

Racing Rules of Sailing & Equipment Rules of Sailing

Joint Working Party

A submission from the Chairmen of the Racing Rules Committee, Equipment Committee and Race Officials Committee

Purpose or Objective

To consider in the broadest context the integration of racing and equipment rules including consideration of how these link with other 'rules' such as ISAF Regulations and Offshore Special Regulations. The objectives are to:

1. Rationalise rules relating to equipment and its use to ensure consistent definitions and interpretations, and clearer lines of responsibility.
2. Incorporate the ERS into the 'rules'.
3. Resolve conflicts between the RRS and ERS.
4. Review and if appropriate propose changes to the contents of the RRS, ERS and other rules arising from the above.

Proposal

Establish a joint working party of the Equipment and Racing Rules Committees with terms of reference broadly as above. The Working Party is to make recommendations and prepare submissions to implement them in time for consideration at the ISAF Conference in November 2017. The submissions are to be limited to 'structural' changes unless a proposed change necessitates a change to a specific rule or rules.

Current Position

Not applicable.

Reasons

1. 'Equipment' is a fundamental element of the sport. For a majority of classes, particularly modern classes, ERS are an integral part of their Class Rules. Notwithstanding this, ERS are not invoked by RRS which itself includes a number of rules relating to equipment dispersed through Part 4. Equipment is thus currently the responsibility of different Committees leading to conflict and inconsistency of both terminology and interpretation.
 2. It is plainly undesirable that definitions used in different sections of the rules are in conflict. This should be resolved.
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3. ISAF Offshore Special Regulations are currently undergoing a major re-write with the aims of simplification, improved use of language, and, as an aside benefit, improved ability to publish electronically. This review has highlighted that some definitions in the OSRs either repeat definitions elsewhere or differ from them. A full review as proposed would facilitate rationalising these.
 4. For completely successful implementation of the current Universal Measurement System project, consistency of equipment definitions is a fundamental requirement. While this is largely in hand within ERS, removal of conflicting definitions and full integration of ERS within the rules structure will further help this project.
 5. It is intended that this structural review is discussed at the ISAF Conference in November 2017. If approved, there will be about 20 months available to prepare detailed submissions which, if then approved in November 2019, will be incorporated into the 2021 rule books.
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