



World Sailing

Nations Cup 2026-27

Invitation for Bids



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Background

The World Sailing Nations Cup, which was first introduced to the world in 1991, is based on a series of Regional Finals with the top ranked crews meeting at a Grand Final. The World Sailing Nations Cup was originally based on a series of Regional Finals with top crews meeting at a Grand Final. This format was followed for the first eight editions of the event. In 2019, due to the emerging availability of national programmes and international events, a decision was taken to issue invitations to nations as part of regional selection. The World Sailing Nations Cup typically triggers a pyramid of events with nations holding club and then national championships to select their teams to participate. Nations are pitted against each other, creating a sound, viable and appealing series of events. It is about Nations and not skippers to determine the Open and Women's World Champion Nation in Match Racing.

The Grand Final is a Grade 1 event.

The aim of the event is to broaden the availability of Match Racing and provide international competition for Member National Authorities and sailors at a reasonable cost, whilst acting to seed new venues and new skippers, therefore increasing participation.

A primary objective of the Nations Cup is to attract new countries and new teams to this exciting sailing discipline of head-to-head competition.

Many great match racers today who have competed in the Americas Cup, on the World Match Racing Tour and in the Olympic Games have participated in this event, including: Mathieu Richard (FRA), Bertrand Pace (FRA), Anna Tunnicliffe (USA), Claire Leroy (FRA), Lucy Macgregor (GBR), Peter Holmberg (ISV), Eugeni Neugodnikov (RUS), Jesper Bank (DEN), Murray Jones (NZL), Damien lehl (FRA), and Nicky Souter (AUS).

Nations Cup 2026/2027

The next Nations Cup 2026/2027 will use a similar selection process for nations (Member National Authorities) who wish to participate in the Grand Final, either in the Open or Women's divisions, or in both, with up to 10 teams in each division.

If a regional area has multiple teams interested in representing that region, it may decide to host a qualification event to determine a priority "ranking" to submit to the Match Racing Committee selection panel. These regional events may include a match racing clinic prior to the event.

World Sailing is now seeking bids from organisers around the world to host the Grand Final of the Nations Cup in 2026/2027. The event organisers must have the endorsement from their national federation.

For further information please contact Corinne Rolland-Mckenzie at World Sailing events department at corinne.mckenzie@sailing.org.

Bid must be received by 0.00 UTC on 20 October 2025.



Event History

The 2015 edition of the World Sailing Nations Cup was successful with 37 teams competing in the continental Regional Finals. The Grand Final was held in the City of Vladivostok (RUS), overlooking the Pacific Ocean, with 14 teams competing giving an AUS v RUS showdown in the Open and a USA v FRA sail-off in the Women's division. Russia emerged victorious in the Open category and USA won the Women's division.

At the 2019 edition, the change to a Regional Qualifying structure in order to reduce the costs for participating teams/MNAs resulted in 19 teams from 13 countries taking part. Held at the St Francis YC, San Francisco, saw France emerge as the winner in both the Open (9 teams) and Women's (10 Teams) events.

All continents were represented including South America, Asia and Oceania. Fourteen umpires assisted, with 10 International Umpires appointed by World Sailing and four National Umpires from the USA.

Representation of MNAs in World Sailing Nations Cup

	Grand Final	Regional Qualifiers and Nations represented in the Nations Cup
2006	Cork, Ireland	Regional Qualifiers: FIN, POR, SLO, GBR, ISV, BRA, UAE, NZL Countries: FRA, NED, NZL, POR, AUS, IRL, USA, IND, UAE
2009	Porto Alegre, Brazil	Regional Qualifiers: FRA, NZL, ITA, ARG, USA, IRL, IND Countries: BRA, FRA, DEN, ESP, POR, IND, FIN, USA, ARG, NZL, GBR, AUS, ITA
2011	Sheboygan, USA	Regional Qualifiers: RSA, QAT, AUT, POL, USA, AUS, BRA Countries: NZL, FRA, POR, DEN, AUS, NED, BRA, GBR, USA, RSA, POL, CHN, GRE, CAN, TUR, PAK
2013	Middelfart, Denmark	Regional Qualifiers: RUS, BAR, NED, ARG Countries: DEN, SWE, AUS, JPN, BRA, USA, CAN, GBR, NOR, SIN, NED,
2015	Vladivostok, Russia	Regional Qualifiers: AUS, TUN, BRN, IRL, ARG Countries: BRA, USA, FRA, SIN, AUS, R
2019	San Francisco, USA	Regional Qualifiers: Oceania - New Caledonia (FRA) Countries: AUS, FRA, SWE, FIN, GBR, RSA, BRA, USA, RUS, JPN, NZL, ITA

Event Video (5 minutes) including an interview with Russell Coutts - [CLICK HERE.](#)



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