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Proposal Number: CO-2026-012



Name of Authorised Person:	Glen Stanaway on behalf of the Equipment Committee
Position:	Equipment Committee Chairperson
Contact email:	
Title of Proposal:	Policy D4 Requirements for Adminstrating World Sailing Class Associations
Subtitle:	Improvements to equipment related governance
Related proposals:	Policy D1 International class associations' constitutions Policy D2 Licensed builder systems

Proposal:

1. General

1.1 World Class Associations must be administered in accordance with this policy.

2. Governance Requirements

2.1 The Class Association must properly administer its affairs and maintain its objectives in accordance with its constitution, Class Rules, its agreement with World Sailing and these Regulations;

2.2 Changes to the Class constitution and measurement forms must be submitted for review and approval by World Sailing.

(a) Changes to the constitution must be approved by the Governance Committee prior to being voted on by the members of the class

(b) Changes to measurement forms and other documents controlling certification must be approved by the Equipment Rules Sub-Committee.

2.3 World Sailing approval must be obtained for changes to the Class Rules, one-design specifications and registration schemes (if applicable), unless otherwise stated in the class agreement and ensure that these changes are published and distributed to the members of the class before the amendments come into effect.

2.4 The Class Association must use the approved World Sailing Class Association logo in all Class Rules (it may also use the World Sailing Class Association logo in other class publications, advertising or promotions).

2.5 The Class Association must use its best efforts to ensure that the national association is affiliated to the relevant Member National Authority.

2.6 The Class Association must send an annual report including information required by World Sailing, by 1 February each year. Failure to file a complete annual report shall

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automatically result in a review of the World Sailing recognition of that class. The information required by World Sailing shall include:

- (a) class representatives, including the technical representative and the members of the technical and/or equipment committee;
- (b) list of licensed builders (if applicable) and number of boats built;
- (c) awarded World, and Continental, Champion titles; and
- (d) a declaration that the class representative is not aware of any incident reportable under the World Sailing Regulations concerning safety reporting (that has not already been reported to World Sailing through the website incident reporting portal).

3. Event Requirements

- 3.1 The Class Association must not permit the organizers to amend, suspend or override the Class Rules in the notice of race or sailing instructions for Class events without the prior approval of World Sailing, a Class event being an event initiated and controlled by the Class/Owners Association without any alteration to the Class Rules.
- 3.2 The Class Association must:
 - (a) require that the boat owner(s) and/or the sailor(s), as prescribed by the relevant Class Rules, shall be members of their relevant national class association, if any, before racing, and
 - (b) annually charge, or cause their relevant national class associations to charge, as appropriate, the boat owner(s) and/or the sailor(s) only in accordance with the relevant Class Rules or regulation(s) of that World Sailing Class.
- 3.3 The Class Association must register the dates for next year's major championships (world and continental) by 1 October each year with World Sailing. No alteration in the championship dates are to be allowed after the annual World Sailing meeting without the approval of World Sailing, the host Member National Authority and the class/owners association.
- 3.4 The approval of the Member National Authority governing the proposed venue of its ensuing world championships must be obtained.
- 3.5 The Class Association must appoint an international jury for the world championships (unless otherwise agreed with World Sailing);
- 3.6 The Class Association must appoint an International Measurer to the technical committee for the world championships (unless otherwise agreed with World Sailing);
- 3.7 For Olympic Classes, the Class Association must comply with the following requirements for world or continental championships:
 - (a) publish the qualifying rules for the championship not less than one year before the start of the championship (or as stated in the notice of race, event manual or championships rules);
 - (b) agree with the respective MNA on the list of national sailors before completion of the entry process (the international class association shall liaise with the national class association);



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- (c) if the MNA and international class association cannot resolve any dispute through negotiations, either body may refer the matter to the Board which shall make a final decision binding on both bodies;
- (d) the above procedure applies only to a championship in which entries are restricted and which is not age restricted and has the same gender restrictions as the corresponding Olympic Games event (e.g. not youth, masters or open gender events); and
- (e) the above procedure is subject to any national laws or regulations.

4. Technical Requirements

4.1 The Class Association must ensure that its equipment control procedures properly maintain the objectives of the class rules and must:

- (a) appoint a technical and/or equipment control committee;
- (b) appoint a technical representative who is a member of the class technical/equipment control committee and authorized to discuss class technical matters with World Sailing; and
- (c) have at least one World Sailing recognized class International Measurer.

4.2 Section 4.1 only applies for new World Sailing Classes, 24 months after designation as a World Sailing Class Association.

4.3 The Class Association must:

- (a) keep all International Measurers approved for the class informed with respect to class rule changes and interpretations;
- (b) organise regular class equipment inspection seminars to train class equipment inspectors with the class International Measurers as instructors; and
- (c) require class International Measurers to measure prototypes of moulded production boats before approval of new moulds.

4.4 When a licensed builder system is adopted:

- (a) The approval of the Equipment Committee and the relevant Member National Authority must be obtained before appointing licensed builders.
- (b) The approval of the Equipment Committee must be obtained before cancelling or revoking an agreement to license a builder.

4.5 The Class Association must:

- (a) require that all new boats have paid a class fee to World Sailing in accordance with requirements agreed with World Sailing, such payment to be evidenced by affixing a World Sailing plaque to the boats or such other methods of evidencing the payment as shall be agreed by World Sailing; and
- (b) ensure that plaques are issued to licensed and recognised builders as required. The Equipment Committee may direct that plaques for a class be issued by World Sailing; and

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- (c) the organizing authority agrees to reject or cancel any entry if such evidence is not provided.

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Current position:

1. General

- 1.1 World Class Associations must be administered in accordance with this policy.

2. Governance Requirements

- 2.1 The Class Association must properly administer its affairs and maintain its objectives in accordance with its constitution, Class Rules, its agreement with World Sailing and these Regulations;

- (a) Changes to the Class constitution and measurement forms must be submitted for review and comment by World Sailing.

- 2.2 World Sailing approval must be obtained for changes to the Class Rules, one-design specifications and registration schemes (if applicable), unless otherwise stated in the class agreement and ensure that these changes are published and distributed to the members of the class before the amendments come into effect.

- 2.3 The Class Association must use the approved World Sailing Class Association logo in all Class Rules (it may also use the World Sailing Class Association logo in other class publications, advertising or promotions).

- 2.4 The Class Association must use its best efforts to ensure that the national association is affiliated to the relevant Member National Authority.

- 2.5 The Class Association must send an annual report including information required by World Sailing, by 1 February each year. Failure to file a complete annual report shall automatically result in a review of the World Sailing recognition of that class. The information required by World Sailing shall include:

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prior approval of World Sailing, a Class event being an event initiated and controlled by the Class/Owners Association without any alteration to the Class Rules.

3.2 The Class Association must:

- (a) require that the boat owner(s) and/or the sailor(s), as prescribed by the relevant Class Rules, shall be members of their relevant national class association, if any, before racing, and
- (b) annually charge, or cause their relevant national class associations to charge, as appropriate, the boat owner(s) and/or the sailor(s) only in accordance with the relevant Class Rules or regulation(s) of that World Sailing Class.

3.3 The Class Association must register the dates for next year's major championships (world and continental) by 1 October each year with World Sailing. No alteration in the championship dates are to be allowed after the annual World Sailing meeting without the approval of World Sailing, the host Member National Authority and the class/owners association.

3.4 The approval of the Member National Authority governing the proposed venue of its ensuing world championships must be obtained.

3.5 The Class Association must appoint an international jury for the world championships (unless otherwise agreed with World Sailing);

3.6 The Class Association must appoint an International Measurer to the technical committee for the world championships (unless otherwise agreed with World Sailing);

3.7 For Olympic Classes, the Class Association must comply with the following requirements for world or continental championships:

- (a) publish the qualifying rules for the championship not less than one year before the start of the championship (or as stated in the notice of race, event manual or championships rules);
- (b) agree with the respective MNA on the list of national sailors before completion of the entry process (the international class association shall liaise with the national class association);
- (c) if the MNA and international class association cannot resolve any dispute through negotiations, either body may refer the matter to the Board which shall make a final decision binding on both bodies;
- (d) the above procedure applies only to a championship in which entries are restricted and which is not age restricted and has the same gender restrictions as the corresponding Olympic Games event (e.g. not youth, masters or open gender events); and
- (e) the above procedure is subject to any national laws or regulations.

4. Technical Requirements

4.1 The Class Association must ensure that its equipment control procedures properly maintain the objectives of the class rules and must:

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- (b) appoint a technical representative who is a member of the class technical/equipment control committee and authorized to discuss class technical matters with World Sailing; and
- (c) have at least one World Sailing recognized class International Measurer.

4.2 Section **Error! Reference source not found.** only applies as follows:

- (a) for new World Sailing Classes, 24 months after designation as a World Sailing Class Association;
- (b) for existing Offshore Classes recognised as such by the Oceanic and Offshore Committee and with the approval of the Committee, not before 31 December 2024 (this section ceases on 1 January 2025);
- (c) for all remaining World Sailing Classes, not before 31 December 2023 (this section ceases on 1 January 2024);

4.3 The Class Association must:

- (a) keep all International Measurers approved for the class informed with respect to class rule changes and interpretations;
- (b) organise regular class equipment inspection seminars to train class equipment inspectors with the class International Measurers as instructors; and
- (c) require class International Measurers to measure prototypes of moulded production boats before approval of new moulds.
- (d) When a licensed builder system is adopted, the approval of World Sailing and the relevant Member National Authority must be obtained before appointing licensed builders.

4.4 The Class Association must require that:

- (a) all new boats have paid a class fee to World Sailing in accordance with requirements agreed with World Sailing, such payment to be evidenced by affixing a World Sailing plaque to the boats or such other methods of evidencing the payment as shall be agreed by World Sailing; and
- (b) require that the organizing authority agrees to reject or cancel any entry if such evidence is not provided.

Reasons:

1. At the Annual Conference in November 2025, the Equipment Committee had cause to review policies relating to governance of equipment generally.
2. The Committee agreed to propose changes addressing improvements relating to:
 - a. How changes to the constitutions of international class associations are approved
 - b. How changes to systems for the measurement and certification of boats are approved
 - c. How a licensed builder's license is revoked or cancelled
 - d. How World Sailing plaques are issued
3. Constitutions must have World Sailing approval when applying for World Sailing Class Status, but only '*comment*' is required when changing that constitution creating uncertainty between the international class association and World Sailing. The recommendations in the proposal remove this uncertainty by:

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- a. Giving World Sailing responsibility for approving constitutional changes of an international class association with World Sailing Status.
 - b. Assigning responsibility for that approval to the most appropriate committee, the Governance Committee.
 - c. Sets out a process that World Sailing approval is required before putting the resolution to the members of the international class association for voting.
4. International class associations have responsibilities to have their Class Rules approved by World Sailing's Equipment Rules Sub-Committee and to align with the Equipment Rules of Sailing and rely on the International Measurers' resources and manual, but the systems for measurement and certification of boats have no oversight from World Sailing. The recommendations in the proposal fill this gap by:
 - a. Requiring that World Sailing's approval is needed for changes to measurement forms and other documents relating to the ERS and Class Rule.
 - b. Assigning responsibility for that approval to the most appropriate committee, the Equipment Rules Sub-Committee.
5. Licensed builder systems were mentioned in both Policies D2 and D4. The recommendations in the proposal concentrate licensed builder systems into this Policy. Approval of this Proposal enables the approval of the proposal for Policy D2.
6. The Equipment found that the process for approving a licensed builder was clear, but revoking or cancelling a builder's license wasn't allowed for creating uncertainty between the builder, the international class association and World Sailing. The recommendations in the proposal remove this uncertainty by:
 - a. Requiring World Sailing's approval to cancelling or revoking an agreement to license a builder.
 - b. Assigning responsibility for that approval to the most appropriate committee, the Equipment Committee.
7. The Equipment Committee also found the control of how World Sailing plaques are issued varies significantly across the sport depending on what was agreed between the international class association and World Sailing but is not mentioned in any policy creating uncertainty between the builder, the international class association and World Sailing, especially at a time of dispute. The recommendations in the proposal remove this uncertainty by:
 - a. Stating that the plaques are issued to the builder on an 'as required' basis, generally by the international class association.
 - b. That the Equipment Committee may direct that plaques may be issued to the builder directly by World Sailing.
8. There is also an administrative change removing clauses 4.2(b) and (c) that related to transition provisions ending in 2024 and 2025; the clauses are redundant.