

Board Recommendation Not Based on Submission**World Sailing Special Event Status****1. Introduction**

- 1.1 Special Event status originated in the Advertising Code, but is no longer referenced there. It has since been used on occasion to give recognition to specific non-World Sailing events, or to approve exceptions permitted within the Regulations or the Racing Rules of Sailing.
- 1.2 However this usage has not been consistent, and there are no specific policy guidelines.
- 1.3 Today there is also the opportunity to grow the sport and its profile through events that do not originate within the traditional MNA / club / class structure. These events require the approval of World Sailing. It is believed that Special Event status provides a better model for World Sailing's approval and oversight of such events than, for instance, establishing a formal relationship with the organisers.
- 1.4 World Sailing should take this opportunity to establish policy guidelines for Special Events that reflect the emerging events in sailing today, and World Sailing's responsibilities within the sport.

2. Purpose of Special Event Status

- 2.1 The purpose of Special Event status should be to enable World Sailing to:
 - (a) encourage, support and promote high profile events in the professional era;
 - (b) exercise consistently its control and oversight responsibilities towards events that are exceptionally permitted under the RRS and other various Regulations.

3. Recommendations to Council

- 3.1 Events that require World Sailing approval under the RRS, or have exceptions approved in accordance with other Regulations, should be categorised as Special Events and meet the associated requirements. Other OAs may apply for their events to be granted Special Event status.
- 3.2 Approved exceptions that should trigger Special Event status include:
 - (a) Regulation 25.1: inclusion of word "World" in the title of the event (except for class world championships authorised under Regulation 25.2).
 - (b) Regulation 25.5.2: rating system world championships.
 - (c) Regulation 25.6: other World Championships.
 - (d) Regulation 28.1.3 & RRS 86.2: international event changing the RRS.
 - (e) Regulation 20.2.3.1: amendment to the Advertising Code.
 - (f) Regulation 20.2.3.1(b, c, d): Oceanic events; series of events in more than one country; international series of events with the same sponsor.
- 3.3 Approved Special Events should be reported by the CEO to the Board.
- 3.4 Therefore Special Events range from major event properties (such as the Volvo Ocean Race that are clearly seen as "World" and "Elite", that are professionally managed, have a high level of advertising or sponsorship, and have a high global profile and attract the world's very best sailors), to lower scale events where a small change to RRS or the Advertising Code has been approved. The Board will categorise Special Events into two tiers on the recommendation of the CEO – "Major" and "Standard".

- 3.5 Major Special Events should pay a sanction fee to World Sailing, include appropriate World Sailing branding, and be promoted by World Sailing, all as mutually agreed. As agreed with the organisers or as required by the Regulations, World Sailing appoints or approves the race officials and other expertise to support the event.
- 3.6 Standard Special Events should pay a sanction fee in recognition of the exception approval(s) granted by World Sailing.
- 3.7 Regulation 25.12.2 (approval fee, prize money) will be applied to all Special Events.
- 3.8 Special event status will be documented in a contractual agreement with the Special Event organizer.