

The Oceanic and Offshore Committee met virtually at 1100 UTC on 4 September 2026.

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Committee Members Present:

Matt Allen (MA) - Chair	Tatiana Almeida (TA)	Katrin Adloff (KA)
Alan Massey (AM) – Int Regs Chair	Johan Tuvstedt (JT)	Charlie Enright (CE)
Glen Stanaway (GS) – Sailor Categorisation Chair		

Others Present:

Katrina Ham (KH) - WS Offshore & Safety Manager	Joseph M Pla - Vice-President	Corinne Migraine (CM) – Vice-President
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Apologies:

Denise Caffari (DC) – Vice Chair	Mariana Douka (MD)	Orhan Ref K Gorbon (OG)
Yasutaka Funazawa (YF)	Damian Foxall (DF)	James Dadd (JD) - SRSC Chair
Jennifer Hall (JH)	Lee Pilsung (LP)	Marie Riou (MR)
Thomas Nilsson (TN)	Bruno Finzi (BF)	

1. Opening of the Meeting

- a. Chair's Opening Remarks
- b. Apologies for Absence
Apologies were noted from Denise Caffari, James Dadd, Jennifer Hall, Marie Riou, Bruno Finzi and Thomas Nilsson.
- c. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest
- d. To note the minutes of the meeting on 14 April 2026.
The minutes were noted as approved.

2. Executive Office Update

Katrina Ham provided an update to the Committee on various issues:

- Annual Conference - The dates of the 2026 Annual Conference were reiterated as 16-21 November 2026 in Qingdao, China. Members were reminded to register.
 - Offshore Double Handed World Championship – The Board has awarded the rights to the 2027-2029 subject to contract following the recommendation of the Board appointed evaluation panel.
- a. Offshore Special Regulations Policy Development

Noted as a working document. members were welcomed to attend the next Special Regulations Sub-Committee Meeting on 16 September where the paper will be discussed.

3. Oceanic and Offshore Code

To consider proposals linked to the development of an Oceanic and Offshore Code.

a. CO-2026-017

Votes:

Approve: 7

Reject: 0

Abstain: 0

Recommendation from Oceanic and Offshore Committee to the Board: Approve.

b. CO-2026-018

Votes:

Approve: 7

Reject: 0

Abstain: 0

Recommendation from Oceanic and Offshore Committee to the Board: Approve.

a. CO-2026-019.

MA detailed proposed amendments to the proposal following feedback received to ensure Classes are not restricted by the Code, and to change the requirement of scoring separation to a recommendation.

Votes:

Approve: 5

Reject: 0

Abstain: 2

Recommendation from Oceanic and Offshore Committee to the Board: Approve with the proposed friendly amendments and the request for additional amendments following further consultation.

4. Work Plan

- a. The Committee noted the OOC Work Plan. Further review and discussion were deferred until a future date.

5. AOB

The meeting was closed at 1150UTC.

Name of Authorised Person:	Matt Allen
Position:	Oceanic and Offshore Committee Chair
Contact email:	
Title of Proposal:	Oceanic and Offshore Code: Human Endeavour
Subtitle:	Human Endeavour
Related proposals:	N/A

Proposal:**Oceanic and Offshore Code.****1. General.**

- 1.1** This Code has the status of a rule under the Racing Rules of Sailing.
This Code applies to all racing in Categories 4 through 0, inclusive, under the Offshore Special Regulations ('OSR') and all the racing that is under a set of National Authority rules, or government regulations, that effectively replace the OSR and are used for the following types of racing:
- (a) Category 0: Trans-oceanic races, including races which pass through areas in which air or sea temperatures are likely to be less than 5°C (41°F) other than temporarily, where boats must be completely self-sufficient for very extended periods of time, capable of withstanding heavy storms and prepared to meet serious emergencies without the expectation of outside assistance.
 - (b) Category 1: Races of long distance and well offshore, where boats must be completely self-sufficient for extended periods of time, capable of withstanding heavy storms and prepared to meet serious emergencies without the expectation of outside assistance.
 - (c) Category 2: Races of extended duration along or not far removed from shorelines or in large, unprotected bays or lakes, where a high degree of self-sufficiency is required of the boats.
 - (d) Category 3: Races across open water, most of which is relatively protected or close to shorelines.
 - (e) Category 4: Short races, close to shore in relatively warm or protected waters normally held in daylight.
- 1.2** When this Code applies, the Code takes precedence over any conflicting rules.
- 1.3** Any change to this Code under RRS 86.2 shall only be made following consultation with World Sailing's Oceanic and Offshore Committee.

- 1.4** RRS 86.1(c) is changed by adding the following: However, the rules of a handicap or rating system shall not change racing rule 52.
- 1.5** Nothing in this code shall restrict a class rule from changing RRS52 as permitted by 86.1 (c).
- 1.6** The rules of RRS Part 5 apply.
- 2. Definitions in this Code.**
- ‘Code’ refers to this Oceanic and Offshore Code or any specific rule within this document.
- ‘Crew’ means every person on board.
- ‘Fully crewed boat’ means a boat has three or more crew.
- ‘Short-handed boat’ means a boat has two or fewer crew.
- 3. Human Endeavour:**
- 3.1** This rule restricts an Organising Authority’s ability to change RRS 52 for fully crewed boats in the Notice of Race & Sailing Instructions under RRS 86.1.
- For fully crewed boats, RRS 52 may only be changed as follows:
- An Organising Authority may delete the text of RRS 52 and replace it with:
- A boat’s standing rigging, running rigging, spars and movable hull appendages shall be adjusted and operated only by the crew. Safety limits and interlocks are permitted.
- 3.2** Note that for an event or division for short-handed boats an Organising Authority may modify RRS 52 as allowed under RRS 86.1.
- 3.3** Separation of competition
- Boats racing under the standard RRS 52 or the modified RRS 52 detailed in this Code 3.1
- It is recommended that they are scored** separately from boats that sail under a RRS 52 that is different from the standard rule or the change detailed in this Code 3.1.

Current position:

This only applies when an OA is changing RRS 52.

This code is new. Organising Authorities often modify RRS 52 with inconsistent outcomes. Powered systems are a common reason. This Code then gives OA’s a limited number of options when modifying 52 to protect human endeavour in the fully crewed part of offshore sailing.

Reasons:

Human endeavour is fundamental to our sport. Computer and AI controlled systems are superior in terms of performance.

If an OA wishes to change 52 this gives a globally consistent direction for Category 4 to Category 0 races.

This code allows short-handed and class competition to change 52 as they wish. This allows them to develop and expand **whilst attempting to protect fairness of competition.**

It recommends, not prohibits, that an OA does not score computer-controlled performance function boats against humans, thereby protecting the fully crewed body of the sport and human endeavour.

The alternative 52 allows powered systems but not computer-controlled systems on fully crewed boats.

rev: v1 26/06/2025

Proposal Number: CO-2026-019



It allows for application for dispensation by WS O&O Committee.

The wording is consistent with the RRS and has been written in consultation with the Chairs of Racing Rules and Equipment Committees.