

WHY HAVING A SAIL NUMBER IS IMPORTANT

All yachts/boats racing under the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) must hold a sail number approved by her National Authority - in the UK this is the RYA. This sail number must then be displayed on the sails in accordance with RRS 77 and Appendix G. Appendix G gives the sizes required and correct positioning for the sail number on the sails. Your sailmaker will be able to help.

As you can imagine, with so many boats taking part in the Round the Island Race, it is essential that you can be identified quickly and easily. This is particularly important for boats entered in the ISC Rating System Class with its wide variety of different boat designs of all ages

A sail number is unique to a boat and an important method of identification for a variety of purposes. The Race Committee needs it to record your finishing position and to identify you on the race course and it could be critical in a search and rescue situation.

Like a car registration number, except in exceptional circumstances, the sail number remains with the boat when it is sold on and if you have bought a second hand boat you should check with the issuing authority (normally the RYA or RORC Rating Office) that the sail number on the sails is registered to the boat.

Obtaining a sail number from the RYA for a new boat or any other boat without a sail number is very easy and is free to RYA members. It can be done online or by phone. For a monohull your sail number will be a 4 digit number, prefixed with GBR and with a suffix Y, L, T or N (e.g. GBR1234T), Multihulls will have the suffix M. When they allocate the number they will also tell you how big your sail number needs to be for your boat so that you know what size of letters/number to buy from a sailmaker. Allocation of a single number is free of charge to RYA Gold Members, £15.31 RYA Personal Members, and £25.53 to non members and companies. The majority of people use, simple to apply, adhesive numbers. Owners can also obtain sail numbers from the RORC Rating Office who are also allowed by the RYA to allocate sail numbers (along with the Clyde Yacht Clubs' Association).

Some one design boats are allocated blocks of numbers and many have class rules regarding colours of sail numbers so if you have a one design boat you should check with your class first.

We hope this information has helped you to understand the importance of having a unique sail number and below please find contact details to obtain one.

RYA

Tel: 0238 0604204
<http://www.rya.org.uk/infoadvice/racing/equipmentclasses/Pages/SailNumberApplications.aspx>

RORC Rating Office

Tel: 01590 677030
info@rorcating.com
<http://www.rorcating.com/sail-numbers.html>