

## **World Championships**

IRC – Regulations 18.7 and 28.3

A submission from the International IRC Owners Association

### **Proposal**

Renumber Regulation 18.7 as 18.7.1. [This is the Regulation which defines ORC's rights to hold World Championships]. and insert new Regulation:

**18.7.2 The International IRC Owners Association may hold an annual World Championship under the IRC rule. It shall comply with regulation 18.2.**

Delete Regulation 28.3 and the preceding heading:-

### **World Championships**

~~28.3 A designation as an international rating system shall not automatically entitle the rating system to hold a world championship.~~

~~Rating systems not covered in Regulation 18 shall apply to ISAF for approval to hold a world championship.~~

~~Qualification to hold a world championship shall include rating systems which are based on measurement and scientific formulation available to all certificate holders.~~

### **Current Position**

As above.

### **Reason**

The current wording effectively prohibits IRC from holding a world championship because it is a secret rule. It is contended that this should not be a bar to holding a world championship. The secret nature of the rule is a major factor in its longevity. Designers are unable to exploit loopholes which might enable them to design boats which can win under the rule despite having other undesirable characteristics. It embraces both old and new boats of a wide variety of types and it encourages the build of new boats which are fast, safe and fun to sail. Its increasing use at the highest level of racing, both inshore and offshore, reflects the confidence of competitors that it provides fair handicaps. It brings the emphasis back to sailing rather than designing.

IRC is the largest high level rating system in the world, with about 8000 boats holding IRC Certificates in 2008. Many of the world's most prestigious and highly competitive offshore events are held under this system including Fastnet Race, Rolex Commodores Cup, Sydney-Hobart race, Middle Sea race, Key West regatta, Spi Ouest regatta, Les voiles de St Tropez, and many more.