NOTICE OF RACE
DÉFI AZIMUT LORIENT AGGLOMÉRATION – 2026 Edition

AMENDMENT 1 - DATED AUGUST 14, 2026
Changes are shown in red

The notation (OA) means Organising Authority.
The notation [NP] in a rule means that a boat cannot protest (No Protest) another for breach of this rule. This is a change to RRS 60.1(a).
The notation [DP] in a rule means that the penalty for breach of this rule may, at the jury's discretion, be less than a disqualification.

Prevention of violence and incivility.
The FFVoile highlights the fact that sporting events are first and foremost a space for exchange and sharing, open and accessible to one and all. As such, competitors and those persons accompanying them are asked to behave in a courteous and respectful manner at all times, both on land and on the water, irrespective of the origin, gender or sexual orientation of the other participants.

Ukraine Crisis
Following the aggression displayed against Ukraine, the FFVoile took the decision on 2 March 2022 not to allow the participation of Russian or Belarussian competitors in any competitions right across France.

1/ ORGANISATION
The Organising Authority for the general organisation is Défi-Suroît.
The Défi Azimut is a yacht race created by the company Azimut and supported by the company Défi-Suroît. Lorient Agglomération is the title partner, enabling the official name 'Défi Azimut Lorient Agglomération'.

The Défi Azimut is a race open to IMOCA Class boats and forms part of the IMOCA GLOBE SERIES championship 2026.
This sports event runs from 15 to 20 September 2026, under the aegis of the French Sailing Federation (FFVoile) and with the support of the Centre Nautique de Lorient, the affiliated club.

The Défi AZIMUT comprises three nautical events: the RUNS AZIMUT (in crewed format), the 48H AZIMUT in single-handed configuration accompanied by an onboard reporter (OBR) and the Tour de Groix in crewed format.

The starts of these races are launched in Les Coureaux de Groix.

During the event, entertainment geared around the offshore racing industry is organised in the port of Lorient La base.

2/ RULES

The event will be governed by:

1. Regulations such as those set out in the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) 2025-2028 throughout the duration of the race.
2. The 2026 IMOCA Class Rules and the IMOCA Globe Series championship 2025-2029 rules.

3. The Offshore Special Regulations (OSR) Category 2 in force and any of those which may have been modified by the FFVoile (FFVoile National Prescriptions) and by the IMOCA CR. The FFVoile's medical regulations apply.

2.4 The RRS Part 2: The RRS Part 2 apply up to 30 miles after the starting line and 30 miles before the finishing line for each section of the course covered in daylight hours. They will be replaced by Part B (steering and sailing rules) of the International Regulations for the Prevention of Collisions at Sea (IRPCAS) for the sections covered at night and for the rest of the course.

5. The official time for the event is local time in France.

6. The Waypoint appendix.

7. World Sailing's Test Rules DR21-01.

8. In the event of a translation of this NOR, the French text shall prevail.

9. Modifications to the RRS:

- The RRS Part 2: The RRS Part 2 apply up to 30 miles after the starting line and 30 miles before the finishing line for each section of the course covered in daylight hours. They will be replaced by Part B (steering and sailing rules) of the International Regulations for the Prevention of Collisions at Sea (IRPCAS) for the sections covered at night and for the rest of the course.
- RRS 54 (Forestay and headsail tacks): does not apply.
- RRS 55.2 (Spinnaker Poles; Whisker Poles): does not apply.
- The following RRS will be modified in the SI: RRS 28 (Sailing the Course), RRS 44.1 (Taking a penalty), RRS 60 (Protests), RRS 61 (Redress), RRS 63 (Conducts of Hearings), RRS 64 (Discretionary penalties), RRS A5.1 and A5.2.
- The RRS modified in the SI will appear in full in the SI.

10. Entry in the Défi Azimut Lorient Agglomération entails full and unreserved acceptance of all the provisions of this Notice of Race. The OA reserves the right to amend this Notice of Race if changes prove desirable for the safety and/or sportsmanship of the race.

3/ SAFETY RULES [DP][NP]

1. A retiring boat shall report to the Race Director, who will report the retirement to the Race Committee.

2. All the on-board Cospas-Sarsat beacons (EPIRB and PLB) for the race must be officially registered with the 'DÉFI AZIMUT 2026' marking and with the emergency number for RM (which you shall be informed about). Proof of registration and the hexadecimal coding of the beacons shall be emailed to RM no later than 31 August 2026.

3. The VHF channel used when racing is 77. Dual monitoring on 77/16 is compulsory throughout the event.

3.4 Everyone aboard an IMOCA shall wear a personal flotation device aboard an IMOCA from the moment they exit port until they return to port (this changes

RRS 40).

For racing in the RUNS AZIMUT, the 48H AZIMUT and the TOUR DE GROIX, the deck is defined by all the exterior elements of the boat. This means that it is mandatory to wear a personal flotation device when the skipper, the co-skipper or the OBR are not protected by a coachroof or a cockpit.

For the RUNS AZIMUT and TOUR DE GROIX events, the team must provide the OA's guest with a lifejacket and helmet.

Depending on the weather conditions, the helmet may be made compulsory for guests.

4/ ELIGIBILITY

1. The event is open to IMOCA Class boats.

2. The 48H AZIMUT is reserved solely for active members of the IMOCA Class and the boat must have a valid IMOCA 2026 certificate for the Défi Azimut.

3. The Défi Azimut features three events:

- The **RUNS AZIMUT** Grade 5A FFVoile (crewed)
- The **48H AZIMUT** Grade 4 FFVoile (single-handed)
- The **TOUR DE GROIX AZIMUT** Grade 5A FFVoile (crewed)

Participation in sports competitions organised or authorised by the FFVoile is not subject to the presentation of a medical certificate for grade 5A, 5B and 5C events. An FFV (French Sailing Federation) licence is however compulsory.

Participation in sports competitions organised or authorised by the FFVoile is subject to the presentation of a medical certificate for grade W, 1, 2, 3 and 4 events. To fulfil this obligation, each competitor shall present one of the FFVoile licences below upon registration:

- Club '**Competition'** Licence
- Club '**Practice**' Licence, accompanied by a medical certificate with no contraindications to the practice of sailing, sport or the discipline in question in competition, dating less than one year
- **Temporary** Licence accompanied by a medical certificate with no contraindications to the practice of sailing, sport, or the discipline in question in competition, dating less than one year

4. The '**RUNS AZIMUT**' **(Grade 5)** shall be raced with a crew of 5 to 8 persons, including one compulsory 'Guest' figure organised by Azimut.
Race Management may modify the number of crew permitted according to the weather conditions.
~~At the end of the Runs Azimut, a parade of IMOCAs will be organised.~~

5. The '**48H AZIMUT**' **(Grade 4)** is a single-handed course with an OBR* spanning around 500 nautical miles. This looped circuit of the Atlantic setting sail from Lorient forms part of the IMOCA Globe Series Championship 2026.
Onboard Reporter means 'journalist on board'.
*Definition: Their role is as described in the official IMOCA document (OBR definition)

An OBR must be present aboard. Their application shall be filed by no later than 31 July via the OBR form, emailed to Muriel Lamy (muriel.lamy@imoca.org).
This application will be validated by the sports committee and Race Management.
The OBR shall have a valid FFVoile 'competition', 'practice' or 'temporary' licence with a medical certificate. (c.f. 4.3).
They shall provide a deliverable that is free to broadcast: images, audio, texts and

videos (c.f. OBR competition rules).

For the 48H Azimut event, an OBR photo and video competition is organised. Participation in the competition is compulsory. Where a competitor fails to participate, financial penalties may be applied.

The images (photos and videos) taken by the teams' OBRs during the Défi Azimut may be used by the OA and by the IMOCA Class for communicating about the Défi Azimut and its partners.

6. The **TOUR DE GROIX AZIMUT** TIME TRIAL **(Grade 5):**
The Tour de Groix shall be raced with a crew of 5 to 8 persons, including one compulsory 'Guest' figure organised by Azimut.
Race Management may modify the number of authorised crew according to the weather conditions.
The format of this event: a time trial or a race, will be set out in the Sailing Instructions.

4.7 For the **RUNS AZIMUT** and the **TOUR DE GROIX AZIMUT**, the crew list will be uploaded to the registration platform before 11 September with, for each crew member:

- the valid FFVoile licence number (temporary licence possible).
- parental authorisation for under-18s.

5/ POSITIONING
The race will use each IMOCA's autonomous on-board beacon (YB3i powered by the onboard supply). The RUNS and TOUR DE GROIX events can also be tracked using a specific beacon.

6/ REGISTRATION

Composition of the registration file
A registration form is available on the website https://inscription.defi-azimut.net/.

Registration will be deemed valid once the registration fees have been paid.

All the documents, which need to be supplied to the organiser and the IMOCA Class shall be received prior to 8 September.

Registration will be completed by a subscription to Class IMOCA 2026 and the uploading of the following valid documents in the online IMOCA member space:
- A copy of the boat's insurance certificate.
- A copy of the measurement certificate.
- A copy of the advertising card for sponsored French boats.
- A valid World Sailing training certificate (Sea survival training and Premier Secours Mer /Offshore First Aid) and the CRR for the skipper.

Upon registration, overseas competitors or competitors of French nationality living overseas (every crew member) without an FFVoile licence must present:

- Proof they belong to a National Authority that is a member of World Sailing,
- Valid proof of civil liability insurance with minimum cover of 2-million Euros,
- A medical certificate with no contraindications to the practice of competitive sailing, dating less than one year (drafted in French or English), as well as parental authorisation for under-18s.

It is the responsibility of each competitor to check the progress of their file and prompt any intervention by the organisation teams in due time.

The registration amount is set at €3,960 excl. VAT.

Payment is made via bank transfer:

IBAN: FR76 1380 7006 2732 4211 5259 027
SWIFT (BIC) address: CCBPFRPPNAN

BANK CODE	SORT CODE	ACCOUNT NUMBER	PERSONAL CODE (BANK DETAILS)
13807	00627	32421152590	27

Withdrawal and refunding
In the event that the registration is cancelled prior to 31 August 2026, the OA will refund 50% of the registration fee.
Cancellation of registration after 31 August 2026 without the justification of force majeure will result in the permanent loss of the registration fees.

7/ PROGRAMME
Programme subject to modification.
The boats and skippers (or the skipper's representative) shall be expected from 14 September 2026 and shall be at the OA's disposal no later than 15 September 2026 at 15:00 hours in the port of Lorient la Base or the port of Kernevel as allocated.

Monday 14 September
RECEPTION AT THE PORT LA BASE & TECHNICAL PREPARATION

Starting at 10:00 a.m.: Welcome for groups and the press at the Maison des Skippers.
2:00 p.m.– 5:00 PM: "Tech'Afternoon" workshop on "shipyards risks" and "climbing the mast," organized by 507 Works, at the Karré de la Cité de la Voile Éric Tabarly (registration required).
3:00 p.m.: Deadline for boats arrival at the Port of Lorient. Safety equipment controls begin (appointment schedule set by the Technical Committee).

Tuesday 15 September
LA TRAVERSEE CHARLIE
8:45 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.: Materials and Mobility Day, co-organized by Pôle Mer Bretagne Atlantique, ID4Mobility, Compositics, and the EMC2 cluster, at the Lorient Convention Center (registration required).
9:00 a.m.: Group and school visits of the pontoons (teams' presence on the pontoons would be appreciated).
2:00 p.m.: Free afternoon in honor of Charlie Dalin. *Optional; each team is responsible for its own activities. A group departure from the Coureaux de Groix is being considered.*
In the evening: The IMOCAs return to the Port of Lorient.
Starting at 8:30 p.m.: Welcome reception for the IMOCA - Défi Azimut, return from sea at the Maison des Skippers.

Wednesday 16 September
RUNS AZIMUT - OPENING EVENING

10:00 a.m.: Safety briefing for RIB skippers, team support staff, and escort boats in the auditorium at the Cité Voile Éric Tabarly. Skippers must attend. Visibility flags will be distributed at the end of the briefing.
11:00 a.m. : Competitors' Runs briefing at La Cité de la Voile, open to the press (zone, course, weather). Skippers' presence compulsory
11:45 a.m. : Official photos – Skippers' presence compulsory
1:30 p.m.: Departure from the IMOCA harbor.
2:30 p.m.: Opening of the starting line for the Runs.
5:30 p.m.: Closing of the starting line for the Runs.
8:00 p.m.: Opening ceremony and awards ceremony for the Runs, at the Muséo in the Cité de la Voile Éric Tabarly. Skippers must be present.

Thursday 17 September
SINGLE-HANDED 48H D'AZIMUT

08:30 hrs: Reception for the IMOCA Sponsors / Organisers of the IMOCA circuit
9:00 a.m.: Group and school field trips to the docks (we appreciate it if staff are available on the docks).
10:00 hrs: Competitors' briefing – Compulsory presence of the skippers and OBRs
10:45 a.m.: Briefing for OBRs and communications staff. OBRs must attend.
13:30 hrs: IMOCAs depart port
15:30 hrs: Start of the 48H
6:00 p.m.: "Azimut Professional Cocktail Reception" in collaboration with the Bretagne brand, at Comptoir de Groix et Nature (registration required).

Friday 18 September
LES ATELIERS - Bretagne Next, Audelor - Technopôles - IMOCA

8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.: Conferences on Architecture, Innovation, and Business Model Transformation, with Bretagne Next, Audélor, and UBS (registration required).

5:00 p.m.: "AZIMUT Professional Networking Reception" with Breton networks, at Comptoir de Groix et Nature (registration required).

Saturday 19 September
RETURN OF THE 48H & CREW EVENING

10:00 - 18:00 hrs: Arrival of the boats. Welcome dinner for the skippers at the Comptoir Groix et Nature.

8:00 p.m.: Crew party and awards ceremony for the 48H AZIMUT. All skippers must attend.

Sunday 20 September
TOUR DE GROIX AZIMUT & PRIZE-GIVING

11:00 hrs: IMOCAs depart port
12:30 hrs: Start or line opening of the Tour de Groix Azimut* Depending on event format **c.f. 4.6**
17:30 hrs: Prize-giving – Compulsory presence of the skippers

8/ COMMUNICATION INFORMATION:
8.1 A press space will be available in Lorient La Base from Monday 14th September to Sunday 20 September inclusive, venue to be announced, at the Maison des Skippers.

8.2 Use of content made available by Azimut: Participants will be permitted to use the Défi Azimut's logo for (free to distribute) 'text, photo, video' content for their internal and external communication.

9/ COMPULSORY PRESENCE [NP][DP]
The boats' participation is compulsory for the 3 events (RUNS, 48H, Tour de Groix).
The presence of the skippers is required for briefings, the official photo, official soirées and prize-givings.

10/ COMMUNICATION
The official online noticeboard can be viewed at the address:
https://www.defi-azimut.net/

11/ BRANDING ON THE BOATS [DP][NP]
Boats shall display the advertising chosen and supplied by the OA. If this rule is infringed, World Sailing regulation 20.9.2 applies.
This branding shall be installed and maintained, and it will be the skipper's responsibility to display it through until the prize-giving.
There shall be Azimut flag branding for the Défi Azimut races.
Boats shall display the following branding: Two race flags (either on each shroud or on each running backstay, according to the following dimensions: 2 m x 1.5 m)

This branding shall be installed in the host venue port from Monday 14th September through until the end of the Défi Azimut. It will be in position for all the events in port, and at sea, where it shall be displayed up to 20 miles after the start and 20 miles before the finish in Lorient. It shall also be in position throughout Wednesday's parade.

12/ SAILING INSTRUCTIONS
These will be published on the race website https://www.defi-azimut.net/ no later than 9 September and emailed on this date to competitors signed up for the race.

13/ PENALTY SYSTEM
13.1 RRS 44.1 is modified so that the Two-Turns penalty is replaced by the One-Turn penalty.
13.2 A breach of the rules may, upon investigation, incur a time penalty, which may extend to a disqualification.

14/ RANKING
There will be several rankings:
- The RUNS AZIMUT.
- The 48H AZIMUT
- The Tour de Groix AZIMUT.

15/ HAUL-OUT RESTRICTIONS
Boats must not be hauled out during the event unless they are subject to and under the terms of prior written authorisation from the Race Committee.

16/ PRIZES
Prizes will be awarded for each event.

17/ INSURANCE
The affiliated club Centre Nautique de Lorient benefits from MAIF insurance taken out by the FFVoile covering its civil liability in accordance with articles L 321.1 and D 321.1 of the Sports Code.
Défi-Suroît takes out an insurance policy covering its civil liability for its activity.

18/ ETABLISHING RISK

RRS 3 stipulates that: "The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone." By participating in this event, each competitor accepts and acknowledges the fact that sailing is a potentially dangerous activity with inherent risks involved. These risks include strong winds and rough seas, sudden changes in weather conditions, faulty equipment, errors in manoeuvring the boat, other boats sailing badly, loss of balance on an unstable surface and fatigue, leading to an increased risk of injury. Therefore, the risk of material and/or bodily damage is inherent to the sport of sailing. As a result, by agreeing to participate in the race or to remain racing, the competitor is personally responsible for all (material and/or bodily) damage, the organising authority accepting no liability for such damage.

19/ SPECIFIC RULES ON THE RACE ZONE [DP]

In accordance with the local administrative rules, all boats shall comply with the special instructions relating to the movement of vessels in and around Lorient harbour and appearing in the Sailing Instructions or their appendices.

20/ IMAGE AND APPEARANCE PRIVACY RIGHTS

The image privacy rights belong to Défi-Suroît and Class IMOCA.
By participating in this event, the competitor automatically grants the company Défi-Suroît, its partners and Class IMOCA the perpetual right, without compensation of any kind and at their discretion, to produce, use and show, in any related broadcast, any image of the competitor or their boat that is taken or filmed during the Défi Azimut Lorient Agglomération competition in which they are competing.
Use of participants' personal data:
By participating in this competition, the competitor and their legal representatives agree to and authorise the FFVoile and its sponsors to use and store their personal data free of charge. This data may be the subject of publications by the FFVoile and its sponsors. The FFVoile in particular, as well as its sponsors, may use this data to develop software for marketing purposes. In accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), any competitor having passed on their personal data to the FFVoile can exercise their right of access to their own personal data, have them rectified and, according to the situation, deleted, restricted and objected to, by emailing dpo@ffvoile.fr or by writing to the Fédération Française de Voile's headquarters explaining that the request relates to personal data.

21/ ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For the sake of visibility:

The organisation's boats will be equipped with Défi Azimut flags so they can be identified. Every team shall be equipped with an Azimut flag on its Support RIBs/ Assistance boats (To be picked up at the RIB pilot briefing). Each team can receive accreditation for 1 Support RIB/ Assistance boat.

The organisation makes available the following on-water craft:

- A committee boat.
- A pin-end line boat.
- Safety RIBs.

Refer to the instructions from the captainerie (harbour office) at 'Lorient La Base' or the Kernevel captainerie for organisation in port.

The racing areas and safety regulations for the 'RUNS AZIMUT', '48H AZIMUT' and 'Tour de Groix Azimut' will be outlined in the SI.

22/ CONTACTS

DÉFI AZIMUT ORGANISATION
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APPENDIX PRESCRIPTIONS OF THE FÉDÉRATION FRANÇAISE DE VOILE (FFVOILE) - RACING RULES OF SAILING 2025-2028

Version dated 15th October 2024

FFVoile Prescription to RRS 25.1 ***(Notice of race, sailing instructions and signals)***
For events graded 4 and 5, standard notices of race and sailing instructions including the specificities of the event shall be used. Events graded 4 may have dispensation for such requirement, after receipt of FFVoile approval, received before the notice of race has been published. For events graded 5, posting of sailing instructions will be considered as meeting the requirements of RRS 25.1 application. These standard documents can be downloaded on the “Arbitrage” website of FFVoile. https://arbitrage.ffvoile.fr

(*) FFVoile Prescription to RRS 60.5(d) ***(Decisions on protests concerning class rules).***
The protest committee may ask the parties to the protest, prior to checking procedures, a deposit covering the cost of checking arising from a protest concerning class rules.

(*) FFVoile Prescription to RRS 65.1 ***(Legal liability)***
Any question or request related to legal liability arising from an incident occurred while a boat was bound by the Racing Rules of Sailing depends on the appropriate courts and cannot be examined and dealt by a protest committee. A boat that retires from a race or accepts a penalty does not, by that such action, admit legal liability.

(*) FFVoile Prescription to RRS 70.3(b) ***(Appeals and requests to a national authority)***
The denial of the right of appeal is subject to the written approval of the FFVoile, received at least 2 months before the event. This approval shall be posted on the official notice board during the event.

(*) FFVoile Prescription to RRS 76.1 ***(Exclusion of boats or competitors)***
An organizing authority or race committee shall not reject or cancel the entry of a boat or exclude a competitor eligible under the notice of race and sailing instructions for an arbitrary reason.

(*) FFVoile Prescription to RRS 78.1 ***(Compliance with class rules; certificates)***
The boat’s owner or other person in charge shall, under his sole responsibility, make sure moreover that his boat complies with the equipment and security rules required by the laws, by-laws and regulations of the Administration.

(*) FFVoile Prescription to RRS 86.3 ***(Changes to the racing rules)***
An organizing authority wishing to change a rule listed in RRS 86.1(a) in order to develop or test new rules shall first submit the changes to the FFVoile, in order to obtain its written approval and shall report the results to FFVoile after the event. Such approval shall be mentioned in the notice of race and in the sailing instructions and shall be posted on the official notice board during the event.

(*) FFVoile Prescription to RRS 88.2 ***(Changes or deletions to National prescriptions)*** Prescriptions of the FFVoile shall not be changed or deleted in the notice of race and sailing instructions, except for events for which an international jury has been appointed. In such case, the prescriptions marked with an asterisk (*) shall not be changed in the notice of race and sailing instructions. (The official translation of the prescriptions, downloadable on “Arbitrage” website of FFVoile shall be the only translation used to comply with RRS 90.2(b)).

(*) FFVoile Prescription to RRS 91(a) ***(Minimum number of protest committee members)***
The protest committee shall be composed of a minimum number of committee members in accordance with the provisions of the federal regulations of the FFVoile, unless a derogation is granted by the FFVoile.
(*) FFVoile Prescription to RRS 91(b) ***(Appointment of an international jury)***
The appointment of an international jury meeting the requirements of Appendix N is subject to prior written approval of the FFVoile. Such approval shall be posted on the official notice board during the event.

FFVoile Prescription to appendix R ***(Procedures for appeals and requests)***
Appeals shall be sent to: Fédération Française de Voile, jury d’appel - 17 rue Henri Bocquillon, 75015 Paris – email: jury.appel@ffvoile.fr using preferably the appeal form downloadable on the “Arbitrage” website of FFVoile.