

Submission: **SR09-09**

Offshore Special Regulations – 2.01

Categories of Events

A submission from the IRC (Rating System)

Proposal

2.01	Categories of Events	
	<i>In many types of race, ranging from trans-oceanic sailed under adverse conditions to short-course day races sailed in protected waters, six categories are established, to provide for differences in the minimum standards of safety and accommodation required for such varying circumstances:</i>	**
2.01.1	Category 0 Trans-oceanic races, including races which pass through areas in which air or sea temperatures are likely to be less than 5 degrees Celsius other than temporarily, where yachts must be completely self-sufficient for very extended periods of time, capable of withstanding heavy storms and prepared to meet serious emergencies without the expectation of outside assistance.	MoMu,0
2.01.2	Category 1 Races of long distance and well offshore, where yachts must be completely self-sufficient for extended periods of time, capable of withstanding heavy storms and prepared to meet serious emergencies without the expectation of outside assistance. <u>Typically races of several thousand miles in length, up to 1000 miles from a safe haven.</u>	MoMu,1
2.01.3	Category 2 Races of extended duration along or not far removed from shorelines or in large unprotected bays or lakes, where a high degree of self-sufficiency is required of the yachts. <u>Typically races of 600 miles in length, up to 150 miles from a safe haven.</u>	MoMu,2
2.01.4	Category 3 Races across open water, most of which is relatively protected or close to shorelines. <u>Typically races of 150 miles in length, up to 50 miles from a safe haven.</u>	MoMu,3
2.01.5	Category 4 Short races, close to shore in relatively warm or protected waters normally held in daylight. <u>Typically races of up to 50 miles in length, up to 20 miles from a safe haven.</u>	MoMu,4
2.01.6	Category 5 - for inshore racing Please refer to Appendix J where Special Regulations for Category 5 are given in full. The symbol " ** " does not include Category 5.	
2.01.6	Category 6 - for inshore racing Please refer to Appendix L where Special Regulations for Category 6 are given in full. The symbol " ** " does not include Category 6	

Current Position

As above

Reason

The current description of categories is based primarily on the area in which races take place, rather than wind strength or sea state. It is considered that this is the correct approach, because it is not possible to forecast weather with any accuracy well in advance, when Notices of Race have to be issued. On the other hand choice of category can take account of the fact that races in some areas and at some times of year are more likely than others to encounter bad weather. For example the Sydney-Hobart race requires a higher category than a race of similar length in other places because it is well known that bad weather is likely in the Tasman Strait. The ARC has a lower category than some trans-oceanic races because it is held in warm waters in a trade wind belt and outside the Hurricane season.

However the current descriptions are not quantified and can be interpreted in widely different ways. It is felt that Organising Authorities would welcome the addition of some quantified guidelines (not firm rules) to assist in choosing the appropriate category for each race. This would result in a greater degree of uniformity in specifying the category for a race.