

Equipment Rules of Sailing

ERS Interpretation - Regulations 29.3.5 and 29.3.6

A submission from IRC

Purpose or Objective

To create a fast track route for the interpretation of ERS.

Proposal

Add New Regulations 29.3.5 and 29.3.6:

29.3.5 The Equipment Rules of Sailing Question and Answer Panel shall answer questions on the Equipment Rules of Sailing that are submitted to it by a class, a rating rule, an ISAF International Race Official, or a Member National Authority. The procedure that the panel will follow when answering such questions and the Questions and Answers that the panel decides to publish shall be posted on the Equipment Rules of Sailing Question and Answer Service page on the ISAF website, and a link to that page shall appear on both the Equipment Rules, ISAF Classes, Ratings and Handicap and the Race Officials pages. Questions and Answers published during a four-year rulebook cycle will normally be removed from the website no later than 1 January in the year in which a revised rulebook is published. The panel may propose that a published Question and Answer be added to *The ERS Case Book*.

29.3.6 Answers to questions provided by the Equipment Rules of Sailing Question and Answer Panel published on the ISAF website are not authoritative interpretations and explanations of the Equipment Rules of Sailing. However, they are the carefully considered opinions of an experienced panel whose members have a thorough knowledge of the Equipment Rules of Sailing and extensive experience as competitors or as race officials.

Current Position

None.

Reasons

Currently, the only route to obtain an interpretation of ERS is the ERS Case Book. Inclusion of a case requires a submission in accordance with Regulation 15 and is thus a lengthy process.

There is currently no process for a rapid response to questions arising from ERS. This absence creates problems for classes using ERS, encouraging informal local or class based interpretations, and is a deterrent to classes adopting ERS.

RRS have resolved this problem with the introduction of the Racing Rules Question and Answer

Panel.

Interpretation of Offshore Special Regulations is governed by Regulation 30.3 which provides for interpretation by the Chairman of the Special Regulations Sub-committee.

Similarly, ISAF Regulation 16 gives the right of interpretation of the ISAF Constitution, including ISAF Regulations, to the Constitution Committee. Within this, Regulation 16.4 gives the Chairman of Constitution Committee the right to issue a provisional interpretation in case of 'urgency', subject to confirmation by the Constitution Committee.

Noting that ISAF Regulations include the Eligibility, Advertising, Ant-Doping and ISAF Sailor Classification Codes, all 'rules' governing the conduct of racing, with the sole exception of the Equipment Rules of Sailing, have processes in place for quick interpretation.

It is proposed that an Equipment Rules of Sailing Question and Answer Panel should be established. It is accepted that, identically with the RRS, answers given cannot be authoritative interpretations and can only be carefully considered opinions of an experienced panel.