

WORLD SAILING POLICY REGISTER

RANKINGS – MATCH RACING

1. World Sailing Match Race Rankings

- 1.1 There are three divisions:
 - (a) Open
 - (b) Women
 - (c) Youth.
- 1.2 The Women's Division is limited to events which specify that all crew members, including the skipper, must be women.
- 1.3 The Youth Division is limited to events which specify that all crew members, including the skipper, must be under 23 years old on 31 December of the year in which the event is held.
- 1.4 All other events are in the Open Division.
- 1.5 Points scored in Women's events shall count only towards the Women's ranking list. Points scored in Youth's events shall count only towards the Youth's ranking list. Points scored by an all women team and/or all youth team in an Open event shall count towards the Open list and the respective Women's list or Youth list, without any adjustment.

2. Administration

- 2.1 The official World Sailing grading form is available for download from the World Sailing website. The form shall be completed by the event organizer, endorsed by the relevant Member National Authority, and received by the Executive Office at least four months prior to the event.
- 2.2 An event grading will then be allocated by World Sailing.
- 2.3 World Sailing must publish the dates for WC events on or before 15 October the year before. All event organizers applying either for Grade 1 or Grade 2 are invited to submit their dates before 1 November the year before. World Sailing will then establish a calendar of events.
- 2.4 Events dates will be allocated in the following order:
 - (a) WC events;
 - (b) Grade 1 events; and
 - (c) Grade 2 events.
- 2.5 If two event dates clash and there is no possibility for one or both to select alternative dates, World Sailing shall decide the matter in its sole discretion which may include downgrading one of them.
- 2.6 The allocation of gradings by the Executive Office will be checked on a sample basis, as directed by the Chair of the Match Racing Committee. A report of event gradings must be made annually to the Match Racing Committee.

3. Event Report

The organizing authority must submit an World Sailing event report, including the results and other specified information, checked and signed by the Chief Umpire. The event report must be sent by fax or e-mail to the Executive Office. It must be submitted within 5 days for events graded 3, 4 or 5, or within 24 hours for events graded 1 or 2.

4. Re-grading of Events

- (a) Events may be re-graded retrospectively when there is clear reason to do so. An event applying to be up-graded retrospectively must satisfy World Sailing that it clearly meets all the criteria of the higher grading.
- (b) Application for upgrading shall be made at the time of submission of the results and be accompanied by an application form completed in full. The application form will be similar to the initial application form appropriate to the grade of event.
- (c) An event will only be downgraded when it fails to meet the criteria by a substantial margin, or when it does not comply with the administration requirements. Such a decision does not change the previous requirements..
- (d) When an event does not comply with World Sailing administrative procedures or fairness, the Match Racing Committee may recommend that World Sailing remove the event from the World Sailing calendar.
- (e) An event which failed to meet the criteria, regardless if the event was downgraded or not, may be granted a lower Grade when it applies for the next edition of that event.

5. Invitations and acceptances

- 5.1 A skipper accepting an invitation but withdrawing within two months of the event may be reported by the organizer to the World Sailing. After review by World Sailing late withdrawals may receive a "zero" score, which must be counted for the competitor's ranking.
- 5.2 A "zero" score penalty after review by World Sailing may also apply to skippers who leave the event before the end of the event without the written approval from the organizing authority.
- 5.3 Invitations should be in writing and include the following statement:

"Should you accept this invitation and later withdraw within two months of the event or leave the event before the end without the written approval from the OA, it is possible for a zero score to be applied to your Ranking points for that event by World Sailing."

6. Umpire Insurance

- 6.1 In signing the Grading Form, Events confirm that all umpires will be covered by comprehensive liability insurance in an amount of not less than £480,000 per occurrence covering legal liability in respect of personal injury and property damage. The cover should include (but not be limited to) liability directly or indirectly arising from the ownership, possession or use of any watercraft in connection with the umpire's duties.

- 6.2 The organizing authority confirms with the signature on the grading form that it accepts responsibility to cover all expenses for the umpires and World Sailing if the event is postponed or cancelled.

7. World Sailing Sailor ID

- 7.1 Results from Graded Match Race Events shall be sent to World Sailing with Skippers World Sailing Sailor ID's included. Skippers may register for World Sailing Sailor at: www.sailing.org/isafsailor

8. Grading of Events

- 8.1 Event grading will normally be based on the following criteria, but will take into account the overall event package. During the transition from the previous criteria a reasonable time shall be allowed for events to comply. Percentage calculations shall be rounded up to the nearest whole number.

8.2 Grade 5 – Open, Women and Youth

- (a) Any match racing event using boats of the same design.
- (b) When provided by the organizers each pair of boats must be of equal performance.
- (c) The notice of race must be based on the current World Sailing standard.
- (d) The sailing instructions must be based on the current World Sailing standard.
- (e) Matches must be umpired.
- (f) The weight limit for open and youth events may be either:
 - (i) a maximum average crew weight limit of 87.5kg; or
 - (ii) a maximum total crew weight limit of 'Y' (where $Y = 87.5\text{kg} \times \text{the number of standard crew members for the boat (X)}$) and the organizing authority may permit the boat to be raced with X, X-1 or X+1 crew members.
- (g) The weight limit for women's and youth women's events may be either:
 - (i) a maximum average crew weight limit of 68kg; or
 - (ii) a maximum total crew weight limit of 'Y' (where $Y = 68\text{kg} \times \text{the number of standard crew members for the boat (X)}$) and the organizing authority may permit the boat to be raced with X, X-1 or X+1 crew members.

8.3 Grade 4 - Open, Women and Youth

Satisfies the criteria for a Grade 5 event and: -

- (a) The boats must have a minimum crew of two.
- (b) There must be a minimum of six skippers entered for the match racing.
- (c) There must be a minimum of two days scheduled for racing.

8.4 Grade 3 - Open, Women and Youth

Satisfies the criteria for a Grade 4 event and: -

- (a) The boats must have a minimum crew of three.
- (b) There must be a minimum of eight skippers entered for the match racing.
- (c) If the event is a principal national championships:

- (i) There must be a minimum of four skippers from the host nation; and
- (ii) The minimum number of skippers is four.
- (d) The boats must have a minimum 5.9 m LOA
- (e) There must be a minimum of four boats available throughout the event, except when a boat that was available at the start of the event is subject to major breakdown or damage.
- (f) The boats must be capable of carrying spinnakers.
- (g) Acceptable Race Committee practices.
- (h) Acceptable Race Committee and umpire boats.
- (i) The event shall be one of the following:
 - (i) The principal open, women and youth national championship - only one per nation per year
 - (ii) An international event with a minimum of 30% of the skippers of a different nationality than the host nation, or
 - (iii) an event, for countries whose Member National Authority is in Groups H to Q, where at least 30% of the skippers are either of a different nationality than that of the host nation, or are nationals of the host nation but have travelled more than 500 km from their ordinary place of residence to the event venue.
- (j) For national championships there shall be at least one International Umpire.
- (k) For events designated in paragraph 8.4(i)(ii) or 8.4(i)(iii) there must be at least two International Umpires.

8.5 Grade 1 and Grade 2 - Open, Women and Youth

- 8.6 Satisfies the criteria for a Grade 3 event and complies with the World Sailing Standard Guidelines for Grade 1 and Grade 2 Match Racing events as published from time to time by the Match Racing Committee in consultation with the Race Officials Committee.
- 8.7 The event meets the requirements in Appendix A (O = Open, W = Women, Y = Youth).
- 8.8 When determining Skipper Points for an Open event the best skipper ranking across Open, Women or Youth rankings shall be used. For a Women's event, the Women skipper ranking shall be used when determining Skipper Points. For a Youth event, the Youth skipper ranking shall be used when determining Skipper Points.
 - (a) Grade - WC Open and Women

Meets all the criteria for an World Sailing World Championship and particularly the World Sailing Match Racing World Championship.
 - (b) Grade – World Sailing Nations Cup Open and Women

Meets the criteria for the World Sailing Nations Cup Regional or Grand Final. Regional Finals will score points equivalent to a Grade 2 event. Grand Finals will score points equivalent to a Grade 1 event.

8.9 Requirement for an International Jury

- 8.10 For match racing events where an international jury is required, World Sailing may in special circumstances waive this requirement by authorizing a protest committee for the event. An organizing authority may apply to World Sailing for such authorization

at the same time as it applies for grading of the event. World Sailing shall consider the following factors:

- (a) the International Judges who are available for the event and their geographical distribution;
- (b) the financial situation of the event, the budget available for race official travel costs and the estimated travel costs of the International Judges that are available;
- (c) the qualifications, experience and nationality of the proposed members of the protest committee;
- (d) whether World Sailing has given authorization previously; and
- (e) any other information World Sailing considers relevant.

8.11 The decision in respect of authorization shall be determined by the Chairman of the Race Officials Committee, the Chairman of the International Judges Sub-committee and the Chief Executive Officer. World Sailing may impose conditions on any authorization.

9. Prize Money

- 9.1 Distribution of prize money shall be in accordance with World Sailing Standard Guidelines for Grade 1 and Grade 2 Match Racing events.
- 9.2 Appearance money is discouraged in favour of optimizing prize money.

APPENDIX A

Description	Event Grade			
	2 - O	1 - O	2 - W 2 - Y	1 - W 1 - Y
Competitors				
Skippers - only top 12 minimum total points (* and *** see below)	40	85	30	60
Skippers - max % from host MNA	60%	40%	60%	40%
Skippers - max % from same MNA except host.	40%	30%	40%	30%
Skippers - max % from host continent (except for Continental Championships)	100%	85%	100%	85%
Skippers – max % from host continent for Continental Championships	100%	100%	100%	100%
No of skippers to be invited from a qualifying event specified in the Notice of Race (max. grading of qualifying event is Grade 3)	1	2	1	2
Boats General				
Minimum number of boats (** See below)	6	6**	6	6**
Minimum overall length (metres)	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.9
Boats - Provided by organizing authority				
Breakdown/spare service on the water				
Organization				
Format scheduled to include round robins and knock out semi-finals and finals				
Quarter finals may be round robin (preferred) or knock-out				
Knock out rounds to be scheduled to be the first to win minimum number of races	2	3	2	3
Days of scheduled racing	3	4	3	4
Min. number of scheduled practice hours per competitor	2	2	2	2
Min. number of International Umpires - per match	1	1	1	1
International Jury required	*R	Yes	*R	Yes

* *Recommended*

** *For Grade 1 and 2 events the minimum number of boats should be 50% of the number of skippers.*

*** *Skipper total points requirement does not apply for Grade 2 continental championships. Only Member National Authorities of that specific Continental Association may participate in such Grade 2 continental championships.*

* As World Sailing ranking list 4 months before the first day of the event:

<i>For each skipper ranked</i>	<i>1 - 10</i>	<i>20 points</i>
<i>For each skipper ranked</i>	<i>11 - 20</i>	<i>15 points</i>
<i>For each skipper ranked</i>	<i>21 - 30</i>	<i>11 points</i>
<i>For each skipper ranked</i>	<i>31 - 40</i>	<i>8 points</i>
<i>For each skipper ranked</i>	<i>41 - 50</i>	<i>6 points</i>
<i>For each skipper ranked</i>	<i>51 - 60</i>	<i>5 points</i>
<i>For each skipper ranked</i>	<i>61 - 70</i>	<i>4 points</i>
<i>For each skipper ranked</i>	<i>71 - 80</i>	<i>3 points</i>
<i>For each skipper ranked</i>	<i>81 - 90</i>	<i>2 points</i>
<i>For each skipper ranked</i>	<i>91 - 100</i>	<i>1 point</i>

POLICY DETAILS

Date made: [Insert date of policy adoption]

Date registered: 9 November 2024

Date 9 November 2024

commenced:

Date amended

Responsible Match Racing Committee
committee:

Administered by: Director of Events

Review date: November 2028

Related
documents:

AMENDMENT HISTORY

PROVISION	AMENDMENT	DATE
8.2(f) & (g), 8.7, 8.8	CO-2025-19, CO-2025-20, CO2025-21, CO-2025-22	08-Nov-25
