

Equipment Rules of Sailing Administration

Regulations 15 and 32

A submission from the Chairman of the Equipment Committee

Proposals:

Add to Regulation 15:

15.14.3 The Chairman of the Equipment Control Sub-committee shall appoint the members and chairmen of the ERS Working Party and the ERS Question & Answer Panel.

Amend Regulation 32 as follows:

- 32.1 The Equipment Control Sub-committee, **through the chairman of the Equipment Committee and** after consultation with the Chairmen of the Racing Rules Committee, ~~Equipment Committee~~ and Offshore Committee **are is** responsible for advising and making recommendations to the Council regarding The Equipment Rules of Sailing (ERS) and the various related subjects with which the ERS are concerned, which include but are not limited to ~~fundamental measurement certification control, certification and event measurement equipment inspection~~ including sailing instructions concerning ~~measurement and certification equipment inspection~~, and ~~matters relating to clothing and equipment controls and~~ rules observance.
- 32.1.1 The ERS shall be adopted or changed only by the Council after considering recommendations from the Equipment Control Sub-committee ~~and the Chairmen of the Racing Rules Committee, Equipment Committee and the Offshore Committee~~. Changes to the ERS shall be put into effect only every four years ~~except when the Council has previously authorized more frequent changes or when Regulation 32.1.1 applies~~, **on 1 January of the year following the year in which the Olympic Sailing Competition is held. Regulation 32.1.2 contains exceptions to this policy.**
- 32.1.2 In exception to Regulation 32.1.1, any change of clear necessity or pressing importance may be made effective for any designated date by three-quarters of the full voting membership of both the Equipment Control Sub-committee and the Council. **The ISAF Secretariat shall promptly report any action taken under this regulation to all Member National Authorities.**
- 32.2 ~~Major changes to the ERS may be approved, for effect at the end of the four year period, only in the first three years following the adoption of the current edition of the ERS, except as provided in Regulations 32.1.2 and 32.2.3.~~ **A revised edition of The Equipment Rules of Sailing shall be published every four years, on 1 January of the year following the year in which the Olympic Sailing Competition is held.**
- 32.2.1 ~~All~~ Submissions and proposals for changes to the ERS shall be made in accordance with Regulation 1. ~~Notices and Submissions, including the deadline in Regulation 1.6, and shall be placed on the agenda for the next meeting of the Equipment Control sub-Committee and comments on them shall be invited from~~

~~the chairmen of the Racing Rules Committee, Equipment Committee and Offshore Committee.~~ **Submissions and proposals for changes to be included in the next edition shall be accepted until the closing date for submissions to the Annual ISAF Conference in November of the year preceding the Olympic Sailing Competition. After that date, no further new submissions or proposals will be accepted for that edition. However, previously accepted submissions or proposals may be changed and appendices may be revised until 1 May of the year in which the Olympic Sailing Competition is held.**

~~32.2.2 The Equipment Control Sub-committee shall act on all submissions and proposals at the Annual ISAF Meeting in each of the three years following the adoption of the current edition of the ERS, and each year shall submit any proposed changes it recommends to the Council for provisional approval. Except as provided in Regulations 32.1.2 and 32.2.3, the Equipment Control Sub-committee shall act during the fourth year only on submissions directly relevant to such provisionally approved changes and on submissions that propose minor editing changes. Unless the Equipment Control Sub-committee shall hold a mid-year meeting in the fourth year, after its third year meeting a draft edition of the new ERS shall be sent to all Member National Authorities and ISAF Class Associations.~~

~~32.2.3 When at the end of its third year meeting the Equipment Control Sub-committee decides that any matter remains substantially unresolved or when it has been directed by the Council to act during the fourth year on matters arising from meetings of other committees, the Equipment Control Sub-committee shall hold a mid-year meeting in the fourth year. In addition to such unfinished business and such matters from other committees, submissions limited to fourth year submissions as provided in Regulation 32.2.2 and made by a date to be announced with the date of the mid-year meeting shall be accepted. The announcement of the mid-year meeting and a draft agenda shall be sent before 1 January of the fourth year to all Member National Authorities and members of the Equipment Control Sub-committee. Promptly after the mid-year meeting, a draft edition of the new ERS shall be sent to all Member National Authorities and ISAF Class Associations.~~

~~32.2.4 After approval by the Council at its meeting in the fourth year, the new edition of the ERS shall be published.~~

32.2.2 In addition to submissions, the Equipment Control Sub-committee shall also consider **proposals and recommendations from:**

- (a) ~~proposals from a~~ **the ERS** Working Party ~~appointed by the Chairman of the Equipment Control Sub-committee, which shall include one representative from each of the Racing Rules Committee, Equipment Committee and Offshore Committee;~~
- (b) ~~proposals from the Racing Rules Committee~~ **and its RRS Working Party** ~~Committee, the Equipment Committee, the Offshore Committee, and any of the Sub-committees of the Race Officials Committee (which proposals shall also be submitted to the Race Officials Committee for consideration), and any recommendations made by the Race Officials Committee on the Sub-committee proposals; and;~~
- (c) ~~previous ISAF interpretations of the ERS.~~ **the Equipment Committee;**

- (d) the Class Rules Sub-Committee;
- (e) the Offshore Committee, and;
- (f) the Race Officials Committee and its Sub-committees.

32.2.3 The Equipment Control Sub-committee ERS Working Party shall finalize any rule changes by 1 May of the year in which the Olympic Sailing Competition is held.

32.2.4 A final, fully formatted copy of the revised edition of The Equipment Rules of Sailing, with changes from the previous edition clearly identified for translators, shall be made available by the ISAF Secretariat to all Member National Authorities and ISAF Class Associations by 30 June of the year in which the Olympic Sailing Competition is held.

32.2.5 The new edition of The Equipment Rules of Sailing shall come into effect worldwide on 1 January of the year following the year in which the Olympic Sailing Competition is held. However, if an event begins in the year of the Olympic Sailing Competition and continues past 31 December, the effective date may be postponed by the notice of race and sailing instructions.

32.3 Interpretations of the ~~ERS~~ **Equipment Rules of Sailing by the ISAF** shall be made only ~~by the Council after considering recommendations from the Equipment Control Sub-committee and the Chairmen of the Racing Rules Committee, Equipment Committee and Offshore Committee~~ **through publication of cases in The ERS Case Book. The cases are authoritative interpretations and explanations of the Equipment Rules of Sailing.**

32.3.1 The Equipment Rules Sub-committee shall study cases for interpretation as submitted ~~by Member National Authorities or proposed by the Working Party appointed under Regulation 32.2.1(a)~~ **in accordance with Regulation 1, or the Equipment Rules Question and Answer Panel**, and shall recommend to the Council those that it approves for publication **in The ERS Case Book.**

32.3.2 ~~Cases for interpretation,~~ **Submissions or proposals for cases** in English and including any necessary diagrams, shall be received at the ISAF Secretariat before the deadline in Regulation 1.6 ~~or Regulation 32.2.3.~~ **If a submission or proposal duplicates a published case, the submission or proposal shall state why the proposed case is preferable.**

32.3.3 ~~Cases for interpretation shall significantly clarify an important meaning of a rule or increase the understanding of a complex rule.~~ **The following are guidelines for publishing cases in The ERS Case Book:**

- (a) A case shall significantly clarify an important meaning of a rule or increase the understanding of a complex rule.**
- (b) A case shall not duplicate one already published. When a case is an improvement on an existing case it shall be included and the existing case deleted.**

32.3.4 Where practical all interpretations shall be considered as possible changes to the ERS ~~in accordance with Regulation 32.2.3.~~

~~32.3.5 All official interpretations and authoritative publications on the ERS must be reviewed by the Equipment Control Sub-committee, the Chairmen of the Racing Rules Committee, Equipment Committee and the Offshore Committee and approved by the Council.~~

32.3.5 The ERS Question and Answer Panel shall answer questions on the Equipment Rules or Certification Control or Equipment Inspection procedures that are submitted to it by an ISAF International Race Official, a Member National Authority or an Official Measurer. 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 Question and Answer Service page on the ISAF website, and a link to that page shall appear on both the Equipment Rules 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 ERS are published.

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

Approval of Interpretations of the Equipment Rules

32.4 Except for the publication of The ERS Case Book, the ISAF shall not issue an authoritative interpretation or explanation of the Equipment Rules unless it is first reviewed and approved by the Chairman of the Equipment Control Sub-committee or a member of the committee designated by the Chairman.

Reasons:

1. To make the Regulations for the administration of the ERS as similar as possible to those for the administration of the RRS.
2. To remove conflicts between current Regulations 1 and 32.
3. To use ERS defined equipment terms where possible.