



World Leader in Rating Technology

OFFSHORE RACING CONGRESS



ORC Championship Rules
2012

ORC Championship Rules

1 Authority

The Offshore Racing Congress (ORC) is the international authority recognised by the International Sailing Federation (ISAF) as the sole authority to administer the International Measurement System (IMS), the ORC Rating Systems (ORC International and ORC Club), the ORC Grand Prix Classes Rules and the co-related Regulations, measurement and classes.

2 Championships

2.1 The ORC has overall authority on the World and Continental Championships as follows:

- The Offshore Team World Championship
- The ORC International Championships
- The Championships of the following classes: ORC Maxi ORC Mini Maxi, ORC Sportboat, GP 42, GP 33, GP 26.

The Offshore Team World Championship (Sardinia Cup) is open to National Teams made up of three yachts which type shall be proposed by the organizer and approved by the ORC Offshore & Classes Events Committee.

2.2 Except for the Offshore Team World Championship which is held biennially, World and Continental championships for each class will be held annually in accordance with these Championship Rules; using the ORC Standard Notice of Race, the ORC Standard Sailing Instructions and relevant class rules.

2.3 ORC may approve regional championships where participation of boats from a specific region and more neighbouring countries is expected. These Championship Rules are strongly recommended for regional and national championships.

3 Applications for Hosting Championships

3.1 Applications to host Championship events shall be received by ORC not later than two years in advance and at least 30 days prior the ORC Annual General Meeting, from the ORC Affiliated Class Association (if any) and/or a host organization with the endorsement of their National Authority. Furthermore, it is strongly suggested that applicants who are contemplating the possibility of hosting future events make their intentions known to the ORC 3 years in advance.

The application shall include the name of the hosting club and its qualifications for hosting and organizing the event. These qualifications should include information on the following (see also Appendix 1, ORC Championship Checklist):

- a) Club's history of organizing major events
- b) Suitability of facilities at the club as follows:
 - Adequate facilities to measure sails and other measurement controls
 - Haul-out facilities
 - Accommodation to house separately the Race Committee and Jury
 - Offices for Measurers, Jury meetings, and a Media Centre
 - Availability of suitable Boats for Race Committee, Jury and media
- c) Charts identifying suitable inshore and offshore racing areas.
- d) Availability of commercial shoreside facilities for competitors, including hotels, restaurants and marine services.
- e) Outline of the club's financial plans for the event, and any potential sponsors.

f) Report on the local active racing fleet qualifying for the Championship.

g) Plans for promotion, marketing and media relations for the event.

The application shall clearly state the organizer's acceptance of the obligations imposed by these regulations and its commitment to conduct the Championship in full conformity with such regulations, by signature of the senior officer of the organization.

3.2 In approving an event venue, the ORC will take into account the geographical location in the context of other scheduled events and the particular nature of the Class.

4 Obligations of the Host Organizing Club

4.1 The organizing club shall make the initial appointments for members of the Race Committee, International Jury and Measurement Committee. The Principal Race Officer, International Jury Chairman and Chief Measurer shall have experience with IMS, ORC Rating Systems and offshore racing.

4.2 ORC Approval

It is expected that the organizing club work closely with ORC to meet the expectations outlined in Section 3 above in order to maximise the success of the event. Moreover, a list of all committee members shall be approved by the Offshore Classes and Events Committee at least four months prior to the event unless agreed otherwise. The ORC retains the right to request additions or replacements, as it deems necessary.

4.3 Official language

The official language shall be English. All senior officers, including the Race Committee, International Jury and Measurement Committee shall be fluent in English, with all announcements and briefings in that language. The organizing authority shall well in advance provide a news-update in English for ORC website, as well as a daily summary in English with appropriate photos from races and related events, such as opening ceremonies, prize giving, etc. For all international ORC Championships, there shall be an English version of the event website, with all necessary information in the English language.

4.4 International Jury

The International Jury shall include an ORC Representative and shall conform to RRS Appendix N. A majority of Jury members including the Chairman and the ORC Representative shall be present from the first day of measurement and inspection. Should there be a difference of opinion regarding the interpretation, definition or intent of any rules and/or regulations, then the query shall be referred to the International Jury, whose ruling on the interpretation, definition or ruling on the intent of that rule or regulation shall be final and not subject to appeal.

4.5 ORC Representative

The ORC shall appoint a representative for each particular ORC championship. The ORC representative shall then be a member of the jury during the series and shall have the right to consult with and advise the Race Committee during the course of the event. The ORC representative shall report to the ORC at its next meeting after the championship with an account of the conduct of the event and with any recommendations or relevant observations by the jury or other officials or competitors.

4.6 Measurement Committee

A Measurement Committee shall be appointed in conjunction with the ORC Chief Measurer after consulting with the class and the National Authority of the host country. At least one member should be from another country. At least one qualified ORC measurer shall be present

throughout the event. At any time throughout the series even whilst yachts are racing, sails and yachts shall be subject to scrutiny and to checks for compliance with the rules at the discretion of the Race Committee.

4.7 Notice of Race

Six months before the first day of the championship, the Organizer will publish to all relevant countries the Notice of Race. The standard Notice of Race as found in the appendix of these championship rules shall be used. Prior to publication, a draft and any modifications to the standard Notice of Race must be approved by the ORC.

4.8 Sailing Instructions

The Sailing Instructions as printed in the appendix of these championship rules shall be used. Prior to publication a draft and any modifications must be approved by the ORC. Copies shall be provided to the International Jury prior to their arrival at the event. Copies for competitors should be available upon their arrival at the event.

5 Rules

5.1 ORC Championships shall be sailed according to the following rules:

- a) ISAF Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS)
- b) ORC Championship Rules
- c) The relevant ORC Grand Prix or ORC Class Rules and as referenced, the IMS Rule, ORC Rating Systems Rules and any other Rules as published or approved by the ORC
- d) ISAF Offshore Special Regulations
Except for Sportboats, all races will be Category 2 or 3. For Sportboats, ORC Sportboat Class Rules will apply.
- e) Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions follow ORC standard format.
- f) Prescriptions of the national authority of the organizing club shall not be applied unless authorized by the ORC.

5.2 Automatic, mechanical and wind vane devices for steering shall be prohibited.

5.3 Hauling Out

From 9 AM of the first scheduled day of registration yachts shall not be hauled out except for the purposes of repairing damage; and only after written permission from the International Jury. While hauled for this purpose, cleaning and polishing of the hull below the waterline will not be permitted.

Rudders shall not be removed from the water during the series nor the centreboards removed from their cases.

6 Qualifications and Eligibility

6.1 For an event to qualify as a World Championship there shall be a minimum number of eligible yachts. To be eligible, a yacht must be present at the event, checked by the Measurement Committee and be accepted by the International Jury as meeting all entry requirements for the event. For World Championships, the yacht's owner shall be a member of the relevant Class Association, where appropriate. Except for the Maxi Class, the minimum number of countries shall be four and the minimum number of entries plus countries shall be fourteen. For the Maxi Class, the minimum number of entries shall be six and shall include at least one yacht from each of three different countries or two continents. In order for a yacht to fulfil its entry status in the

regatta, it must start and finish at least one of the scheduled races, except for major damage that would preclude further participation.

- 6.2 ORC Championships shall not be scheduled as part of other events without express consent of the ORC. Even with consent, separate classes, starts and scoring shall be provided for the Championship series.
- 6.3 A maximum of thirty (30) yachts per country and no more than fifty (50) yachts from the hosting country will be accepted in a Championship unless expressly waived by the ORC. For the ORC International World Championship, the Organizing authority and the ORC may set upper and lower GPH limits. For the Classes Championship yachts conforming to the class rules are eligible.
- 6.4 For the purposes of RRS 76.2, the approving authority is the ORC. The ORC delegates its jurisdiction under this rule to the International Jury of the event in question, provided the ORC representative is present at the relevant meetings.
- 6.5 Each Yacht's rating certificate in duplicate shall accompany its entry. Any modifications to certificates must be made prior to 9 AM of the first day of registration. Modifications necessitated by the measurement and inspection process may be presented until 9 AM of the first day of racing. All rating certificates shall be rechecked and endorsed by the National Authority issuing the certificate. All rating certificates shall be available for inspection by all competitors.
- 6.6 An individual who has been suspended under the ISAF Eligibility Code by any National Authority shall not participate during the period of suspension.
- 6.7 At least half the crew including the person who is the owner or charterer or borrower shall be nationals of the country they are representing. "National" is defined as either the holder of a passport or identity card, or a similar document stating residential status in the country represented. Any helmsman steering a competing yacht in any of the Olympic Type Course Races or inshore races shall be a national of the country of entry of the competing yacht.
- 6.8 A crew list shall be submitted before the first race and shall be made available to all contestants. The total weight of the crew shall be established before the start of the first race by weighing the individual members of the crew in bare feet and shorts. This weight shall not exceed the crew weight limit for the yacht.
- 6.9 Substitution of crew will be permitted by prior consent of the International Jury. The International Jury may delegate this responsibility to the Race Committee. The owner has the responsibility to ensure that crew weight limits have not been exceeded. The International Jury may require that the weight of the original crew member and his replacement be documented.

7 Equipment

7.1 Sails

One suit of sails plus one mainsail may be used in a series and shall have been measured and stamped by an ORC Measurer. The sails so stamped shall be marked for the event and shall not exceed in numbers the maxima permitted under ORC Rating Rule 206, unless otherwise stated in the Notice of Race. In determining these maxima, the GPH used for all yachts in the Class shall be the faster of the two GPH values given as the Class Rule rating band limits.

With the exception of the second mainsail all sails must be carried aboard. This second mainsail shall have a minimum of one set of reef points. The mainsails may be interchangeable.

Sails damaged during the series may be repaired. Sails beyond repair may be replaced with permission of the International Jury.

7.2 Masts and Spars

When masts and spars are damaged or broken they may be repaired and/or replaced once, subject to inspection before and after repairs or replacement. Repairs and/or replacement shall only be allowed in the case of "bona fide" damage. In case of a mast replacement, the rig shall be measured and the yacht shall be re-measured afloat, as required by the IMS rule. A new valid certificate shall be submitted before the end of the series.

8 Prizes

8.1 The principal trophies shall be listed in the Notice of Race and the Sailing Instructions.

8.2 It shall be the responsibility of the winner of each perpetual trophy or challenge cup to send it to the organizing club for the following year's event after having it suitably engraved with the results of the event.

8.3 Corinthian Trophy

ORC encourages event organizers to award a Corinthian Trophy. To be eligible for this trophy, every crew member of a competing yacht must qualify as being a Group 1 sailor under the ISAF Sailor Classification Code.

Unless there is a separate division, a yacht competing for the Corinthian Trophy shall also be eligible for all other awards. Any decision on eligibility for the Corinthian trophy shall not affect other scoring. At least two entrants for the Corinthian Trophy shall be required for its award in any championship. The Classification Protest Time Limit shall be no later than the end of the first day of racing.

It is recommended to have a representative from the ISAF Classification Commission on site during the Registration process to handle matters regarding Classification. If so, Section 5 of the Standard Notice of Race shall be used.

8.4 Owner/Driver Trophy

ORC encourages the awarding of a separate Owner/Driver prize. It shall be awarded to the entry whose owner is listed as the primary helmsman for the event and who shall steer at all times except in an emergency. For offshore races, the owner/driver shall be on the helm for at least the start and finish of the race(s).

9 Disclaimer

The ORC, including its committees and representatives, has provided these rules and recommendations in the interest of yachtsmen, but on the understanding that it cannot be held responsible for any loss, damage, injury or inconvenience arising from its policies and rulings.