



Why become a World Sailing Class?

sport / nature / technology



Welcome to World Sailing

World Sailing (WS) is the world governing body for the sport of Sailing, officially recognised by the International Olympic Committee (IOC). Founded in Paris in 1907, World Sailing now has 144 Member National Associations.





Our Vision

World Sailing has a clear and ambitious vision:

A world in which millions more people fall in love with sailing; inspired by the unique relationship between sport, technology and the forces of nature, we all work to protect the waters of the world.

Our Mission

To make sailing more exciting and accessible for everyone to participate or watch; and use our reach and influence to create a sustainable future for our sport and the waters of the world:

- To create, and regulate, exciting competition events to showcase the natural power of wind-driven water sport;
- To build a strong profile and image for sailing, using our key points of difference to resonate with people and give them a lifetime of sport;
- To create a tangible sustainability programme that maximises the positive effect that the sailing community can have on our environment.



World Sailing Classes

Classes that offer a high standard of international competitive sailing and satisfy the criteria set out in World Sailing regulations may be designated as a World Sailing Class Association.

There are currently over **120** recognised sailing Classes ranging from the small Optimist Dinghy to the largest, the 60ft Monohull



The Benefits & Services

- Having World Sailing Class status is a clear marketing benefit for a class and the recognition of the world governing body.
- All World Sailing Classes have a presence on our website within the Classes section with their own class page.
- World Sailing classes have the right to hold annual World Championships.
- World Championships are endorsed and advertised through the official World Sailing calendar and website.
- World Sailing recognition provides certainty to competitors and reassurance that class rules, race management policies, and manufacturers of equipment are held to the highest standards.
- A World Sailing class can be selected for World Sailing events such as Sailing World Championships, Youth Sailing World Championships and the Olympic Sailing Competition.
- World Sailing supports its classes with technical services providing expertise in managing class rule changes, licensing manufacturers, registering series production equipment, etc.
- As a World Sailing Class, you may appoint one member to the World Sailing Classes Committee and as such have a vote and voice within the world governing body.
- World Sailing Classes may carry advertising on their boats under the Advertising Code.
- Through the World Sailing plaque fee system, World Sailing can collect fees payable to the class association per boat built.
- World Sailing currently has over 650 International Race Officials across the world available to help the classes to ensure the fairness of racing and compliant with the rules.
- A World Sailing Class may make submissions to the World Sailing Council to change World Sailing regulations.



World Championships

World Sailing approval is required for holding World Championships and for the use of the word "World" in the title of an event. World Sailing Classes have the right to hold World Championships.

The allowed number of titles for classes are:

- A World Championship (an Open event, or separate Male and Female, or Mixed crew)
- A Youth World Championship (an Open event, or separate Male and Female, or Mixed crew)
- An additional World Championship (another age group or discipline)

World Sailing Annual & mid-year conference

World Sailing Annual conference brings together over 140 Member National Authorities (MNAs) from different countries with the goal of growing the sport of sailing and officiating championships around the world.

The World Sailing Annual and Mid-Year Conferences are held in November and in May every year respectively. Details of schedule, location, and accommodation are always posted well in advance on the [World Sailing website](#).

During the Annual Conference Committees and Commissions will discuss and vote submissions and recommendations which may affect the process that governs the sailing world.

At the Annual Conference in November every year there is a meeting of the World Sailing Classes Committee, this is usually near the start of the Conference. As a World Sailing Class, they can appoint a representative to the committee meeting. At this meeting, the committee considers submissions that concern the World Sailing Classes and makes a recommendation to Council. The World Sailing Classes also have representation on other committees.

The chairperson of the World Sailing Classes Committee sits on the World Sailing Council.

A World Sailing Class may make submissions to the World Sailing Council and committees.



World Sailing Services



1

Standard Class Rules and Equipment Rules of Sailing

As part of World Sailing's initiative to improve and standardise class rules and certification for the sailor, the Standard Class Rule template and Equipment Rules of Sailing has been developed. Through a common format, individuals can find relevant sections of each class rules easily and effectively. World Sailing can consult and advise to aid a class in encompassing this rules system within their class.



2

Class Rule Changes

World Sailing classes benefit from the expertise and experience of technical specialists, Equipment Rules Sub-Committee members and International Measurers to advise on and approve class rule changes and interpretations. World Sailing procedures help resolve any dispute to changes implemented.



3

In-house Certification

The In-House Certification Scheme (IHC) is a program to enable builders that meet certain standards, to self-certify sails. The scheme aims to maintain the same standards of fairness guaranteed by traditional control and certification but reducing the time and cost of these activities. World Sailing's goal is to ensure standards and certifications applied worldwide, where sailors can buy certified "ready to race" sails.

Classes allowing the use of IHC certified sails must have their Class Rules in the World Sailing Standard Format and must be measured as per ERS to adhere to the program. More information about [In-House Certification Scheme \(IHC\)](#).



4

Equipment Registration

If your class uses an equipment registration programme, WS can manage the registration system, setting out the requirements and maintaining a database with eligible equipment.

The list of World Sailing Approved Series Production boards is updated regularly on our website to help sailors in the search for equipment eligible to be used in World Sailing sanctioned events. World Sailing representatives may also inspect manufacturers to ensure compliance with specifications.



5

World Sailing Building Plaque Fees

World Sailing has established a process to monitor the production of equipment to ensure that only equipment built by licensed manufacturers is eligible for competitions.

The plaque programme varies from class to class, but in most cases, this fee is supplemented by a class fee. The World Sailing classes may benefit from the administrative services of WS to manage and collect the class fee from the manufacturers.



6

Education for Race Officials

Race Officials are an integral part of any sailing regatta to ensure the fairness of racing and the rules of sailing are followed. World Sailing regulations require the classes that hold a world championship to appoint International Race Officers for the World Championships adhering to the compositional requirements of the Racing Rules of Sailing. World Sailing currently have over 650 International Race Officials across the world available to help the classes achieve this requirement.

World Sailing partners with MNAs to provide race official clinics and seminar to improve the standard of all officiating roles (Judges, Umpires, Measures and Race Management) and offer pathways for development to International Race Official level.



7

The World Sailing Rankings

The World Sailing Rankings for Olympic Classes are administered by World Sailing. Rankings are calculated and published after major events throughout the quad. Results and Rankings are displayed on each Sailor's Biography. Rankings points and regatta Grading creates value for the sailors to attend.

Olympic Class Rankings used to:

- Track progress and determine the best international athletes in each Olympic Event
- Qualify for entry to regattas Create start lists when splitting fleets.
- Some National Federations use the rankings in their own Olympic Qualification systems, or athlete funding programmes.

World Sailing aims to develop a ranking system in the future that will serve all World Sailing classes.



Next steps

You will find further information on how to become a World Sailing Class and how to maintain the status in the following guide and in World Sailing Regulations:

[How to become a World Sailing Class](#)
[WS Regulations](#)



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