

Race Official Roles, Qualifications and Competences

Application Document for
World Sailing International
Race Officials

January 2026

Introduction

This document defines the process applied by World Sailing (WS) when appointing World Sailing Race Officials (WS-ROs). It also describes the role of race officials in the different disciplines as well as the qualifications and competences required for appointment.

WS appoints WS-ROs in the following disciplines:

- International Classifier (IC)
- International Expression Judge (IEJ)
- International Judge (IJ)
- International Measurer (IM)
- International Race Officer (IRO)
- International Technical Delegate (ITD)
- International Umpire (IU)

The application and appointment process are specified in World Sailing Policy L3.

This document provides the process and requirements to qualifications and competences that are common for all disciplines, followed by a section with the specific requirements for each discipline.

The requirements of the individual disciplines refer to “principal events”. Lists of principal events are provided in each discipline’s section.

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1. All World Sailing Race Officials

This section provides the process and requirements to qualifications and competences that are common for all World Sailing Race Official (WS-RO) disciplines.

1.1. Processing of Applications

The process for the appointment of all WS-ROs will be as follows:

- (a) An application on the official form must be sent to the WS Executive Office by 1 March or 1 September;
- (b) All ancillary documents must be sent to the WS Executive Office by 23:59 UTC on April 13 or October 13 in the year of application;
- (c) For the first appointment, the applicant's name will be sent to their Member National Authority (MNA) for endorsement (to be received by the deadline specified in 1.1(b)). Any comments received will be sent to the candidate who may make representations to WS if they wish;
- (d) The application file and all comments will be sent to the sub-committee or working group that is administering the discipline, and that body will make a formal recommendation to the Race Officials Committee (ROC) concerning appointment; and
- (e) The ROC will decide on recommendations for appointment at its May mid-year meeting or at its October / November meeting on the year of application or later if required;
- (f) The deadlines stated in 1.1(a) and 1.1(b) are hard deadlines and any delay will lead to automatic rejection of the application;
- (g) The 4-year period - to be referred to as the "Designated Period"- for all required qualifications shall either be:
14 April 2022 to 13 April 2026 or
14 October 2022 to 13 October 2026 (inclusive).
- (h) Where a test is required to be passed, the date it is considered to be passed or failed is the date it was taken, even if the result was communicated to the candidate on a later date;
- (i) Some criteria may change from those published in prior years. An applicant negatively affected by such a change may ask that the impact on their application be considered by the relevant sub-committee and ROC.

1.2. Qualifications Required

A candidate for first appointment or re-appointment as a WS-RO shall have complied during the Designated Period with the following requirements:

- (a) satisfy the general competences for WS ROs set out in paragraph 1.3 below; and
- (b) satisfy the specific qualifications and competences for the relevant discipline set out in the relevant section below.

1.3. General Competences Required

A candidate for first appointment or re-appointment for any discipline shall:

- (a) have racing experience;
- (b) have a sufficient knowledge of the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) and a detailed knowledge of the rules, manuals and other requirements and publications relating to the discipline;
- (c) be proficient in the English language and have the skills to communicate both with other race officials and with competitors on matters relating to the discipline;
- (d) display the temperament and behavior expected of a WS-RO at an event;
- (e) have the health and physical capacity to fulfill the requirements of the discipline;
- (f) have the observation skills necessary to perform the duties of the discipline;
- (g) agree to support the policies of WS and further its objectives;
- (h) have sufficient eyesight and hearing, natural or corrected, at a level to carry out the duties of the discipline;
- (i) be able to contribute to the development of the program relating to the discipline;
- (j) have skills of team work/team management/leadership;
- (k) have communication skills, ensuring good communication with competitors and support persons;
- (l) be polite, courteous, open-minded, and patient with colleagues, competitors, event officials, support persons, and hosts;
- (m) respect cultural differences in colleagues, competitors, event officials, support persons, and hosts;
- (n) maintain appropriate relationships with competitors and support persons at events; and
- (o) declare any conflict of interest before accepting an event invitation. (See WS Policy L6).

1.4. Examinations

1.4.1 If a candidate for first appointment must pass a WS examination in order to be appointed, the following provisions shall apply:

- (a) A candidate shall have passed the examination in the Designated Period;
- (b) An examination pass may only be used once to qualify;
- (c) A candidate who does not pass an examination may retake it on the following conditions:
 - (1) A candidate who fails on the first attempt shall not retake the examination within 3 months of the first attempt if they are an International Judge candidate, or 6 months if they are an International Measurer, Race Officer, Technical Delegate, Umpire or Classifier candidate unless the Chair of the relevant Sub-Committee (or the Chair of the ROC if there is no sub-committee) is satisfied that there are special circumstances to permit the candidate to retake the examination earlier;
 - (2) candidate who fails an examination on the second attempt shall not retake the examination within a period of 12 months, unless the Chair of the relevant sub-committee (or the Chair of the ROC if there is no sub-committee) has considered the candidate's individual case and is satisfied that the candidate should be permitted an additional opportunity to retake the examination; and;
 - (3) A candidate who fails an examination on the third attempt shall wait a period of 12 months before retaking the examination.

1.4.2 If a candidate for re-appointment must pass a WS examination in order to be re-appointed, the following provisions shall apply:

- (a) A candidate shall have passed the examination in the Designated Period, except a candidate for International Judge status, who shall have passed the examination in the calendar year of their re-appointment and no later than 31st August (unless previously given an extension);
- (b) A candidate for re-appointment who has not passed the examination as stated in 1.4.2(a), may be re-appointed (except under WS Policy L3 – 3.4) if all other conditions for re-appointment are met and the examination has been passed before 1st January in the following year;
- (c) If the examination is not passed before the relevant date in 1.4.2(b), the candidate will, unless there are special circumstances, have their appointment terminated by the ROC, but may reapply in accordance with WS Policy L3 - 3.4;
- (d) An examination pass may only be used once to qualify;
- (e) A candidate who does not pass an examination may retake it on the following conditions:
 - (1) A candidate who fails an examination on the first attempt shall not retake the examination within 3 months of the first attempt if they are an International Jury candidate, or 6 months if they are an International Umpire candidate, unless the Chair of the relevant sub-committee (or the Chair of the ROC if there is no sub-committee) is satisfied that there are special circumstances to permit the candidate to retake the examination earlier;
 - (2) A candidate who fails an examination on the second attempt shall not retake the examination within a period of 12 months, unless the Chair of the relevant sub-committee (or the Chair of the ROC if there is no sub-committee) has considered the candidate's individual case and is satisfied that the candidate should be permitted an additional opportunity to retake the examination.

1.5. General Guidelines Regarding Principal Events

- (a) Although there is no specific definition of a principal event, this document will assist first-time applicants and applicants for re-appointment with a better understanding as to which of their events will be considered as principal events. Officials from the more isolated areas around the globe struggle to receive invitations to events outside their Group or MNA, especially prior to becoming certified WS-ROs. With this in mind the ROC looks at a broad scope of events to define the experience needed for first-time appointment or re-appointment of our officials. Each sub-committee will always consider exceptions when evaluating an application.
- (b) A principal event for the purposes of appointment of WS-ROs is an event that gives the officials a level of experience they can be expected to encounter when appointed as WS-ROs and at the same time there will be events which can allow the officials to bring their high level of experience to all levels of racing.
- (c) Those events listed in the WS Policy A3 and E5 as 'WS Events', 'Major Events', 'Special Events' and 'Recognized Events', would be principal events unless specified differently in each discipline's section below.
- (d) An applicant for re-appointment as a WS-RO for IJ, IM, IRO, ITD or IU may include as a principal event, one composed of two L2 events, or one L2 and two L3 events, or three L3 events. Only one such substitution is permitted per application unless specifically noted below under the Principal Events of a WS-RO discipline.
- (e) WS-ROs are encouraged not only to seek high-level events, but also to provide their skills and knowledge at other, non-principal events, in the hope that their expertise will be of benefit to national race officials and other less-experienced officials. The inclusion of L2 and L3 events in an application should facilitate this.

2. International Classifier (IC)

This section provides the qualifications and competences required for appointment as International Classifier (IC).

2.1. Role of International Classifiers

An International Classifier conducts the following activities at an event:

- (a) classifying sailors according to the current Para Classification Rules for World Sailing. This includes medical, anatomical, and physiological analysis of the sailor's capabilities, performance assessment through standardized tests and observation on the water during competition;
- (b) advising on, inspects and approves assistive devices used by sailors during competition;
- (c) managing classification protest hearings to resolve disputes about a sailor's classification; and
- (d) informing the race committee if a sailor or team is ineligible to compete.

2.2. Specific Qualifications for First Appointment

A candidate for first appointment as an International Classifier shall have complied during the Designated Period with the following requirements:

- (a) is a qualified medical practitioner, or physiotherapist or appropriate allied health professional; who is currently licensed to practice or retired from practice;
- (b) has attended a recognized Para WS International Classification Seminar;
- (c) has sat and passed the WS examination for the discipline in accordance with 1.4;
- (d) has signed accepting the Code of Conduct;
- (e) has classified in the capacity of Trainee (National) Classifier at:
 - (1) two recognized WS Events, and
 - (2) has experience in classification in Para Sailing recognized equipment
- (f) has obtained two completed and positive International Classifier reference forms, from International Classifiers who have served at an event with the candidate.

2.3. Specific Qualifications for Re-appointment

A candidate for re-appointment as an International Classifier shall, in addition to the requirements for first appointment including 2.2(a), (c) and (d), have complied during the Designated Period with the following requirements:

- (a) included within the application, a letter of support from the WS Head of Classification or one of the following event officials:
 - (1) Jury Chairman;
 - (2) Principal Race Officer;
 - (3) WS Technical Delegate.
- (b) has classified at two recognized WS Events with experience in a majority of Para WS equipment;

2.4. Principal Events

All events listed on the WS Para Sailing Calendar are recognized events for functional classification. The full list can be located at the following link:

<https://www.sailing.org/our-sport/para/para-inclusive-calendar/>

2.5. Technical Competences Required

- (a) demonstration of knowledge and application of the current Para Classification Rules for World Sailing, the IPC Classification Code and its associated International Standards including the Code of Conduct; the current World Anti-Doping Code and the current Prohibited List;
- (b) familiarity with the different boats used for Para WS championships; and
- (c) demonstration of appropriate communication skills when evaluating sailors with disabilities.

2.6. Non-technical Competences Required

Uphold the confidentiality of classification details during and after the event.



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3. International Expression Judge (IEJ)

This section provides the qualifications and competences required for appointment as International Expression Judge (IEJ).

It will be published at a later point in time.



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4. International Judge (IJ)

This section provides the qualifications and competences required for appointment as an International Judge (IJ).

Terminology: in this section and the corresponding list of principal events, the term 'fleet racing event' refers to an event where protests in the vast majority of races were heard and decided in accordance with RRS Part 5, while the term 'umpired fleet racing event' refers to an event where the vast majority of protests were decided by umpires on the water.

4.1. Role of International Judges

An International Judge conducts the following activities at an event:

- (a) deciding on protests and requests for redress;
- (b) deciding on conflicts between Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions and any other rule under RRS 63.5(c);
- (c) enforcing RRS 42 on the water (when RRS Appendix P applies);
- (d) deciding on RRS 62 Hearings;
- (e) deciding on RRS 69 Hearings;
- (f) fulfilling responsibilities in RRS N2 assigned to international juries; and
- (g) liaising with:
 - (1) the Technical Delegate, when appointed;
 - (2) the technical committee (TC) chair or chief equipment inspector, to be aware of any measurement issues; and
 - (3) the race officer, to anticipate any difficult rule situations linked to race management.

4.2. Specific Qualifications for First Appointment

A candidate for first appointment as an International Judge shall have complied with the following requirements, during the Designated Period (System):

- (a) attended a WS International Judges Seminar, with good participation and positive references from the IJ Instructors;
- (b) sat (for the initial attempt, while physically present at a WS International Judges seminar) and passed the WS examination for the discipline in accordance with 1.4.1;
- (c) served in-person as a member of an on-site protest committee for at least four L1 fleet racing principal events (not umpired fleet racing events).
 - (1) At two of these events the candidate shall have been a member of an international jury.
 - (2) One of these four events shall have been outside:
 - (a) the candidate's Group (Groups A-H) or
 - (b) the candidate's MNA (Groups I-Q); and
- (d) obtained at least three complete reference forms, each with the overall assessment as 'IJ Standard' from the International Judge who is the chair of the protest committee or international jury.
 - (1) Each of these reference forms shall be from a different International Judge.
 - (2) A reference form from an event without any hearings is not a complete reference form.
 - (3) Any item marked on the reference form other than 'IJ Standard' means that the overall assessment is not 'IJ Standard', regardless of what is marked as the overall assessment.
 - (4) Only one reference form per event within the same time period will be accepted.
 - (5) A reference form completed more than 30 days after an event cannot be considered for an application;

(6) A reference form from an event a candidate attended virtually cannot be considered for an application.

(e) Further inquiries by the International Judges sub-committee (IJSC) or the ROC into the candidate's performance shall show positive competences and comportment appropriate for appointment as an International Judge.

(f) A candidate for first appointment is encouraged to provide an endorsement letter from the IJ Mentor he/she chooses. For the letter to be considered, the IJ Mentor must be a currently certified International Judge who has already served as an IJ for at least 4 years.

4.3. Specific Qualifications for Re-appointment

A candidate for re-appointment as an International Judge shall comply during the Designated Period either with the requirements of System 1 (as above) except for item (d), or with the requirements of System 2 (as follows):

(a) sat and passed the WS re-examination for the discipline in accordance with 1.4.2;

(b) served as a member of a protest committee for at least six L1 fleet racing principal events (not umpired fleet racing events).

(1) Only one event within the same time period shall be considered.

(2) At no less than four of these events the candidate shall have been a member of an international jury.

(3) At least two of these events shall have been outside:

(a) the candidate's Group (for Groups A-H) or

(b) the candidate's MNA (Groups I-Q).

(4) Only one L1 principal event where the applicant was not physically present may be included in an application and that event shall have an international jury as well as video conferencing.

(5) An applicant may count two L2s, or three L3s, or one L2 and two L3s as a single L1 event; in each case, the applicant must have served in person as part of an on-site protest committee.

(c) any reports received:

(1) from a chairman of an international jury where the judge served, and

(2) from any assessment

shall show competences and comportment at the level of an international judge; and where applicable compliance with WS Regulation 18 (Race Officials Performance), the WS Code of Ethics and the WS Policy L4 (Race Officials Performance); and

(d) further inquiries by the IJSC or the ROC into the judge's performance and behavior shall indicate competences and comportment as required for an International Judge.

4.4. Principal Events

4.4.1 Fleet Racing Dinghies

(a) L1 Event

Olympic Games

International Class World, Hemispheric and Continental Championships

Grade 200 and 100 Olympic Classes events

National Championship with 50+ entries (minimum 3 racing days)

Youth Olympic Games

Youth Sailing World Championships

Regional Games

Events with 50+ entries and more than 3 classes (minimum 4 racing days)

International event with 100+ entries from 2 or more countries (minimum 3 racing days)

(b) L2 Event

National Championship with 50+ entries (minimum 2 racing days)

National Championship with 30- 50 entries (minimum 3 racing days)

International event with 30+ entries from 2 or more countries (minimum 3 racing days)

(c) L3 Event

International event with 20+ entries from 2 or more countries (minimum 3 racing days)

4.4.2 Fleet Racing Keelboats

(a) L1 Event

The Ocean Race

Long-distance races with 50+ entries from 2 or more countries

International Class World, Hemispheric and Continental Championships

International event with 50+ entries from 2 or more countries (minimum 4 racing days)

National Championships with 30+ entries (minimum 4 racing days)

An event with an international jury on site, with 30+ entries (minimum 4 racing days)

(b) L2 Event

International event with 30+ entries from 2 or more countries (minimum 3 racing days)

International events with 50+ entries but only 1 or 2 races (minimum 2 racing days)

National Championship with 30+ entries (minimum 3 racing days)

(c) L3 Event

International event with 20+ entries from 2 or more countries (minimum 3 racing days)

4.5. Technical Competences Required

(a) Working knowledge of the RRS, the WS Regulations, and any other applicable rules or regulations of the host organization and event.

(b) Be able to drive and position small powerboats safely and effectively in a range of wind and wave conditions.

4.6. Non-technical Competences Required

Uphold the confidentiality of protest committee deliberations during and after the event.

5. International Measurer (IM)

This section provides the qualifications and competences required for appointment as an International Measurer (IM).

The appointment is made for a specific class or rating system. A rating system, except where otherwise stated, shall be deemed to have the status of a class. See 5.8 for details of class groupings.

5.1. Role of International Measurers

5.1.1. Activities at Events

An International Measurer conducts the following activities at an event:

- (a) preparing the measurement/inspection facilities, setting up the required tools & equipment;
- (b) training and then leading the measurement/inspection team;
- (c) overseeing the measurement/inspection process;
- (d) as member of the event's technical committee (TC), protests any class rules infringements; and
- (e) liaising with the Technical Delegate, the protest committee and the Race Officer when appointed, to be aware of any measurement issues.

5.1.2. Activities Not Related to an Event

An International Measurer can be involved with the following activities not related to events:

- (a) hull prototype measurements and other class-related functions in accordance with WS Policy D4.

The above list is not restrictive; see also the WS Measurer's Manual.

5.2. Specific Qualifications for First Appointment

5.2.1 First Appointment

A candidate for first appointment as an International Measurer shall have complied, during the Designated Period, with the following requirements:

- (a) attended a WS International Measurer seminar;
- (b) have intimate knowledge of the relevant class rules and the Equipment Rules of Sailing (ERS);
- (c) sat and passed the WS examination for the International Measurer discipline in accordance with 1.4.1;
- (d) acted as an Equipment Inspector in at least two L1 principal events of the class they are applying for;
- (e) obtained ~~one~~ a class endorsement form from the designated authorized person(s) noted in the class annual report of the relevant WS class association or, for rating systems, by the relevant WS rating system;
- (f) obtained one endorsement from either the class chief measurer or in their absence class technical committee chair, and,
- (g) obtained one completed and positive International Measurer reference form from an IM who has served at an L1 principal event with the candidate. A request for reference shall be accepted by the IM prior to the start of the event. A reference form completed more than 30 days after the

event cannot be considered for an application.

5.2.2. First Appointment to an Additional Class

An IM applying for first appointment to an additional Class shall have complied during the Designated Period with the following requirements:

- (a) have intimate knowledge of the relevant class rules and the ERS;
- (b) acted as an Equipment Inspector in at least two L1 principal events of the class they are applying for; and
- (c) obtained one class endorsement form from the designated authorized person(s) noted in the class annual report of the relevant WS class association or, for rating systems, by the relevant WS rating system;
- (d) obtained one endorsement from either the class chief measurer or in their absence class technical committee chair, and,
- (e) have submitted, or have been included in IM Event Reports as defined in 5.7 for every principal event used in the application.

5.3. Specific Qualifications for Re-appointment

A candidate for re-appointment as an International Measurer shall have complied during the Designated Period with the following requirements:

- (a) acted as an Equipment Inspector in a L1 principal event of the class they are applying for with the candidate acting as event technical committee (TC) chair or deputy; or have undertaken a hull prototype measurement of the class they are applying for. And, completed one of the following:
 - (i) acted as an Equipment Inspector in a L1 principal event of any class, or
 - (ii) undertaken a hull prototype measurement of the class they are applying for (if not used in 5.3 (a)(1)), or
 - (iii) acted as an Equipment Inspector in a combination of L2 and L3 principal events.
- (b) obtained a class endorsement form from the designated authorized person(s)) noted in the class annual report of the relevant WS class association or, for rating systems, by the relevant WS rating system;
- (c) obtained one endorsement from either the class chief measurer or in their absence class technical committee chair, and,
- (d) have submitted, or have been included in IM Event Reports as defined in 5.7 for every principal event used in the application.

5.4. Principal Events

5.4.1. L1 Events

- (a) WS Class - Single Class Event
 - Class World Championships - includes junior etc. events ⁽¹⁾
 - Class Continental Championships ⁽¹⁾
 - Class Continental Cups ⁽¹⁾
- (b) WS Class - Multi Class Event
 - (For multi-class L1 events, the candidate should be a member of a class specific equipment inspection team)
 - Olympic Games & Olympic Test Events
 - Regional Games ⁽¹⁾
- (c) Other Major International Events

- (1) IMOCA (as agreed with Class, minimum 15 boats)
Vendee Globe
The Ocean Race ⁽²⁾
Route du Rhum
Transat Café L'Or
- (2) Class 40 (as agreed with Class, minimum 15 boats)
Route du Rhum
Transat Café L'Or
Quebec St Malo
Globe 40
- (3) IRC (as agreed with Class)
Maxi 72 Rolex World Championship
RORC Admirals Cup
YCCS Sardinia Cup
IMA Worlds (IRC Event)
Rolex Sydney Hobart Race
Rolex Fastnet Race
Rolex Caribbean 600
Rolex Middle Sea race
IRC Worlds
IRC Europeans
- (4) ORC (as agreed with Class)
ORC Worlds (including Double Handed)
ORC Europeans (including Double Handed and Sportsboats)
Copa Del Rey
Swan Cup

5.4.2 L2 Events

(For L2 events the candidate should be TC chair/deputy of an event and not involved in a specific class)

Olympic Games & Test Event
Sailing World Championships
Regional Games ⁽¹⁾

5.4.3 L3 Events

(For L3 events the candidate should be the TC chair or deputy)

Youth Olympic Games ⁽¹⁾
Youth Sailing World Championship
SEA Games or similar ⁽¹⁾
WS Class National Championship with 30+ entries and two days or more of pre-event measurement ⁽³⁾
IRC National and Regional Championships with 15 + boats and two days or more of pre-event measurement ⁽³⁾

Notes on events

1. Provided that the inspection level is same as for World Championships of that class.
2. The candidate shall have been appointed to the event technical committee of the edition of The Ocean Race held during the Designated Period. Each leg of the Ocean Race counts as one L1 events, as listed in 5.4.1.(c).(1)
3. The International Measurers Sub-committee (IMSC) reserves the right to:
 - a) amend the required number of entries, taking into account the class characteristics, and
 - b) allow only those championships that produce a detailed report of the inspection with photographic evidence.

General Notes

1. If a candidate is unsure about the level of an event they want to include in their application, he should consult with the IMSC in advance.
2. If a particular class wishes to add another L1 event, it may be done with the agreement of the IMSC but always depending on the inspection level and the type of event.
3. An event shall not be considered in an application if an IM Event Report has not been submitted by the candidate or a representative of the event TC within 30 days of the event's closing date.

5.5. Technical Competences Required

(a) Intimate knowledge of the relevant Class or Rating System Rules and related documents such as additional specifications etc., the ERS, RRS, the WS Regulations and Policies, or any other applicable rules or regulations of the host organization.

(b) Measurement tool and related equipment handling skills.

5.6. Non-technical Competences Required

Uphold the confidentiality of inspected equipment details during and after the event.

More detailed descriptions can be found in the WS Measurer's Manual and the IM seminar presentation hand-outs.

5.7. IM Event Reports

An IM Event Report shall be submitted for every principal event that is used for an application. The IMSC recommends that the event TC chair completes an IM Event Report for all events and include all other IMs and any other members of the TC who wish to be included whether they are an IM or not.

IMs may also submit their own IM Event Report separately.

Reports shall be submitted online using the link for the IM Event Report Form on the following page within 30 days of the event's closing date.

<https://www.sailing.org/our-sport/race-officals/international-measurer/>

The IM Event Reports shall be used by the IMSC as proof of participation when considering applications for renewal or additional class appointment as an International Measurer and for IM Grouping purposes.

The IM Event Reports may also be used by the IMSC as proof of participation when considering first-time applications as an International Measurer.

5.8. Class Groupings

Based on similarities, specific classes will be considered as one class for application purposes. This means that the principal events at which the candidate acted as an Equipment Inspector for one of the classes listed shall count for all of the classes involved in the concerned class grouping:

- (a) 49er and 49er FX: "49er";
- (b) ILCA 7, ILCA 6 and ILCA 4: "ILCA";
- (c) Hansa 2.3, Hansa 303 and Hansa Liberty: "Hansa";
- (d) Hobie 14, Hobie 16, Hobie Dragon, Hobie Tiger and Hobie Wildcat: "Hobie";

- (e) IKA Twin Tip Racing and Freestyle, IKA Formula Kite, IKA Kitefoil, IKA Open: "IKA";
- (f) Techno 293 and Techno 293+: "Techno 293";
- (g) Funboard and Youth Funboard: "Funboard".
- (h) iQFoil and iQFoil Youth and Junior: "iQFoil";



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6. International Race Officer (IRO)

This section provides the qualifications and competences required for appointment as International Race Officer (IRO).

6.1. Role of International Race Officers

6.1.1. General

The title of “International Race Officer” (IRO) is awarded by World Sailing to persons who meet the criteria set out in WS Policy L3. Their role (title) in an event could be the following in accordance with the WS Race Management Manual and the Race Management Policy:

- (a) Principal Race Officer (PRO) responsible for the overall race management where there are multiple courses;
- (b) Course Representative (CR) appointed to oversee the work of a race committee on a single course area;
- (c) Course Race Officer (CRO) a race officer responsible for the race management team on a single course area;
- (d) Deputy Race Officer (DRO) a race officer working with the CRO on the race committee signal vessel;
- (e) Assistant Race Officer (ARO) a race officer, usually on the start pin vessel, or finishing vessel working closely with the CRO;
- (f) International Technical Official (ITO) World Sailing appointment other than Principal Race Officer or Course Representative working in the race management team at an event.

When an IRO is the person in charge of the race management of the event the primary responsibility is to ensure that the competition is run according to the standards of WS and classes involved.

The role of the IRO will vary according to the makeup of the race management team.

IROs bring additional experience and expertise to an event. The tasks include, but are not limited to, those listed in the three subsections below.

Normally, (a), (b) or (c) is the final decision-maker over any race management related questions or disputes concerning the conduct of the competition.

Note: International Technical Officials (ITOs) that World Sailing appointment of the WS-ROs including TD, Chief Classifier, Jury Chairman, Chief Measurer, PRO, CRs, Chief Umpire and other ICs, IEJs, IJs, IMs, IROs and IUs for Olympic Games, Regional Games or the other WS Events.

6.1.2. Before the event

- (a) supervise any race management aspects in the agreement with the organizing authority.
- (b) gain an overview of all aspects of the race management, including but not limited to race areas, classes involved, race committee equipment and event personnel.
- (c) advise and assist on the specification and technical aspects of the competition.
- (d) consult and assist in the appointment of local race officers, deputies, assistant race officers and other race committee members.
- (e) consult the format of competition and the schedule for the event where appropriate.
- (f) consult the rules and regulations for the event (including Notice of Race, Sailing Instructions

and any other race documents).

- (g) consult and approve event documents related to race management.
- (h) advise and approve the specification of all race committee vessels.
- (i) advise and approve the race management equipment required to deliver the event.
- (j) consult and advise of any race committee volunteer program.
- (k) consult results delivery software.

6.1.3. During the event

- (a) arrive before the event in order to assist and approve final preparations of the race management team.
- (b) ensure that the race officers act as a coordinated team.
- (c) chair daily meetings of the race management teams.
- (d) chair the race committee.
- (e) liaise with:
 - (1) the Technical Delegate, when appointed, and local race officers to ensure that WS race management policies and best practice are implemented;
 - (2) the TC chair or chief equipment inspector to be aware of any measurement issues;
 - (3) the jury chairman to anticipate any difficult rule situations linked to race Management.
- (f) consider necessity and consequences of any changes to race documents before approving and publishing.
- (g) ensure that results are published in a timely and adequate manner.
- (h) in general, remain aware of any issues affecting the smooth and fair running of the races and to take action accordingly.
- (i) attend protest/request for redress hearing on behalf of race committee, or delegate this task to the other race official when appropriate.

6.1.4. After the event

- (a) send the Race Officer Regatta Report for WS Office, including recommendations for the event in future.
- (b) give other written feedback which may be useful to WS, event organizers and other parties involved.

6.2. Specific Qualifications for First Appointment

6.2.1 A candidate for first appointment as an International Race Officer shall have complied, during the Designated Period, with the following requirements:

- (a) have attended a WS Race Management Seminar;
- (b) sat and passed the WS examination for the discipline in accordance with 1.4.1;
- (c) served in the following roles, Course Race Officer, Deputy Race Officer or Course Representative:

Service in these roles must include at least the following events:

- (i) Principal Events:
four principal events, including at least one L1 event.
- (ii) Additional events:
four additional events, which may include principal events.

Role limitations:

A maximum of one (1) of the four counted principal events may be included served as Deputy Race Officer.

- (d) included with the application a letter of recommendation from a class association or organizing

authority of a principal event at which the candidate served either as a Course Race Officer, Deputy Race Officer or Course Representative;

(e) have obtained at least three completed International Race Officer Reference Forms (on the water assessment) from three different WS-ROs at three different events-

For the Reference Form to be considered valid:

- (i) The candidate shall have been the Course Race Officer at any event of two days of scheduled racing or longer.
- (ii) At least two references confirmed as IRO standard shall be completed by IROs; the third one may be completed by an IJ or IU.
- (iii) Agreement to complete a reference form must be made prior to the event, and the completed reference shall be submitted to WS within 30 days from the last day of the event.
- (iv) All items should be filled with comments by way of example or reason. Any item marked on the reference form as below IRO Standard means the overall assessment is below IRO Standard, regardless of what is marked as the overall assessment.

6.3. Specific Qualifications for Re-appointment

6.3.1 During the Designated Period, a candidate for re-appointment as an International Race Officer shall:

(a) have served in the following roles: Course Race Officer, Deputy Race Officer, Course Representative, Principal Race Officer or International Technical Official.

Service in these roles must include at least the following events:

(i) Principal Events:

Four (4) principal events, including at least one (1) Level 1 (L1) event.

(ii) Additional Events:

Four (4) additional events, which may also include principal events.

Role limitations:

A maximum of one (1) of the four counted principal events may be included served as Deputy Race Officer.

A maximum of four (4) of all counted events (principal and additional) may be ones in which the candidate served as Principal Race Officer.

(b) included with the application a letter of recommendation from a class association or organizing authority of a principal event at which the candidate served either as either as Course Race Officer, Deputy Race Officer, Course Representative, Principal Race Officer or International Technical Official;

6.3.2 Reporting Requirement

Only events for which the candidate has submitted an International Race Officer Regatta Report using the following link shall be counted for re-appointment. For the events taking place from 2026 onwards, the report must be submitted within 30 days after the conclusion of the event to be considered.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfBxJ1WYj8xMrC3gMLDqC1mO1U0bNRJcBiooret-d-cYhhXaOw/viewform>

6.4. Principal Events

6.4.1 Fleet Racing Dinghies

(a) L1 Event

Olympic, Youth and Regional Games
World Sailing International Class Worlds and Continentals
Multiclass International event (minimum 3 days) with 200+ entries
National Championship with 50+ entries (minimum 2 days)

(b) L2 Event

Regional event with a large number of boats (more than 100)
National Championship (1 days)

6.4.2 Fleet Racing Keelboats

(a) L1 Event

International Class Worlds and Continentals

National Championships (minimum 2 days)
An event that has an international jury appointed

(b) L2 Event

National Championships (1 day)

6.4.3. Match Racing

(a) L1 Event

World and Continental Championships
America's Cup
Grade 1 & 2
Nations Cup

(b) L2 Event

National Championship
Grade 3

6.4.4 Team Racing

(a) L1 Event

World and Continental Championships
US National Team Race Championship
US University Championships
British University National Championships
British Open Team Racing Championship

(b) L2 Event

Feeder to an L1 principal event
Other National Championships

Notes on Events

1. A role other than overall PRO or RO (CRO/DRO) on board the start vessel, responsible for the management of the races on the water may be considered to be a principal event. For example, an IRO appointed by WS to act in that capacity at the Olympic Games or to a major event, but not necessarily as the PRO. However, the number of events in the portfolio where the applicant was not the RO (CRO) on board the start vessel responsible for the management of the races on the water will be limited to four.
2. It is impossible to fully describe a 'principal event' but the lists above may be helpful.
3. The number of entries at events is only given for guidance, and may be smaller depending on the context of those events, especially in emerging regions.

6.5. Technical Competences Required

- (a) Maintaining a high level of understanding and application of the rules, procedures and WS policies.
- (b) Ensuring that each decision or action taken is based upon the rules and principles of fairness and objectivity, and is made with care and without prejudice.
- (c) Responsible for their actions concerning the safety and welfare of competitors, race officials, support personnel and volunteers.

6.6. Non-technical Competences Required

Uphold the confidentiality of race committee deliberations during and after the event.



7. International Technical Delegate (ITD)

This section provides the qualifications and competences required for appointment as International Technical Delegate (ITD).

7.1. Role of International Technical Delegates

An International Technical Delegate conducts the following activities at an event.

7.1.1. Before the event

- (a) supervise any event agreement with the Organizing Authority (OA).
- (b) gain an overview of all aspects of the organization, including but not limited to event promotion, boat transportation or chartering, logistics both on and off the water, results, competitor registration and media.
- (c) advise on and approve the specification and technical aspects of the competition venue on and offshore.
- (d) consult and assist in the appointment of event directors, competition manager, and other key professional staff.
- (e) approve the format of competition and the schedule for the event where appropriate.
- (f) supervise the administration and qualification system for the event.
- (g) approve the rules and regulations for the event (including the Notice of Race, Sailing Instructions and any other race documents).
- (h) approve the race officials according to the WS Regulations and the event agreement (or if appointed by WS, to make the formal nomination of the officials to the OA).
- (i) advise and approve the specification of all official vessels.
- (j) consult and advise on the race management equipment required to deliver the event.
- (k) consult and advise on any event volunteer program.
- (l) advise and oversee the preparation and organization of test events.
- (m) approve any sports presentation plans and spectator facilities.
- (n) approve the venue branding plan, marketing and “look and feel” plans.
- (o) advise and approve the communications/broadcasting plan and any media facilities.
- (p) approve any arrangements for WS and VIPs.
- (q) approve the medal ceremonies.

7.1.2. During the event

- (a) arrive before the event in order to assist and approve final preparations.
- (b) ensure that the event team and race officials act as a coordinated team.
- (c) ensure good communication with competitors, coaches and team leaders and to facilitate feedback from them on the event.
- (d) chairing daily coordination and planning meetings of the senior event officials and the chief race officials.
- (e) if appointed, to chair the race committee.
- (f) liaise with:
 - (1) the principal race officer to ensure that WS race management policies and best practice are implemented;
 - (2) the TC chair or chief equipment inspector to be aware of any measurement issues and communicate them to parties involved;
 - (3) the jury chairman to anticipate any difficult rule situations or areas where interpretation of the rules may be required;
 - (4) the chief umpire who shall be made aware of any protests or redress issues that may have an impact on the timing or format of the event or the requirement for event calls.
- (g) consider necessity and consequences of any changes to race documents before

- approving and publishing;
- (h) ensure that results are published in a timely and adequate manner;
- (i) supervise that medal ceremony and other protocol functions are carried out properly;
- (j) in general, remain aware of any issues affecting the smooth and fair running of the event and to take action accordingly.

7.1.3. After the event

- (a) produce an event report for WS.
- (b) if requested, to provide feedback on the performance of the chief race officials.
- (c) give feedback which may be useful to WS, event organizers and other parties involved.

7.2. Specific Qualifications for First Appointment

A candidate for first appointment as an International Technical Delegate shall have complied during the Designated Period with the following requirements:

- (a) sat and passed the WS examination for the discipline in accordance with 1.4.1 if the candidate is not currently a WS International Judge or International Race Officer;
- (b) served as a technical delegate or event director (or a similar role) at three principal events, of which either:
 - (1) two of which shall be outside the candidate's MNA; or
 - (2) one of which shall be outside the candidate's Group.
- (c) have a letter of recommendation from the Chairman of the WS Regional Games Sub-committee. The organizing authority of a principal event may submit a nomination for recommendation to the Chairman; and
- (d) have two reference forms from two different events completed by the principal race officer or jury chair of the event which comply with the following requirements:
 - (1) World Sailing must first agree to a reference form being completed and by whom. The request must be made prior to the candidate undertaking their first duties for the event and shall identify who is going to give the reference. The agreement may be refused if the proposed referee will not have enough exposure to the candidate's work. This requirement applies only to references for events which commence after 1 February 2023;
 - (2) The completed reference form must be received by WS within 30 days from the last day of the event.
- (e) have submitted an event report in the WS ITD standard report format for the events used under (b) above (if held after 1 February 2026).

7.3. Specific Qualifications for Re-appointment

A candidate for re-appointment as an International Technical Delegate shall have complied during the Designated Period with the following requirements:

- (a) served as a technical delegate (or similar role) at three principal events:
 - (1) two of which shall be outside the candidate's MNA; or
 - (2) one of which shall be outside the candidate's Group;
- (b) have a letter of recommendation from
 - (1) the Chairman of the Regional Games Sub-committee (the organizing authority of a principal event may submit a recommendation for nomination to the Chairman); or
 - (2) one of the organising authorities of the principal events submitted under 7.3(a).
- (c) have submitted an event report in the WS ITD standard report format for all international events (and connected site visits) at which the candidate acted as Technical Delegate (if held

after 1 February 2026).

7.4. Principal Events

The Olympic Sailing Competition

The Paralympic Sailing Competition

Regional Games

Any WS Event where WS appoints a technical delegate

An L1 event from the list for International Race Officer if a technical delegate is appointed by an MNA, World Sailing Class Association, or another appropriate sailing body which is accepted by World Sailing.

Notes on Events

1. A candidate's MNA will be invited to comment on any application but its consent is not required for appointment.
2. Applicants for re-appointment as International Technical Delegate may include as a principal event one composed of two L2 events (but the application overall must contain at least one principal event where the candidate was not acting as a principal race officer or jury chairman). Applicants for re-appointment may also count as a principal event a site visit or attendance at official meetings (of at least two days duration) for a principal event even if the event itself has not yet occurred. This is provided they are appointed as a technical delegate, event director or similar role for the event. A written report shall be sent to WS after the completion of each site visit/meeting in order for the event to count.
3. Acting as an event director (or similar) is not accepted for applications for re-appointment.
4. When deciding whether a candidate has acted as a technical delegate (or similar), regard will be given in section 7.1 (Role of International Technical Delegate).

7.5. Technical Competences Required

- (a) Practical experience with the organization of major sailing events.

Candidates shall have hands-on experience with coordinating all aspects of organizing a major event (aside from on-the-water technical issues). This should include issues such as event promotion, boat transportation & chartering, logistics, registration, liaising with external authorities, managing the event team and relating with the media.

- (b) Familiarity with elite level sailing competition.

Candidates shall have had exposure to the environment of top-level competitive sailing. They shall be conversant with the various aspects that come together to define this environment, both concrete (WS Regulations and policies, best practices for race officials and event organizers) and intangible (expectations of competitors and coaches, attitude of media, volunteer participation, etc.).

- (c) General understanding of race management at a high level.

Candidates shall have deep awareness of how high-level race management decisions affect the outcome of races and the way they are perceived by competitors, coaches and public. An ITD shall be able to chair the race committee if required.

- (d) Working knowledge of the RRS, Parts 3, 5, 6 and 7, the WS Regulations and Policies, and any other applicable rules or regulations of the host organization.

Candidates shall be familiar with the rules and procedures that affect race

management, protests, competitor entry and event organisation, and the way they all work together to create a formal backdrop for an event. Candidates shall also be familiar with WS Regulations and Policies concerning events and race officials.

7.6. Non-technical Competences Required

7.6.1. Good communication

Candidates shall display a thorough ability to communicate effectively to different audiences (including verbal, nonverbal, spoken and written communications).

7.6.2. Responsibility

Candidates shall be comfortable with accepting responsibility for ensuring that their event meets the highest WS standards. They shall have an appropriate attitude towards the event and their team and be proactive in identifying and addressing problems. Candidates shall be able to exert his authority whilst remaining approachable and engaging with the event team.

7.6.3. Team building and leadership

Candidates shall possess good people skills and be able to work well with competitors, team leaders, coaches, the media and the public. They shall effectively lead the event team whilst being open to the opinions and advice of others. Candidates will defer to the technical expertise of race officials and others, but will maintain responsibility for final decisions.

7.6.4. Problem solving

Candidates shall display a basic, results-oriented, common sense and be able to prioritize tasks, make compromises when needed and always maintain sight of the big picture.

7.6.5. Cultural flexibility

Candidates shall be sensitive to and recognize the regional and national cultural issues and the traditions and practices of WS classes and other groups of sailors.

7.7 ITD Event and Site Visit Reports

With effect from 1 February 2026, an ITD event or site visit report must be submitted to World Sailing within 30 days of the final day of racing or the end of the site visit. The report must be made in the standard format approved by World Sailing. The ITD standard report, which can be found on the World Sailing website here: <https://www.sailing.org/our-sport/race-officals/resource-centre/>

For candidates for first appointment, this applies only to the three principal events they are relying on in their application. Candidates for first appointment cannot use site visits to qualify, so reports are welcome, but not mandatory, from these.

For candidates for re-appointment, the reporting requirement applies to all international events at which they acted as technical delegate and for all site visits for those events. If a report is not submitted, then the event will not be counted in the re-application process.

8. International Umpire (IU)

This section provides the qualifications and competences required for appointment as International Umpire (IU).

8.1. Role of International Umpires

An International Umpire is conducting the following activities at an event:

- (a) making field of play decisions while umpiring match, team, medal and fleet racing including radio controlled and high-speed boats;
- (b) deciding on protests and requests for redress at umpired events and when RRS N1.10 applies; and
- (c) applying Addendum MR (formerly Addendum Q), Appendix FMS (Kiteboarding Medal Series) and Appendix UF.

8.2. Specific Qualifications for First Appointment

A candidate for first appointment shall have attended a WS Umpiring Seminar and have received positive feedback from the IU Instructors.

In addition, a candidate for first appointment, during the Designated Period, shall have complied with the following requirements:

- (a) have sat and passed the WS performance assessment at least once, if the assessment is failed, it may not be repeated within a period of less than 1 month;
- (b) have obtained a completed, positive, International Umpires Sub-committee (IUSC) Reference Form from an international umpire from at least three of the principal events submitted in accordance with item 8.3(b):
 - (i) at least one reference must be signed by an international umpire from a different MNA to that of the candidate; or
 - (ii) at least one reference must be from an event outside the candidate's group for candidates from Groups A-H, or outside the candidate's MNA for candidates from Groups I-Q.

References should be from the most recent events attended where possible; and shall only be provided by a core umpire for the discipline. A candidate may not obtain a reference and performance assessment from the same event; and

- (c) satisfied the requirements of 8.3

8.3. Specific Qualifications for First Appointment or Re-appointment

During the Designated Period, a candidate for first appointment or re-appointment shall:

- (a) have sat and passed the World Sailing examination for the discipline (either fleet, match, or team racing) in accordance with 1.4;
- (b) have served as an umpire in:
 - (1) Option 1- at least eight L1 principal events, of which one of these events shall be outside the candidate's Group for candidates from Groups A-H; or the candidate's MNA for candidates from Groups I-Q. Each L1 principal event must have at least 3 scheduled days of umpired racing;
 - or
 - (2) Option 2 - at least 28 scheduled racing days, served as an umpire at L1 principal events, of which: four of these days shall be outside the candidate's Group for candidates from Groups A-H; or the candidates MNA for candidates from Groups I-Q.
- (c) any further inquiries by the IUSC or the ROC into the candidate's functioning shall indicate competences and comportment appropriate for appointment as an International Umpire.

8.4. Principal Events

(a) L1 Events

Medal Racing
Grade 200 and 100 Olympic Classes Events
International Class World or Continental Championships
National Championship of an International Class
Fleet Racing
Umpired Fleet Racing with a high level of competitors
National Sailing League with a high level of competition
Match Racing
World Championships
Grade 1 & 2
National Championships (with high level of competition)
International Grade 3 (with a high level of completion)
Other Continental Championships or major international events
Team Racing
World Championships
US National Team Race Championship
US University Championships
British University National Championships
Wilson Trophy
British National Championships
Other Continental Championships or major international events

(b) L2 Events

Medal Racing
International Class event
Fleet Racing Keelboats / Dinghies
National Sailing League with a low level of competition
Match Racing
National Championship (with a lower degree of competition)
International Grade 3 (with a lower level of competition)
Team Racing
Feeder to a principal event
National Championship (with a lower degree of competition)

(c) L3 Events

Match Racing
Regional University Events
Other Regional Events
Team Racing
Regional University Events
Regional events with more than 8 teams

Notes on Principal Events:

1. May include a mix of umpired fleet, match and team racing, and should, if possible, cover a mix of boat types.
2. If an applicant is unsure about the level of an event, they may consult with the IUSC.
3. For re-appointments to International Umpire, the limitation in 1.5(d) is changed. Up to three principal events may be composed of L2 and L3 events as described in 1.5(d).

8.5 Technical Competences Required

Have consistently demonstrated the following:

- (1) be able to apply the relevant rules and make correct decisions within a few seconds under pressure;
- (2) anticipation skills based both on an understanding of how boats maneuver in match, team and /or fleet racing and the tactics applied by racing boats to win;
- (3) be able to drive and position small powerboats in a range of wind and wave conditions.

8.6 Non-Technical Competences Required

- (a) Be fit and able to withstand several consecutive days on the water in small powerboats.
- (b) To uphold the confidentiality of all umpire and protest committee deliberations during and after the event.



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