



PORTS AND YACHTING DIRECTORATE

## LOCAL NOTICE TO MARINERS N° 189 of 2026

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### **Rolex Middle Sea Race – 2026**

The Ports and Yachting Directorate, Transport Malta, notifies that the Royal Malta Yacht Club will be holding the Rolex Middle Sea Race on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2026. In addition, a coastal race will also be held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2026.

The race programme is as follows:

**a. Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> October 2026**

The coastal race will commence at 1000 hours.

The start and finish line will be established at the entrance to Marsamxett Harbour, between Tigné Point and a buoy to be laid near Fort St. Elmo, as shown in Chart 1. The actual racecourse will be determined on the day of the event, subject to the prevailing weather conditions.

On Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2026 from 0900 hours and 1100 hours, all local ferries, dgħajjes tal-pass and other commercial vessels operating from Sliema and Marsamxett shall not navigate within Marsamxett Harbour, except with the prior authorisation of the event organisers.

Mariners are advised that the starting area for the coastal race will be situated seaward of the entrance to Marsamxett Harbour. Vessels are to keep well clear of this area during the above said times. Throughout the event, mariners are to navigate with particular caution, maintain a sharp lookout at all times, proceed at a safe speed, and comply with any instructions issued by Valletta VTS on VHF Channels 12 and/or 16.

**b. Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> October 2026**

The Rolex Middle Sea Race starts at approximately 1100 hours.

The start is at the Grand Harbour, from an imaginary line between an inflatable yellow buoy near Saint Angelo Point and the Valletta Saluting Battery mast.



The racing yachts shall then proceed in a north-easterly direction along the fairway in the Grand Harbour to an inflatable yellow buoy, bearing the sponsor's logo, positioned outside the Saint Elmo Breakwater. The buoy shown as 1 on the attached charts 1 and 2 will be in the following approximate position:

| <b>LATITUDE (N)</b> | <b>LONGITUDE (E)</b> |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 35° 54'.160         | 014° 31'.540         |

A restricted zone is being established near Buoy 1, as shown in red on the attached charts.

The racing yachts shall then proceed in a North Westerly direction towards St George's shoals where a second inflatable buoy, bearing the sponsor's logo will be positioned. The buoy shown as 2 on the attached chart 2 will be in the following approximate position:

| <b>LATITUDE (N)</b> | <b>LONGITUDE (E)</b> |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 35° 55'.650         | 014° 30'.070         |

A 200m restricted zone is being established around Buoy 2.

The racing yachts will thereafter follow the course as shown on the attached chart 2

The racing yachts shall then proceed in a North–North Easterly direction towards Sicily.

Mariners and spectators are to navigate with caution and to keep a sharp lookout when in the vicinity of the above-mentioned courses and when sighted, give the participants a wide berth.

Mariners are also to keep out of the established zone round buoy 1, shown in red on the attached charts, and at least 200m away from the inflatable buoy 2 mentioned above.

All vessels not participating in the races are to maintain a safe distance of at least 50m from all the participating vessels at all times.

The Pembroke firing ranges will be inactive during the coastal race on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2026 and during the start of the Rolex Middle Sea Race on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2026.



Mariners are advised that on Saturday, 17th October 2026, between 0900 hours and 1500 hours, or such earlier times as may be communicated by Valletta VTS on VHF Channels 12 and/or 16, the Grand Harbour shall be closed to all vessel traffic not directly involved in the event.

During the same period, local ferries, dgħajjes tal-pass and other commercial vessels operating between Valletta and Birgu shall not be permitted to navigate within the designated regatta racecourse area, except with the prior authorisation of the event organisers.

Furthermore, all other vessels within the Grand Harbour shall be required to remain within the designated holding areas extending as far as Ras Ғanzir, including Dockyard Creek, Kalkara Creek and Rinella Bay, as indicated on Chart 1.

Mariners are advised that, on Saturday, 17th October 2026, Rinella Bay may be closed to all marine traffic. During any such closure, anchoring, drifting and navigation within the bay shall be prohibited.

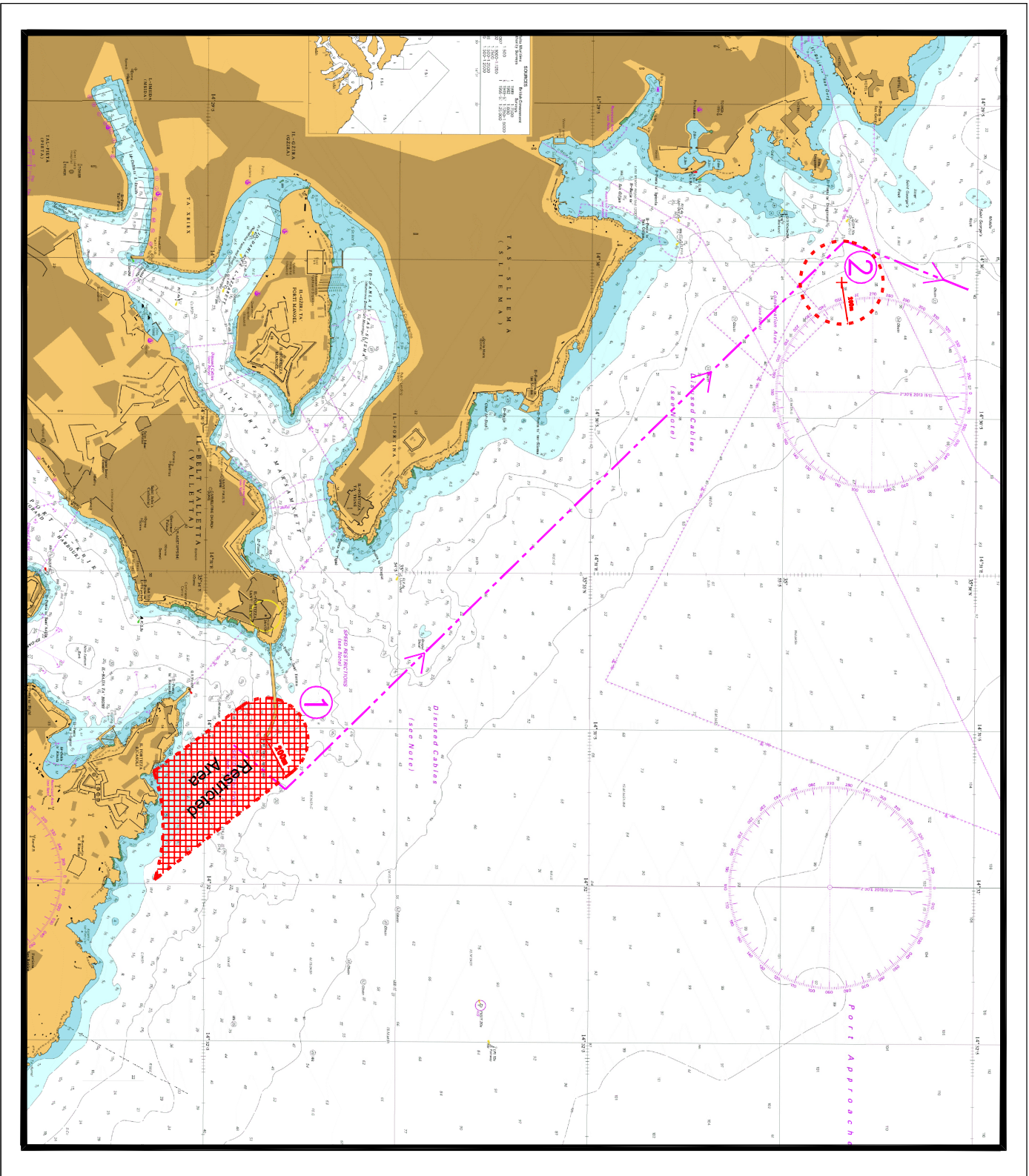
Furthermore, no vessel shall be permitted to berth alongside the quay adjacent to the Fish Market, which shall be reserved exclusively for emergency response vessels.

Mariners are instructed to cooperate with the organizers and Maritime Enforcement officers in the area. Moreover, they are to comply with any instructions given on VHF channel 12 and /or 16 by Valletta VTS.

Positions are in WGS 84 Datum.

Chart affected: **BA Chart 177, 194, 2537,2538.**





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