

South East Asia continues to be subject to COVID restrictions, particularly around the issue of both provincial and international travel.

There is currently NO cross border travel of boats between Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand. Resulting in little or no participation in local events.

Singapore has regular IRC fleet racing at Changi Sailing Club. However, this is under a government “limited crew number for club racing” regulation. Leading to some boats having to be reconfigured to suit lower crew numbers (Not Short Handed). Changi polices their IRC Boats through regular sail and boat measurement.

Due to this situation, there are requests for a boat to be able hold multiple certificates for “Regatta” and “Club” racing, where special local restrictions apply. This would result in multiple amendments not being required when a local restriction is introduced. The certificate in use would be declared to the Organising Authority prior to the commencement of an event or series and allowance stated in the NOR/SI’s.

In Malaysia and Thailand there are restrictions on cross region/provincial travel. Which means that owners or crews based in Bangkok or Kuala Lumpur are separated from their boats and cannot participate in events without multiple Covid tests and special applications for cross boarder travel.

With Thailand fleets based either on the West or East Coast there has been no facilities for the seasonal movement of boats between coasts. With limited charter boats available with the main charter fleets mothballed for the past 18 months. Phuket has managed to run 3 “Local” events and One Inter-provincial event over the year, but with limited IRC participation due to the lack of crew being able to travel.

While restrictions on travel to Phuket are now being lifted to allow tourists to fly in under a “7-day sandbox” scheme, this does not currently apply to people arriving by Boat and they would still be subjected to stringent quarantine on their return home, (In the case of Hong Kong/Australia/UK, a minimum of 14/21 days and considerable cost per crew member.)

International events such as the Phuket King’s Cup Regatta and Malaysia’s Raja Muda International Regattas plan to run in a “local/cruising only” form during the traditional sailing season (Nov-April).

[Update] Malaysia has just lifted restrictions on provincial travel for locals. The Raja Muda has announced an event in December, without any organized social events or prize presentations. The organisers have announced that In order to “save owner costs”, racing will only be offered in a cruising format using their local club handicap scheme. (No IRC Class).

On the positive side, everything is changing daily, with countries slowly opening up. Plans for events later in the year are underway for end of the IRC 2021 Season.

Scheduled Events 2021/22

Phuket King’s Cup Regatta – Phuket, Thailand
4th – 11th December 2021
www.kingscup.com

The Raja Muda Selangor International Regatta – Selangor, Malaysia.
10th – 18th December 2021
<http://www.rmsir.com>

The Bay Regatta – Phuket, Thailand
26th – 30th January 2022
www.bayregatta.com

Top of the Gulf Regatta – Pattaya, Thailand
30th April – 4th May 2022
www.topofthegulfregatta.com

Koh Samui Regatta – Samui, Thailand.
21st – 28th May 2022
www.samuiregatta.com

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