



2026 St Barth's Bucket

Notice 1

Reminder to Boat Captains

In addition to adhering to World Sailing's Offshore Special Regulations (OSR) found in NoR 12.1 c), it is incumbent upon all captains to ensure that their yacht remains in compliance with their Flag Administration, Classification Society, and/or Large Yacht Code of Compliance.

Statutory obligations vary significantly between yachts depending on their type of registry, (pleasure or commercial), their port of registry, (Flag Administration), mode of operation, (in private use or chartering), and whether or not the yacht maintains a Classification status.

In most cases removal of equipment, especially safety equipment, is prohibited by either the Flag Administration, and/or the Classification Society unless permission has explicitly been granted ahead of time. This can include, but not be limited to, removal of anchors, removal of life rafts, removal of pulpits, and swapping lifelines for lighter material.

Additionally special dispensation may need to be applied for the yacht to carry more than 12 guests, (the maximum permitted by the three major Large Yacht Codes).

While it is true some Flag Administrations provide dispensations or waivers for certain events, the yacht's Classification Society may not, and it is important to bear in mind that insurance coverage may be compromised if *either* Flag or Class requirements are not met.

We recommend that Captains and Owners verify their obligations prior to making any changes to the yacht that may contravene the regulations and legislation that are applicable to them.

Regardless of the yacht's obligations, the handicap rule authority (ORCs) would need to be appraised of the removal of any equipment for handicapping purposes.

Examples of situations racing superyachts have encountered in the past and how they were dealt with will be posted on the Bucket website at a later date. Should you have any questions on this topic please contact your Flag Administration, Classification Society and/or insurance provider.

Peter Craig, Event Director
11 March, 2026
0830 hours