

World Sailing Regulations

Regulation 25.5 – Rating System World Championships

A submission from the IRC

Purpose or Objective

To amend the restrictions on an International Rating System to better reflect the restrictions on World Sailing Recognised Classes and to acknowledge that sailors competing under all International Rating Systems have the same rights to compete in a world championship.

Proposal

Amend Regulation 25.5.3:

25.5.3 Qualification to hold a world championship shall include rating systems which are based on measurement and scientific formulation available to all certificate holders **and/or World Sailing.**

Current Position

As above.

Reasons

1. Regulation 12 defines the requirements for World Sailing to recognise a rating system as an International Rating System. This includes worldwide participation and the general structure of the rating system and controls set in place. It is recognised that regulation 25 should further ensure that such a rating system is a valid and active rating system before being granted permission to hold a world championship. Such controls appear to be set in place to ensure that the rating is based on measurement and scientific formulation alone, and that no empirical adjustment is used. To achieve this control it is considered that allowing either the certificate holders or World Sailing access to the scientific formulation provides the competitors with an appropriate control of this element, in a similar way to World Sailing works with manufacturer classes that are recognised classes: retaining a full build specification under a non-disclosure agreement.
 2. World Championships help classes and rating systems to grow participation and are popular with sailors. The effect of this submission is that it will enable both International Rating Systems to provide a world championship to those sailors who wish to race under either system. ORC is already entitled to do this under Regulation 13.1(j). World Sailing should not favour one World Sailing-recognised International Rating System over another.
 3. Currently there are 108 Recognised classes, all of which are permitted to hold a world championship without any similar restrictions. Over 200 World Sailing world champions are
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awarded this title each year. Only 3 are currently awarded in the International Rating Systems, all under one of the two systems. The addition of one world championship title in IRC, where approximately 68,000 sailors from some 54 countries compete, would represent one of the largest individual groups of sailors in any single world championship available through World Sailing.

4. The level of competition within IRC includes the principal trophies at the highest profile events in the offshore calendar, including Rolex Sydney to Hobart Race, Rolex Middle Sea Race, Rolex Fastnet Race, RORC Caribbean 600, as well as many internationally attended inshore events.
 5. The International Maxi Association currently holds the Maxi 72 World Championship as a restricted class under the IRC Rating System and has done for 5 years. Other restricted IRC classes are being developed, and this is seen as an opportunity for World Sailing to encourage growth in world-wide participation in offshore and keelboat racing.
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