

Applications for World Sailing Class Status

To become a recognised World Sailing Class, a structured application process must be followed, requiring several criteria to be fulfilled as outlined below:

1. Timescale

Applications for World Sailing Class Status must be submitted before 1 August for consideration by the World Sailing Council at the next scheduled Annual World Sailing meeting.

2. Requirements for Application

A class seeking to be designated as a World Sailing Class Association must be recommended by the Equipment Committee and receive a majority vote from the World Sailing Council. To be considered a valid application, the class must demonstrate compliance with the following criteria under World Sailing Regulation 10:

- Reg. 10.1: The class must offer a high standard of international competitive sailing and meet the criteria detailed below.
- Reg. 10.2.1(a): The class must have an active class/owners' association.
- Reg. 10.2.1(b): The class must have a constitution approved by the Equipment Committee and the Constitution Committee.
- Reg. 10.2.1(c): The class must have class rules in the Standard Class Rules format, adopting the Equipment Rules of Sailing (ERS), which must be approved by the Equipment Rules Sub-Committee.
- Reg. 10.2.1(d): The class must demonstrate that it is actively racing at events where the class rules apply, meeting the minimum global distribution requirement.
- Reg. 10.2.1(f): An application fee must be paid as part of the formal submission process.
- Reg. 10.2.1(h): The class must provide the Executive Office with building specifications, measurement protocols, or equipment registration scheme details that complement the class rules.
- Reg. 10.2.1(i): The application must include intended dates for each world and continental championship for the following year, also serving as notification under Regulation 25.2.1.
- Reg. 10.3: An executed agreement must be completed to become effective upon designation as a World Sailing Class Association, before recommendation by the relevant committee.

3. Exemptions

The regulations allow for specific exemptions:

Reg. 10.2.1(c): The Equipment Committee may approve an exemption to the class rules requirement if the class rules are satisfactory and well-established.

Reg. 10.2.1(e): The Council, upon the recommendation of the Equipment Committee, may waive the global distribution requirement for classes serving a unique aspect of the sport.

4. Next Steps

Once an application is submitted:

The Equipment Rules Sub-Committee will review the class rules and report to the Equipment

Committee.

The Equipment Committee will then make a recommendation to the World Sailing Council on whether to approve, reject, or defer the application.

Classes Applying for WS Class Status in 2024

This report reviews the applications of the **X-15** and **RS Venture Connect** classes based on World Sailing Regulations, specifically Regulation 10. The purpose is to determine their compliance and eligibility for World Sailing Class Status. **The updated text appears in red colour.**

X-15 Class Review

Introduction

The International X-15 Class Association, based in Switzerland, is a wingfoil One Design class that aims to promote the sport globally, with a focus on inclusivity, accessibility, and sustainability. The class is rapidly growing, targeting both youth and elite sailors. Its one-design philosophy ensures that skill, not equipment, is the determining factor in competition.

Support from the Norwegian Sailing Federation

A letter of recommendation from Guro Steine, President of the Norwegian Sailing Federation, highlights the growing popularity of wingfoiling and the X-15's contributions to affordability and sustainability in the sport.

Sustainability Program

The X-15 Class is committed to sustainability, claiming to be ten times climate positive, with a Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) aimed at minimizing environmental impact. This aligns with World Sailing's sustainability goals.

Application Summary

Active Class Association (Reg. 10.2.1(a)):

The X-15 Class has demonstrated global activity. Since 2023, the class has organised training sessions, demonstration events, and competitive regattas in various countries. Major events include:

- Foiling Week, Lake Garda, Italy (July 2023): 15 sailors
- World Sailing Youth Championships, Brazil (December 2023): 10 sailors
- Kiel Week, Germany (June 2024): 26 sailors
- 2024 Lago di Como, Italy:
- 2024 USA America One Racing:
- 2023 Norway: 11 sailors
- 2023 Foiling Week Lago di Garda, Italy:
- 2024 Ibiza Wingfoil: 56
- 2024 Scottish Fin and Foil:
- UK National Championships:
- 2024 FFV Coupe de France: 24 sailors.

The class also plans to organise world and continental championships in the upcoming years, with events scheduled in the USA, Thailand, Spain, and other countries.

Constitution Approved by Constitution Committee (Reg. 10.2.1(b)):

The constitution complies with World Sailing requirements, ensuring transparent governance, annual General Assembly meetings, member voting rights, and an Executive Committee elected for four-year terms.

Class Rules Compliance (Reg. 10.2.1(c)):

The technical department and the Equipment Rules Sub-Committee reviewed the Class Rules. Minor adjustments are required to bring the rules up to standards.

Building Specification Compliance (Reg. 10.2.1(h)):

The building specification submitted have been reviewed and the Office asked the Class to provide more details.

Global Distribution (Reg. 10.2.1(d)):

The class has submitted documentation showing a presence in **27 countries across 5 continents**, meeting the requirement of at least 15 boats in 5 countries across 2 continents:

Continent	Country	Boats
Asia	Thailand	34
	China	19
	Israel	17
Europe	Spain	19
	Germany	17
	Italy	17
North America	USA	21

However, the class is still required to provide proof of active racing through one of the following options as per the regulations.

- Confirmation from Member National Authorities (MNAs).
- A list of registered boat owners.
- Results from international events demonstrating participation from the required number of countries.

Application Fee (Reg. 10.2.1(f)):

The application fee was paid in full before the 1st of August deadline, ensuring compliance with financial requirements for the application process.

Agreement (Reg. 10.3):

The agreement was thoroughly discussed and mutually agreed upon, and we are now prepared to proceed.

Summary of Compliance

The X-15 Class complies with the requirements for an active class association, an approved constitution, and payment of the application fee. However, pending items include:

- Builder specifications.
- Verification of global distribution.

- Final approval of class rules.
- Signed agreement.

Recommendation:

It is recommended to **defer the decision** on the X-15 Class's approval until the **mid-year meeting**, giving time for the class to complete outstanding regulatory requirements.

RS Venture Connect Class Review**Introduction**

The RS Venture Connect Class is a wing-assisted, two-person keelboat designed to promote accessibility and inclusivity in sailing. The International RS Venture Connect Class Association is a non-profit organisation based in the United Kingdom. The class has been actively involved in promoting Para Inclusive sailing, and it has served as the official equipment for the Para Sailing World Championships since 2018. The RS Venture Connect Class aims to create opportunities for all sailors, regardless of physical ability, and has partnered with World Sailing on numerous initiatives to grow Para Sailing across emerging nations and regions.

Application Summary**Active Class Association (Reg. 10.2.1(a)):**

The class is actively engaged in promoting sailing worldwide, with a wide range of events including the Para Sailing World Championships and other development initiatives. ~~However, more detailed records of historical activities are needed.~~

- Attendance numbers for 2022 Class Worlds, Oman:

36 teams (26 Para teams and 10 teams in the 'open' category which from 2023 onwards has been titled the Inclusive category)

18 countries representing 4 continents

Country	GBR	GER	FRA	ESP	NED	POL	GRE	POR	SWE	ITA	SUI	TUR	NOR	CZE	EST	OMA	AUS	CAN
Entries	4	2	2	1	3	1	1	1	3	2	2	2	1	1	1	6	2	1

- Attendance numbers for 2024 Class Worlds, United Kingdom

30 Teams (18 Para teams and 12 Inclusive teams)

16 countries representing 4 continents

Country	GBR	JPN	FRA	ESP	USA	POL	POR	ITA	SUI	TUR	NOR	BRA	CHI	CAN	AUS
Entries	8	2	1	3	1	1	2	1	2	1	3	1	1	1	2

Constitution Approved by Constitution Committee (Reg. 10.2.1(b)):

The class constitution has been reviewed by the Constitution Committee, and some potential issues were identified that require revision. Specifically, the following concerns need to be addressed:

- Ambiguity in Board Structure: Articles 7.1 and 8.1 need clarification regarding the number of board members representing National Class Associations.
- Veto Powers: Articles 7.17 and 7.18 grant Copyright Holders and Builders broad veto powers, which raises governance concerns.

- Not-for-Profit Status: The constitution should explicitly state that the RS Venture Connect Class operates as a not-for-profit entity.
- One-Design Status: Not clear if aligned with WS Rules & Regulation

The class has made modifications to the Constitution, which have been approved by the Constitution committee.

Class Rules Compliance (Reg. 10.2.1(c)):

Class Rules were reviewed by the technical department and the Equipment Rules Sub-Committee. Major adjustments are required to bring the rules up to standards.

Building Specification Compliance (Reg. 10.2.1(h)):

The building specification submitted have been reviewed and the Office asked the Class to provide more details.

Global Distribution (Reg. 10.2.1(d)):

The class does not meet the requirement of 15 boats in 5 countries across 2 continents. Data shows 15 or more boats in only **2 countries** (France and the UK). Additionally, the class is still required to provide proof of active racing through one of the options described in the regulations. The class has formally requested a global distribution exemption under Reg. 10.2.1(e), acknowledging its unique focus on Para sailing.

Continent	Country	Boats
Asia	Dubai	4
	Oman	6
	Saudi Arabia	3
Caribbean	Antigua	3
Europe	Great Britain	21
	France	15
	Germany	14
	Norway	7
	Switzerland	6
	Sweden	4
	Italy	2
	Estonia	1
	Greece	1
	Netherlands	1
	Spain	1
North America	USA	10
	Canada	2
Oceania	Australia	1

Application Fee (Reg. 10.2.1(f)):

The application fee was paid in full before the 1st of August deadline, ensuring compliance with financial requirements for the application process.

Agreement (Reg. 10.3):

Under discussion

Summary of Compliance

The RS Venture Connect Class with the requirements for an active class association and payment of the application fee. However, pending items include:

● ~~Governance~~

- Builder specifications.
- Global distribution.
- Class rules.
- Signed agreement.

Recommendation:

It is recommended to **defer the decision** on the RS Venture Class's approval until the **mid-year meeting**, giving time for the class to complete outstanding regulatory requirements. The WP has approved the global distribution exemption in recognition of the class's important role in Para-sailing. However, this approval is subject to final confirmation by the Equipment Committee at the mid-year meeting.

Conclusion:

The review recommends deferring approval for both the X-15 and RS Venture Connect classes until the mid-year meeting. This additional time allows each class to complete outstanding regulatory requirements. For RS Venture Connect, the global distribution exemption has been approved by the working party, recognising its role in Para sailing; however, final confirmation by the Equipment Committee is required.