

rev: v1 26/06/2025

Proposal Number: CO-2026-020



Name of Authorised Person:	Glen Stanaway on behalf of the Equipment Committee
Position:	Equipment Committee Chairperson
Contact email:	
Title of Proposal:	Policy D1 Requirements for Applications for World Sailing Class Association Status
Subtitle:	Revising standards for international class associations' constitutions.
Related proposals:	Policy D4 Improvements to equipment related governance

Proposal:

1. Requirements

1.1 Classes which offer a high standard of international competitive sailing and satisfy the respective criteria set out below may be designated as a World Sailing Class Association.

1.2 Applicants must meet the following requirements:

(a) The organisation should be a legal entity incorporated in a manner which best fits its size and need:

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(b) have an active class/owners association;

(c) have a constitution passed by a pre-existing class/owners association and approved by the Governance Committee containing at least:

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(i) the name of the class,

(ii) provision for control by a class/owners association,

(iii) provision for management of conflicts of interest,

(iv) provision for maximum term limits and a maximum tenure of no longer than 12 years

(v) provision that an office bearer who has completed the maximum tenure is not eligible to stand for that position in that organisation for a period of at least three years

(vi) provision for gender equity,

(vii) an elected board; and

Deleted: executive committee,

(viii) an executive committee, including at least the executive officers, and

(ix) a statement of the objectives of the class;



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- (d) have a set of class rules in the World Sailing Standard Class Rules format, and adopting the Equipment Rules of Sailing, approved by the Equipment Committee (although the Equipment Committee may disregard either requirement if it considers the class rules are satisfactory and well established);

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- (e) demonstrate either by:

- (i) confirmation from the requisite number of Member National Authorities set out below; or
- (ii) from a list of registered boat owners,

that Class/owners association is 'actively racing' at events where the class rules apply with at least the following global distribution in the table below. The distribution may be proven by either confirmation from the requisite number of Member National Authorities, or a list of registered boat owners, or by records of results of an international event with participation meeting the equivalent global distribution:

	Designation as an World Sailing Class and Entitled to World Championship		
Category according to Hull Length	Boats per MNA	No. of MNAs	No. of Continents
Boats up to 6.0m	15	5	2
Boats >6.0m to 9.0m	7	4	2
Boats >9.0m to 12.0m	6	3	2
Boats >12.0m to 15.0m	4	3	2
Boats >15.0m	2	3	2

For the purposes of this policy, "continent" means any one of Europe, North America, South America, Asia, Africa and Oceania.

- (f) make its constitution and class rules available on the World Sailing website (or with a link from the World Sailing website).
- (g) provide the Executive Office with the relevant building specifications, measurement protocols, or equipment registration scheme details, that form part or complement the class rules.
- (h) state in the application the dates for each intended world and continental championship titles for the following year.

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- (i) provide such further details to evaluate compliance with these criteria as the Chief Executive Officer may require.

- 1.3 The requirements of section 1.2(e) may be waived if it is considered the applicant is a class which serves a unique aspect of sailing.

Current position:

1. Requirements

- 1.1 Classes which offer a high standard of international competitive sailing and satisfy the respective criteria set out below may be designated as a World Sailing Class Association.

- 1.2 Applicants must meet the following requirements:

- (a) have an active class/owners association;
- (b) have a constitution passed by a pre-existing class/owners association and approved by the Equipment Committee and the Governance Committee containing at least:
 - (i) the name of the class,
 - (ii) provision for control by a class/owners association,
 - (iii) an elected board and executive committee,
 - (iv) an executive committee, including at least the executive officers, and
 - (v) a statement of the objectives of the class;
- (c) have a set of class rules in the World Sailing Standard Class Rules format, and adopting the Equipment Rules of Sailing, approved by the Equipment Committee (although the Equipment Committee may disregard either requirement if it considers the class rules are satisfactory and well established);
- (d) demonstrate either by:
 - (i) confirmation from the requisite number of Member National Authorities set out below; or
 - (ii) from a list of registered boat owners,
that Class/owners association is 'actively racing' at events where the class rules apply with at least the following global distribution in the table below. The distribution may be proven by either confirmation from the requisite number of Member National Authorities, or a list of registered boat owners, or by records of results of an international event with participation meeting the equivalent global distribution:

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- (e) make its constitution and class rules available on the World Sailing website (or with a link from the World Sailing website).
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- (g) state in the application the dates for each intended world and continental championship titles for the following year.
- (h) provide such further details to evaluate compliance with these criteria as the Chief Executive Officer may require.

- 1.3 The requirements of section 1.2(e) may be waived if it is considered the applicant is a class which serves a unique aspect of sailing.

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 updating standards required on international class associations' constitutions and how they are approved on application.
3. This proposal recommends that the Governance Committee should be the approving body of an application for World Sailing Class Association Status. This respects that committee's expertise and role and exonerates the Equipment Committee from duplicating that role.
4. The new standards being recommended in this proposal address:
 - a. A requirement that the entity type and jurisdiction be appropriate for that class.

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b. Provisions in the applicant's constitution for managing conflicts of interest, maximum office bearer term limits, and gender equity.
These are consistent with World Sailing's own governance framework and strategy and align with common examples of good governance any sport organisation.