

MINUTES – OFFSHORE COMMITTEE



A Session of the Offshore Committee of the International Sailing Federation was held at 0930 hours on Wednesday 9th November 2005 at the Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel, Singapore.

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Present:

Philip Tolhurst (Chairman)	Will Apold
Kjell Borking (Vice-Chairman)	Abraham Rosenberg (Oceanic Sub-Committee)
Alan Green (Special Regs / Int Regs)	Maximo E. Rivero Kelly
Pierre Fehlmann (Major Oceanic Events)	Minoru Tomita
Bruce Eissner	Bruno Finzi (IMS Representative)
Paul King (IRC Representative)	Patrick Lindqvist
David Lyons	Nils Nordenstrøm (Empirical Handicap S-C)
François Pascal	Wolfgang Schaefer
Hans Zuiderbaan	Paddy Boyd
Stuart Quarrie	

Apologies:

Ignacio Castaner de la Torre	Ioannas Marackoudakis
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*Please refer to the ISAF Council minutes of 11-12 November 2005 for the **final Council decision on all recommendations and opinions contained within these minutes. (An exception is the decisions on Offshore Special Regulations submissions where the Offshore Committee under Regulation 15.17.6 (c) approves Special Regulations on behalf of Council.)***

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

(a) Minutes

There were no matters arising from the Offshore Committee Meeting of 12 November 2004 not otherwise covered on the agenda.

2. PROMOTION OF OFFSHORE RACING

(a) Presentations and discussion on promoting Offshore Racing

A discussion was opened by considering the media and in particular where the promoting of sailing should be aimed at the media, grand prix racing, or participation. The discussion also covered promoting the use of rating systems using consistent measurement procedures and generally establishing a consistent message throughout the sport. After a lengthy debate it was agreed that the principal objective would be to grow by participation in particular:

- to gather new participants,
- to retain/keep in the sport existing competitors,
- Offshore sailing should be integrated as part of the ISAF Youth/Development program
- Keep Youth in the sport
- Assist Race Organisers to display races through tracking for spectators
- at a higher level - Media commentators need training

It was agreed to form a promotional working group of Philip Tolhurst, Bruno Finzi, Paddy Boyd, Kjell Bjorking and Chris Little/RORC Representative.

It was agreed to form a second working group to work on a joint ORC/IRC initiative to determine consistent terminology and explanations of rating systems for race organisers and spectators. (See also Item 8(a) submission 046-05). The Working group will comprise Patrick Lindqvist, Bruce Eissner, Ken Kershaw, Sten Edholm(ORC) and Mike Urwin(IRC).

(b) Boat Tracking and Position presentation

Mikkel Thommessen of Prosail gave a presentation of boat tracking devices his specific project was aimed at short-course racing with self contained transponders costing approximately \$1000 per unit.

It was agreed to create a working group to evaluate different tracking devices applicable to both inshore and offshore, for media and race management purposes and report during the year. A summary of findings to be available on the internet. The members of the working group are Stuart Quarrie(Chairman), Will Apold, Sten Edholm, Abraham Rosemberg and Wolfgang Schaeffer.

3. OFFSHORE EVENTS CALENDAR

There was a verbal report from the Major Event Organisers meeting held on Sunday 6 November. It was noted that the meeting was an informal gathering and had no constitution. The principal purpose this year had been to exchange provisional dates for future events and to give a better understanding of how the new offshore structure within ISAF would operate.

4. CLASS APPLICATIONS FOR ISAF STATUS

(a) X- 35 Class

The Committee noted submission 038-05 from X-Yachts and received a draft set of class rules.

Recommendation

The Offshore Committee opinion is to reject the submission on the basis that the class does not yet fulfil the Regulation 26 distribution requirements for 'actively racing'.

(b) Swan 45 Class

(i) The Committee noted Submission 039-05 from the Nautor Swan Group and received a copy of the Class Rules.

Recommendation

The Offshore Committee opinion is to support the submission.

(c) Requirements for Offshore Classes

There was a discussion regarding the requirements for offshore classes seeking recognition by ISAF. It was noted that Regulation 15.17.6 Terms of Reference states " The Offshore Committee shall: (b) set criteria for the designation by ISAF asOffshore Classes and to review applications." It was further noted that Regulation 26.2.1 refers to criteria for boats over 15m length. Regulation 26.2.1 (c) specifies that the class rules shall be in the standard class rules format and adopting the Equipment Rules of Sailing. The Equipment Committee may approve an exemption to either requirement if in its opinion the class rules are satisfactory and well established.

It was agreed that clarification was required on:
what were the Offshore Committee's criteria for designation as an ISAF Offshore Class,
the position of the Offshore Committee in relation to Regulation 26 regarding the role of the Equipment Committee in class rules and exemptions from standard class rules and ERS..

5. REGULATION 18.7 - OFFSHORE RACING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

(a) ORC Sportsboat Rule - Deferred Submission 027-04

(i) The Committee noted that Council deferred the 2004 submission to amend regulation 18.7 to include a World Championship for the ORC Sports Boat Rating Rule.

The ORC withdrew the submission for an ORC Sportsboat world championship.

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(b) ISAF Offshore Team World Championships

- (i) The Committee received Submission 102-05 from the Chairman regarding the Yacht Club Costa Smeralda proposal to host the 2006 Championships and a draft of the Notice of Race. The event will be held 3-10 June at Porto Cervo, Sardinia using Farr 40, Swan 45 and TP 52 Classes.

Recommendation

The Offshore Committee recommendation is to support the submission.

(c) ORC 26ft, 33ft and 42ft Grand Prix Classes – Submission 103-05

- (i) The Committee received Submission 103-05 to give ISAF approval to the new ORC Grand Prix Classes and a presentation by Paolo Massarini.

Recommendation

The Offshore Committee recommendation is to defer the submission.

6. INSURANCE

The Chairman introduced a discussion on insurance issues, including crew injury, cases where paid crew are not covered and high profile racing yachts that were only insured for third party claims. US Sailing reported on an insurance scheme for its members aimed at offshore yachts. RORC require a minimum of 3rd party cover and a recommendation that crew should have personal life insurance. The significance in terms of insurance as to whether a boat was properly entered in a race was highlighted. A trend for surveyors to be appointed as accident investigators looking for negligence on the part of the owner was noted. The presentation to the organisation authority of an entry's certificate of insurance was also debated. Paddy Boyd agreed to prepare a paper on insurance issues. It was agreed to circulate information on this matter and keep the subject on future agendas.

7. OFFSHORE SPECIAL REGULATIONS

In accordance with [the Regulation 15.17.6 \(c\)](#) the Offshore Committee approves [Special Regulations on behalf of Council](#).

(a) Submission 104-05 – New Offshore Special Regulations Categories

The Committee received submission 104-05 regarding small boat safety and the recommendation of the Special Regs.SC. It was agreed to appoint to the working party Patrick Lindqvist, Bruce Eissner and Ken Kershaw.

Recommendation

A working group shall be established by the ISAF special regulations subcommittee with representation from the ISAF equipment committee, to report at the 2006 Conference. The working group shall consult as appropriate representatives of class committees and others who may be affected. The working group is to evaluate the proposals made in submissions 042-05 and

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104-05 and related safety issues, and recommend how best the needs identified can be catered for within the ISAF structure.

(b) **Submission 105-05 – Increased Highlight of Fundamental Responsibility**

The Committee noted the submission was not supported by the OSR Committee. It was also noted that part of the proposed changes were rejected on the basis that they should not be in the Special Regulations but rather in the Racing Rules.

Decision

The submission was rejected.

(c) **Submission 106-05 – Definitions of Cats 3, 4 and 5**

The Committee noted the original submission had been largely withdrawn as it was not supported by the OSR Committee. It was replaced by an amendment to the definition of Category 3 to read “Race across open water, most of which is relatively protected or close to shorelines” (following removal of the words “including races for small yachts”). It was also noted that the definitions were still far from clear.

Decision

The definition of Category 3 is amended to read “Race across open water, most of which is relatively protected or close to shorelines”.

(d) **Submission 107-05 – Proposed format change and issuance of a Cat 4 version**

The Committee received submission 107-05 and noted the submission was not supported by the OSR Committee.

Decision

The submission was rejected.

(e) **Submission 108-05 – General Amendments**

The Committee received submission 108-05 and noted the submission was supported by the OSR Committee with amendments:

3.13.3 recommendation for watertight bulkheads in Cat 1 – not agreed

3.13.6 agreed to change required minimum survival time to 2 weeks as in present Volvo Ocean Race but not 3 weeks

3.14.3 (i) withdrawn

4.10 revised text agreed in view of the latest information from the UK MCA

4.02.1 fleet or race numbers on foredeck in Cat 1 – not agreed

4.20.1 see item on submission 109-05 below

Decision

The submission was approved with the amendments recommended by the OSR Committee with the additional amendment to 4.20.3 to delete : ‘permanently’.

(f) Submission 109-05 – SR 4.20 ISO 9650 Liferafts

The Committee received submission 109-05 and noted that the substance of the submission will be re-drafted by a Working Group of Alan Green, Tony Mooney and Patrick Lindqvist including amongst other items that only one version of the ISO 9650 liferaft and accompanying equipment “as packaged” will be specified in the OSRs. The OSR committee did not find certain details of ISO 9650 satisfactory (eg specification of aids to boarding the raft from the sea). The correspondence group may specify such additional requirements to ensure that the industry delivers a raft acceptable to the committee.

Decision

The proposed wording will be circulated for approval by the Committee, by the end of November.

(g) Submission 110-05 – Storm and Heavy Weather sails

The Committee received submission 110-05 and noted that the OSR Committee supported the submission.

Decision

The submission was approved.

(h) Submission 111-05 – Appendix K – Moveable and Variable Ballast

The Committee received submission 111-05 and noted that the OSR Committee approved the submission with the following addition: “Notwithstanding the maximum length of 24m in the standard” and “Access points in the watertight enclosure for control and actuation systems or any other purpose shall comply with SR 3.02.1.” The Committee gratefully acknowledged the work of the working party.

Decision

The submission was approved with the amendments made by the OSR Committee and subject to a check of the grammar.

(i) Submission 042-05 – Introduction of Small Boat Safety Recommendations

The Committee received submission 042-05 and it will be dealt with as detailed under Submission 104-05.

Alan Green advised that he was retiring as Chairman of the Offshore Special Regulations Committee. The Committee thanked Alan for his tremendous work and decades of service.

8. STANDARD NOTATION FOR DESCRIPTION OF BOATS

(a) Submission 046-05 – Standard Notations for Description of Boats

The Committee noted submission 046-05 and applauded the idea of standard nomenclature but considered that the proposed table of notations needed further work.

Bruce Eissner proposed the submission be deferred pending further consultation with the rating rules. Bruno Finzi proposed a link with the measurement committee and to defer and collaborate further with RORC and ORC. It was noted this was the first step that was needed to be undertaken.

The Offshore Committee opinion is to defer the submission for further review by ORC, RORC, US Sailing and to take into consideration ISO standards.

Recommendation

The Offshore Committee opinion is to defer the submission for further review by ORC, RORC, US Sailing and to taking into consideration ISO standards..

9. REPORTS & OPINIONS OF OFFSHORE COMMITTEE SUB-COMMITTEES

(a) Special Regulations Sub-Committee

The Committee received a report from the Chairman of the Special Regulations Sub-Committee not based on submissions.

(i) Category Zero review

The Committee noted that the OSR Committee supported the recommendations of the Monohull and Multihull Category Zero working parties.

Decision

The recommendations of the OSR Committee were approved.

(b) Oceanic Sub-Committee

The Committee received a report from the Chairman of the Oceanic Sub-Committee.

(c) Empirical Handicap Sub-Committee

The Committee received a report from the Chairman of the Empirical Handicap Sub-Committee.

10. REPORTS FROM HANDICAP SYSTEMS

Reports from International / Recognized Handicap Systems

(a) International Measurement System

Bruno Finzi presented a report from the Offshore Racing Congress which included that the Rolex IMS Offshore World Championship was held at Mahon, Menorca, ESP 11-17 July with 41 entries from 13 nations. The IMS European Championships were held in Oxelosund, Sweden 28 June – 6 July., 37 yachts from 6 nations competed. The Rolex IMS 600 World Championship for production boats was held in Neustadt, Germany with 19 entries from six nations. The first IMS 670 World Championship was in Alicante, Spain 18-24 July with 32 boats from 5 nations. The IMS 600 Europeans were held in Aghios Nikolaos, Crete with 14 yachts from 6 nations. An ORC Sportsboat Europeans was held in Trieste, Italy 12-17 September with 16 entries from 3 nations. The total number of 2005 IMS Rating Certificates issued by end of October was 3014

(b) IRC Rating Rule

Paul King presented a report as Chairman of the International IRC Owners Association Congress. As at 31 August, 6068 yachts had been issued with certificates in 2005. 18 nations had fleets of 25 boats or more on 5 continents. An IRC Congress was held on 1 October at St Tropez, France. Amendments to the Rating Rule for 2006 were circulated. In response to a question it was agreed that the Certificate endorsement procedure would be published together with guidance as to where endorsed certificates are required.

(c) ORC Club

The total number of ORC Club certificates issued for the 2005 by the end of October was 5037.

11. INTERNATIONAL REGULATIONS COMMISSION

The Committee received a verbal report from the Chairman of the International Regulations Commission.

12. ISAF STRATEGIC PLAN

ISAF Vice-President David Irish gave a presentation on the process of the ISAF Strategic Plan. Philip Tolhurst, Kjell Borking and Wolfgang Schaefer volunteered to work on the project groups.

13. ANNUAL REPORT

It was noted that a draft report from the Committee Chairman covering the period 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2005 will be circulated to committee members before the end of the year.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(a) Submission 024-05 Use of the Racing Rules

Bruno Finzi proposed that ISAF International or Recognized Rating Systems be included in paragraph 2 regarding automatic approval.

(b) RRS 78 – Compliance with Class Rules: Certificates

Bruno Finzi expressed concern regarding Racing Rule 78.2 which permits a boat to present a valid certificate to the race committee before the end of an event. This is not considered appropriate for handicap racing. It was concluded that race organisers should specify in the Notice of Race that rating certificates shall be produced prior to the event.

The committee agreed to communicate more regularly throughout the coming year, possibly with a schedule for two skype conference call during the year.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 1635.