

'CRUISING SUPERYACHT' DEFINED

From the very beginning, some 30 years ago, superyacht racing was a competition between large cruising sailboats. In recent years, the SYRA and regatta organizers have defined 'superyachts' as those yachts with a minimum overall length (LOA) of 30.48 meters or 100 feet. Some superyacht regatta organizers include minimum LOA as a criterion for entry or for participation in superyacht classes at their respective regattas.

The superyacht handicapping rule (ORCSy), currently used at all SYRA sanctioned regattas, was created in 2015 specifically for cruising superyachts (as opposed to race boats). The simple definition of 'cruising superyacht' is any sailing yacht over 30.48 meters in length that was designed primarily for cruising. Should there be uncertainty whether a yacht is a cruising yacht, the following four measurement values can be used by regatta organizers to assist with that determination:

DLR	Displacement Length Ratio	> 65.0
D/L	Draft/Length	< 0.22
SA Up/Disp	Sail Area Upwind/Displacement	< 37.5
SA Down/Disp	Sail Area Downwind/Displacement	< 75.0

If three of the four values above fall within the cruising yacht parameters, it serves to support the determination of whether a yacht is classified as a cruising yacht. The accompanying spread sheet provides these the four values for a wide range of sailing yachts between 27-60 meters LOA, most of which have competed in superyacht regattas in recent years.

It is the individual regatta organizer who determines eligibility requirements for their regatta and whether to accept racing yacht entries, or whether to allow racing yachts to compete against cruising yachts.

