

## **Process for managing technical rule queries**

### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The purpose of this document is to define a clear and consistent internal process for receiving, categorising and directing technical rule queries.
- 1.2 “Technical rules” refers to the full set of rules and documents governing equipment, including; Equipment Rules of Sailing (ERS), Class Rules, Offshore Special Regulations (OSR), event Equipment Regulations and relevant rules within the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) (i.e: RRS 50, Appendix G, etc), Notice of Race, measurement and inspection procedures and the Advertising Code.
- 1.3 Queries may require simple clarification, guidance, or formal interpretations, each of which may fall under different governance structures and regulatory requirements.

### **2. Purpose**

- 2.1 The purpose of this procedure is to ensure that:
  - (a) All queries are directed promptly to the correct WS body or panel,
  - (b) Responsibilities are applied consistently and in accordance with regulations and policies,
  - (c) Duplication and conflicting responses are avoided,
  - (d) World Sailing is aligned internally when handling technical rule queries.

### **3. Background**

- 3.1 The following regulations, policies and committee terms of reference apply:
  - (a) Policy D8.3.2: ERS questions or relevant race official procedures must be answered by the designated panel.
  - (b) Policy M1.3.2: RRS questions or relevant race official procedures must be answered by the designated panel.
  - (c) IMSC ToR: responsibility for questions from IMs within their discipline.
  - (d) ERSC ToR: liaison on equipment control and ERS-related matters.
  - (e) SRSC ToR: responsibility for OSR matters.
  - (f) Regulation 21.5: Interpretations of the ERS.
  - (g) Regulation 15.12 and *draft Policy D12*: Class Rule Interpretations
  - (h) Regulation 22.5 and Policy J4.1.4: OSR Interpretations
  - (i) WS Advertising Code
- 3.2 Policy M1.3.2 refers to an “RRS Q&A panel” and policy D8.3.2 refers to an “ERS Q&A panel”. These panels do not exist under those names in the current structure. In practice:
  - (a) RRS questions are handled by the Rule Opinion Working Group (ROWG) under ROC and RRC.
  - (b) ERS questions are handled by the ERSC chair and experts, but no ERS Q&A panel formally exists.

#### 4. Process

4.1 The office will allocate the questions and perform the actions described as per the following table:

| Subject                                                                        | from                                                                  | Action                                                             | Comments                                                                 | contact                                                                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Question on ERS                                                                | MNAs and WS ROs                                                       | Re-directed to ERS Q&A Panel                                       | <i>Policy D8 3.2<br/>ERS Q&amp;A not appointed yet.</i>                  | <a href="mailto:technical@sailing.org">technical@sailing.org</a>         |
| Request for interpretation of ERS                                              | MNAs and WS ROs                                                       | Re-directed to ERSC Chair.                                         | <i>Regulation 21.5<br/>ERS Case Book not maintained.</i>                 | <a href="mailto:technical@sailing.org">technical@sailing.org</a>         |
| Questions on Class Rules                                                       | Open                                                                  | Re-directed to Class technical rep, Class Chief Measurer and ERSC. | <i>No log maintained.</i>                                                | <a href="mailto:technical@sailing.org">technical@sailing.org</a>         |
| Requests for Class Rules Interpretations                                       | MNAs, Classes, Manufacturers, Right holders, class IMs                | Initiate process within regs.                                      | <i>reg 15.12 and new Policy D12.</i>                                     | <a href="mailto:technical@sailing.org">technical@sailing.org</a>         |
| Questions on OSR                                                               | Open                                                                  | <i>tbc</i>                                                         | <i>Is this one needed?</i>                                               | <a href="mailto:technical@sailing.org">technical@sailing.org</a>         |
| Request for interpretation of OSR                                              | MNA, Classes, IMs, Major Oceanic and Offshore events, Rating Systems. | Governed by regulation (reg 22.5 and Policy J4 1.4)                |                                                                          | <a href="mailto:technical@sailing.org">technical@sailing.org</a>         |
| Questions on measurement procedures, best practices, proper use of tools, etc. | Open                                                                  | Directed to "IMSC & ERSC Panel" (see ToR of IMSC and ERSC)         | <i>IMSC &amp; ERSC Panel just created. ToR and scope not documented.</i> | <a href="mailto:technical@sailing.org">technical@sailing.org</a>         |
| Questions from IMs on procedures of conduct of IMs                             | IMs                                                                   | Directed to IMSC (see ToR of IMSC)                                 |                                                                          | <a href="mailto:technical@sailing.org">technical@sailing.org</a>         |
| Questions on technical rules within the RRS                                    | MNAs, WS Ros, "another body in the WS governance structure"           | Directed to Racing Rules Q&A panel (Policy M1 3.2)                 | <i>Panel replaced by Rules Opinion Working Group.</i>                    | <a href="mailto:raceofficials@sailing.org">raceofficials@sailing.org</a> |
| Advertising code                                                               | Open                                                                  | <i>tbc</i>                                                         | <i>Do we want to include this one?</i>                                   |                                                                          |

4.2 If a question appears to overlap multiple areas, the office will consult with the Chair of Governance Committee and the Chair of the ROC