



Islands Race
February 6-7, 2026
Notice to Competitors #1

A request to waive compliance with the Islands Race Notice of Race, has been received by s/v USA 38124, Antrim 27C – ‘io, owned and skippered by Hill ‘Buzz’ Blackett III of Piedmont, CA, USA. The request is to waive NOR Section 2.1.1 – Eligibility and Section 14 - Safety, as it references US Safety Equipment Requirements (SERs), “US Coastal” level requirements. Specifically:

NOR Section 2.1.1 - Eligibility states “...an overall length (‘LOA’) not less than 29 feet.”

The OA understands from the person in charge that the vessel ‘io has a Length Overall of 27.80 feet.

NOR Section 14.3 - US SER 3.39 - Life Raft Stowage states “Boats built prior to 01/06/2001 may alternatively stow the life raft in a valise not weighing over 88 lbs. securely below deck and adjacent to the companionway.”

The OA understands from the person in charge that “ ‘Io was built in 2019, but does not have either a purpose-built, on-deck life raft locker or a sea-worthy location for a deck-mounted life raft container. Instead, ‘io has a purpose-built raft stowage area under the cockpit, immediately aft of the companionway. The stowage area has tie-down pad-eyes to secure the raft and forward access to enable it to be moved on deck in a few seconds.”

It is assumed Mr. Blackett and crew are aware of implications of these waivers relative to their own performance in any sea state and their safety in any circumstance and that this in no way diminishes the emphasis of the whole of SER 1.2 – “*The safety of a boat and her crew is the sole and inescapable responsibility of the “person in charge...” etc..* With this understanding and acceptance of the associated liability by Mr. Blackett, this waiver is granted.

Jeff Johnson
On behalf of Islands Race Organizing Authority
1015, January 9, 2026