;
- The ORCs_y scoring option will be Time-on-Distance with the wind range and sea state declared prior to the first yacht in class finishing.

Racing

- There are three coastal races scheduled Friday, Saturday and Sunday (16 - 18 March);
- Safe racing has been and will continue to be a top priority of the St Barths Bucket organizers. The 90' Class will use the conventional Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS), however, the RRS Appendix SY is invoked if yachts in the 90' Class meet yachts in the Superyacht Fleet;
- Fleet start - prior to the superyacht fleet pursuit starts. Classes may sail different courses;
- Series trophies will be awarded for the top three finishers in class.

For additional information on the "90' Class" or to request an invitation, please contact:

Peter Craig; Event Director/Race Chairman
peter@bucketregattas.com / +1 (781) 639-0203