



World Sailing

Nations Cup 2026-27

Bid Guidelines



sport / nature / technology

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This document is designated for World Sailing Member National Authorities (MNAs), and their member clubs and venues, as a guide for bidding for the World Sailing Nations Cup in 2026 or 2027.

It is an outline specification of minimum requirements for both the sports competition and on-shore events and sets out the rights and responsibilities for each party in hosting the event.

World Sailing is the world governing body for the sport of Sailing, recognised by the International Olympic Committee (IOC). Founded in Paris in 1907, World Sailing now has 147 Member National Associations.

World Sailing's strategy, **Ready for the Future**, spells out a clear purpose for the organisation – to inspire, empower and grow vibrant sailing communities around the world.

We have four priorities for our federation:

- **Events and Commercial** – Great events which grow the audience for sailing, as well as generate new revenue to be invested in the development of the sport.
- **Growth** – More impact for investment in international development through online resources and greater collaboration at continental and national federation level.
- **Governance** – Implementing World Sailing's governance reforms to put the federation at the forefront of sports governance.
- **Impact** – Bringing together sustainability, inclusion and diversity and creating a focus on generating and measuring the economic, social and environmental impact of the sport.

We strongly encourage bidders to contact World Sailing seeking any clarification on the requirements related to hosting this event.

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1 General

1.1 Summary

The 10th Edition of the World Sailing Nations Cup in Match Racing will have two divisions; Open and Women. Up to 20 teams will be invited – 10 in the Open division and 10 in the Women's division. This Grand Final will be a World Sailing Grade 1 Invitational Event and competitors will receive appropriate Match Racing ranking points.

World Sailing Member National Authorities (MNAs) may nominate the winners of their most recent match racing National Championships to the Open and Women's division to be eligible for invitation to the Nations Cup. Depending on demands for participation, there will be qualifying criteria by the highest skipper's ranking points by region(s). These invitations by region will qualify competitors to the Nations Cup, together with the pre-qualification of the host nation and defending nation entries in each division.

Any places still to be filled in the Grand Final will be decided by World Sailing after consultation with the World Sailing Match Racing Committee. The intention is to invite to the Grand Final 10 national teams for both the Open and Women's divisions.

Skippers and crew in the Nations Cup must be nationals of their MNA and represent their nation. The contest is about nations and not skippers to determine separately the best Open and Women's World Champion nation in Match Racing.

The prizes to be awarded are:

- The World Sailing Nations Cup perpetual trophy for the Open division
- The Ladies Plate perpetual trophy for the Women's division
- Both Open and Women's divisions will be Grade 1.

The World Sailing Regions considered for invitation to the Open and Women's Divisions are likely to be:

- Europe
- North America
- Central and South America
- Africa
- Asia
- Oceania

1.2 Event Title

The official title of the event will be **"20xx World Sailing Nations Cup"** and this title must always be used in relation to the event. Organisers need approval for any translation of the title for use in the language of the host nation if the official language of the host nation is other than English.

In the event of a title sponsor being found, World Sailing (WS) may approve a change of name to reflect the sponsorship arrangements.

1.3 Event Dates

There are no fixed dates for the Championships in 2026 or 2027 and World Sailing will consider a bidder's preferences. A bidder can propose to host the event in late 2026 or anytime in 2027, alternatively just for 2027. World Sailing will make the final decision on the dates for the event after consultation with the successful bidder and taking into consideration the world match racing calendar and other World Sailing events.

1.4 Visits

Site visits from World Sailing delegates shall be the financial responsibility of the Host.

2 The Role of World Sailing after the Bid Process

2.1 World Sailing Technical Delegate

World Sailing will appoint a World Sailing Technical Delegate who will represent World Sailing in its relations with the Host including the preparation of the event and during the Championships. The World Sailing Technical Delegate may conduct a site visit following the award of the bid – this site visit is usually held before the event, but further visits may be made if in World Sailing's opinion, it is necessary to do so. The Host are responsible for any travel and accommodation expenses of the World Sailing Technical Delegate during the site visit(s) and during the event.

2.2 World Sailing's Responsibilities and Functions

- a** To approve the sailing venue
- b** To advise and approve on the specification and technical aspects of the venue
- c** To approve the proposed supplied equipment (boats)
- d** To approve the logistical support for racing (including race committee vessels, umpire RIBs, etc.)
- e** To negotiate and agree to the Event contract with the Host
- f** To establish the format of competition and the schedule for the Championship, considering the characteristics of the venue and the equipment selected
- g** To establish and operate the qualifying system for the Championship (if any)
- h** To appoint the World Sailing race officials following consultation with the Host
- i** To advise on any sponsorship rights and sales plan with the Host
- j** To approve all branding, marketing and communication material
- k** To approve the event website (this may be hosted by World Sailing)
- l** To advise on the communications plan and facilities for the media
- m** To approve the arrangements, programme and scripts for the official ceremonies

3 The Role of the Member National Authority

All bids shall be supported by a recommendation from the World Sailing Member National Authority (MNA) in the host country. If there is a conflict with any national rules and regulations, the World Sailing rules shall apply.

4 Fees Charged by World Sailing

World Sailing will not charge a sanction fee to the Host. No Event Fees in the form of Grading, Advertising or Payment for Umpires will be payable to World Sailing.

5 Entries

All entries shall be made by invitation of World Sailing in conjunction with the Host. Up to 20 teams may be invited. The administration of entries, entry payment and accreditation shall be done by the Host.

5.1 Entry Fee

There shall be an entry fee to be paid by the competitor (the level of the fee must be approved by World Sailing). The entry fee shall include any applicable taxes. The entry fee is non-refundable and is for the exclusive use of the organizing authority.

5.2 Damage Deposit

The Host may charge a damage deposit to be paid by the competitors in exchange for use of supplied equipment (the level of the fee must be approved by World Sailing).

6 Marketing and Media

6.1 Marketing Media Rights

World Sailing is responsible for guiding and approving the marketing, media, and sponsorship of the championship. All image and moving image rights for the championships are the property of World Sailing. For the duration of the championships and up until one year after, image rights (subject to contract) may be given to the Host, event sponsors and accredited media/broadcasters.

6.2 Spectators and Engagement

World Sailing is seeking venues that both meet the sports criteria set out within the bid guidelines but also are attractive to spectators.

Ideally, the venue will have an existing walk-up audience that can be engaged by the event.

A successful strategy could involve a partnership with another non-sailing event to utilise a pre-existing spectator audience, creating an event village to help attract spectators. Engagement with local governments and cities is encouraged.

Engagement with spectators may include live commentary, cultural displays, athlete and coach interviews, daily leader bib presentations and other entertainment. An engagement zone could be created with a stage and screen, where appropriate.

6.3 Media and Broadcast

The Host will be responsible for appointing an official event photographer and provide professionally-produced, copyright-free distribution pictures for use by the media and World Sailing.

The Host may appoint a Host Broadcaster to provide professionally-produced, copyright-free distribution video for use by the Host, World Sailing and the media. World Sailing retains the right to exploit online broadcasting.

The Host shall seek World Sailing approval for photographic and Host Broadcaster appointments.

6.4 Event Branding

The presentation of the event venue and all communications need to reflect a high-standard sporting competition. The Host will work closely with the World Sailing Brand team to ensure branding execution is of the right standard, and that all World Sailing, Event and Partner assets are used effectively.

A branding plan for the event venue will be agreed, and all designs will be approved by World Sailing ahead of production.

Depending on the event size and venue, a branding plan might include wayfinding signage, entrance signage, event signage throughout venue, local and global partner recognition, stage and podium backdrops or dressing, event programmes etc.

Additional public-facing engagement initiatives should be considered. For example: explanations of event format, athlete biographies etc.

Production of branding should be 100% non-PVC and recyclable to be in line with World Sailing's Sustainability Agenda 2030.

6.5 Event Logo

The Event logo is provided by World Sailing and must be included on all communication material and documentation.

6.6 Commercial Rights

Eventbased commercial rights are a key element of the overall World Sailing global commercial rights structure. This structure is designed to maximise commercial revenues for the benefit of the sport of Sailing. The assignment of rights between the Host and World Sailing is constructed to allow the Host to optimise local revenues, and for World Sailing to optimise global partnership revenues.

World Sailing has a range of global partners. These partners have exclusive category rights across the full asset base of World Sailing, which includes World Sailing events. World Sailing will provide details of the specific rights that need to be made available to the partners as these may vary from time to time.

The Host must ensure that it receives prior written approval from World Sailing of the sponsor packages offered and before any contract with a sponsor/partner is signed.

If boats are supplied, category exclusivity includes any existing advertising on these supplied boats.

World Sailing understands the challenge faced by Hosts to secure event sponsorship, especially for smaller events. Therefore, World Sailing will release excluded categories, that are not being utilised by World Sailing, nine to 12 months ahead of the event for use by the Host.

The Host will have the right to grant aid or other support from national/regional/local government and other public institutions.

6.7 Prizes

World Sailing will provide and award the Nations Cup Trophies for the winners of both the Open and Women's divisions. World Sailing will also provide gold, silver and bronze medals in each division of the Grand Finals.

7 The Boats

The Championship will be sailed in one-design keelboats supplied and maintained by the Host.

The boats with each competing team shall consist of a skipper and three, four or five crew for the boat. However larger boats involving a crew of up to six will be considered. Total weight of the crew will be based on an average of 87.5kg per crew member for the Open division and 68kg average for the Women's division or as defined in Notice of Race. The overall weight of the crew will be decided by World Sailing.

The Host should have at least eight boats, with or without spinnaker, with at least one spare boat available. The boats must be equalised and be able to operate in a wide range of wind speeds at the proposed venue. Sufficient spare equipment must be available.

Bids shall contain full details of the proposed boats, including the number available, their age, condition and number of average days used over the last three years.

The boats shall be supported by a dedicated boat support team (bosun/match support) able to fix breakdown damage on the water or ashore at the venue.

8 Schedule of the Championship

The Grand Final should include a **minimum of five racing days to complete the schedule for the 20 teams**, and provide high-level Match Racing and Race Management for both competitors and spectators,

Day 0, Monday:	Registration / Practice Day / Opening Ceremony
Day 1, Tuesday:	Racing - Qualifying Round Robins – one or more
Day 2, Wednesday:	Racing - Qualifying Round Robins – one or more
Day 3, Thursday:	Racing - Qualifying Round Robins – one or more
Day 4, Friday:	Racing - Qualifying Round Robins – Knockouts
Day 5, Saturday:	Knockouts / Finals / Prize Giving / Closing Ceremony



9 Format of Racing

The planned format is match racing under World Sailing Racing Rules Appendix C as decided by World Sailing in consultation with the Host. World Sailing currently expects the format to include qualifying round robin(s), quarter-finals, semi-finals and finals. Play-offs for lower ranked positions may be included, and a repechage may be included depending on the overall schedule.

The format may be changed by World Sailing at any time.

One or two race areas may be considered depending on chosen formats for the Open and Women's divisions.

10 Race Officials

The following race officials, appointed by World Sailing, will be present at the Event:

- a** One World Sailing Technical Delegate
- b** Up to 10 Umpires, minimum of five must be International Umpires (final number determined by World Sailing)
- c** One International Race Officer
- d** One World Sailing International Race Officer in a Course Representative position or Principal Race Officer position if two race areas are used

10.1 Travel, Food and Accommodation for Race Officials

The travel, food and accommodation for the Race Officials are the financial responsibility of the Host.

11 Venue Facilities

11.1 Venue

The venue should be located reasonably close to the competition (racing) area and have full facilities for competitors and officials (as set out below).

11.2 Competition Area

The competition area requires a windward/leeward and reaching course to be set up for different winds, ideally located in close proximity to the shore, to facilitate viewing of the racing.

Maximum current wind, current and waves shall be presented to World Sailing for the time of year proposed.

The competition area should be free of any commercial or recreational traffic.

12 Safety Requirements

The Host will need to provide World Sailing with a complete Safety Plan at least one month before the event for approval. The Safety Plan shall follow the requirements of the applicable national legislation as well as the relevant local authority's guidance and requirements.

13 Official Vessels

The following is an estimate of required vessels:

Race Committee and Umpires:

- a A starting vessel between 30 to 40 feet long typically (depending on the size of racing boats)
- b Two mark-laying vessels
- c Umpire vessels – up to five ribs of at least five metres in length and which shall be able to accelerate quickly with a small turning radius. Wake should be as little as possible.
- d Change-over vessels –two vessels or ribs for a fast method of crew changes for prevent delays between races

Press Vessels

- a Press Vessels – sufficient vessels for the number of registered journalists, photographers, and broadcasters

Bosun/Repair Vessel(s)

- a Two vessel(s) to facilitate any repairs to the racing boats

14 Competitor Facilities

Separated male and female changing rooms and shower facilities for competitors shall be provided, with adequate toilet facilities.

A 'Sailors Lounge' or clubhouse facilities (with catering) should be available for all competitors. There shall be a free wireless network for internet access throughout.

15 Medical

First aid facilities for competitors, team support personnel, staff, volunteers, and officials should be available at each venue.

16 Race Officials Facilities at the Venue

The International Umpires will need a secure office for their meetings. The room should be air conditioned, must be able to seat up to 16 people on chairs around a large table or open area and provide whiteboards, flipcharts etc. This room should not double as a changing facility.

All offices will require equipment including fast wi-fi internet connection and printers. Internet access must be available.

An office for the Technical Delegate (if not the Chief Umpire) is required with a printer and wi-fi internet.

17 Accommodation

17.1 Accommodation for Competitors

The competitors are responsible for their own accommodation during the Championships. However, it is important for a successful bid that there are sufficient options for competitors to find accommodation relatively close to the venues and for a reasonable cost. A good mix of hotels of different classes, apartments, bed and breakfasts, camp sites etc, are important factors when evaluating the bids.

If the Host wishes to offer accommodation to competitors as part of the entry fee, it is welcomed by World Sailing.

17.2 Hotel Accommodation for World Sailing Race Officials

The World Sailing Race Officials shall be accommodated in a nearby hotel, in single rooms, three-star level, which should be within a reasonably close walking distance from the venue.

The Officials may have long days (possibly until 2100 – 2200hrs) and arrangements for the evening meal and transport must be able to accommodate this.

18 Equipment

The following equipment shall be supplied by the Host:

18.1 Visual Signals

Umpire and competitor flags must be provided. Race Management flags as required by the RRS, are to be provided.

18.2 Marks

Sufficient inflatable marks need to be provided. Marks shall have facilities for the attachment of tracking devices and be suitable for carrying branding material. Robotic marks shall be considered generally and especially in deep waters.

19 Scoring and Results

It is vital that results are available quickly and are posted online. Consideration should be given by bidders to provide a live chat platform or other social media from the race area in order to deliver information quickly.

20 Documentation

The text for all official documents for running the competition shall be approved by World Sailing. World Sailing must approve the notice of race and sailing instructions and no change may be made to these documents once they have been issued without the approval of the World Sailing Technical Delegate.

21 Event Information Requirements

The Host must supply to World Sailing, no later than four months before the event, a detailed information packet that will be helpful to participants planning their trip and budget for the event. Information should include nearest international airport, Visa special procedures, accommodation plan and recommendations, local transportation (taxis, buses, etc), meal plan, average air and water temperature and wind speed, planned racing venue, and other useful planning information. World Sailing will then send the information packet to the participants.

22 Sustainability Requirements

The Host should adopt the Plan-Do-Check-Act approach to managing the event.

The Host should meet the Sailors for the Sea Clean Regattas programme gold level or above.

The Host shall complete the World Sailing Event Planning Questionnaire no later than six months before the event.

Furthermore, the Host should ensure they include the following as part of the planning process under the guidance and support of World Sailing:

The sustainability plans are to include the following:

- a** biodiversity impact and protection;
- b** a pollution control plan;
- c** a waste management plan, which includes the elimination of single use plastics including cable ties and bottled water; and
- d** education activities and community engagement.

Communicate efforts to sailors, volunteers and staff on topics of importance before, during and after each of the Event to include:

- e** biodiversity protection, with measures taken to protect habitats and prevent the spread of invasive species;
- f** waste;
- g** travel;
- h** single use items including plastics; and
- i** sustainability education and engagement activities.

Activate the following actions:

- j** encourage low carbon and active transport;
- k** specify water only boat cleaning; and
- l** mark all surface water drains.

The Host shall provide a post event sustainability report no later than three months post event which includes:

- m** a high-level carbon footprint analysis, including scopes 1, 2 and 3 emissions;
- n** data on utilities used during the event including fuel consumption, waste production, water usage, and accommodation;
- o** travel details for sailors, race officials, volunteers and staff accounted for;
- p** any actions taken to reduce the carbon footprint of each of the Event;
- q** actions taken to achieve the Clean Regattas framework; and
- r** education activities implemented to engage the community.

For any questions, please contact World Sailing Sustainability: sustainability@sailing.org

23 Insurance Requirements

The Host will be required to:

- a** obtain all necessary licences, consents and permissions in order to organise the Championship in a first-class manner;
- b** acquire and maintain all appropriate insurances for the event, including without limitation,
- c** insurance for a comprehensive general liability insurance in an amount of not less than €10,000,000 EUR per occurrence, covering legal liability in respect of personal injury, property damage and products (food, drink and merchandise supplied) arising out of the organisation, promotion and management of the Championship, indemnifying:
 - i) the Host (including all its personnel, volunteers and whoever assisting in the organisation of the Championship) and World Sailing Officials; and
 - ii) the Host MNA and World Sailing as an additional insured for their respective rights and interests; and
 - iii) any suppliers of the Boats, resulting from use of their Boats and equipment during the Championships as an additional insured for their respective rights and interests.



Appendix



Appendix 1 – Process Timetable

Bid Deadline	20 October 2025
Decision by World Sailing	1 December 2025

World Sailing reserves the right at any point and at its discretion to make amendments to this timetable and process and will advise all bidders immediately if this occurs.

Appendix 2 - Bid Document Guidelines

Bids should be submitted by completing the attached bid template (see Appendix 3) or a proposal; however additional information is highly welcomed. As part of the bid, please ensure the following items are included:

1 Motivation

Principal motivation for hosting the World Sailing Nations Cup. The impact and legacy for your city/region of hosting the Event.

2 General Information

Detail brief description of the country: geography, population and political structure.

3 Host

Please give details (including addresses etc) of proposed Host (OC). Details of Member National Authority (MNA).

Detail members of the proposed OC, including a short CV for each member. Detail permanent staff of bidding organisation (if relevant).

If you are outsourcing any event organisation (e.g. marketing/sponsorship), please state your intention to do so and if you have at this stage any details of the proposed partner organisation(s).

4 Venue

Provide a map of your city/region on which your bid is superimposed thus giving a complete visual overview of the venue, competition areas and surrounds. This map should include the location of all major infrastructures (venue(s), main hotel area, main transport infrastructure – airport(s), motorways, train station, etc.).

5 Public Opinion

You must declare to World Sailing if there will be, or if there is reasonably likely to be, any opposition to the Event.

6 Political Support - Government

The status of support of the national, regional, local government and city authorities for your bid and for the organisation of the World Sailing Nations Cup in your city/region.

Please confirm that the government guarantees free access to and free movement around the host country for all accredited persons based on a passport (or equivalent document).

Please provide dates of any elections due to take place in your city/region/country and in your MNA between now and the time of the event.

7 Candidature Budget

A preliminary budget must be presented with the bid document describing how and by whom your candidature will be financed, what is your budget (in Euros or USD) for staging the event and how will your event budget be structured (private vs. public financing vs. other financing).

8 Government Contributions

What financial commitments have you obtained from your national, regional or local government and city authorities?

What are the expectations of the financing body/bodies in respect to rights and hospitality at the event?

9 Venues

Please indicate the venues which you expect will be used for the World Sailing Nations Cup.

Please give a detailed description of the sailing venue(s) and provide maps and pictures if possible.

Describe the sailing area (Field of Play) and indicate the position of the racing areas and surroundings - cliffs, mountains, current, sand bars, etc.

Submit a nautical chart as an attachment.

10 Accommodation

Please indicate the likely hotels/apartments where officials and competitors would be likely to stay.

11 Transport Infrastructure

Indicate your existing transport infrastructure: motorways and major urban arterial network, suburban rail, subway and light rail public transport systems.

Which is the main international airport you intend to use for the Championship?

12 General Conditions, Logistics and Experience

Proposed Dates of The Championship:

State your proposed dates to host the Event and specify your reasons.

Meteorology:

Please give detailed statistical information for the time of year and hours of racing including:

- Average wind speed and wind direction
- Current speed and current direction
- Air temperature & Water temperature
- Average number of days with precipitation

13 Experience

What experience have you had in hosting international sailing events or other international sports events?
Please list the major events held over the last ten years, indicating dates.

14 Media

Outline intentions for national and international media outreach via traditional and digital publications, proposed photography and broadcast teams as well as intended use of social media.

15 Environmental

Indicate any environmental programs envisaged for the Event and how the event will comply with WS sustainability requirements.

16 Other Initiatives

Please indicate any other initiatives that you may introduce to support the event.

17 Contacts

Please provide the name and email address of the main contact of the bid document.

All bids must be received by the World Sailing Executive Office by email at bid@sailing.org by 00:00 (UTC) on 20 October 2025.

World Sailing will confirm receipt of all documentation.

All bids received will be treated as confidential.

For further information about these bid guidelines please contact:

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Appendix 3 – Bid Template

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Event: World Sailing Nations Cup

Please confirm which year or both options 2026 2027

1.0 EVENT

Host:

Primary contact:
Name, email address, phone etc

Proposed dates
For both preferred option and secondary option

Venue:

Proposed racing area
(please describe or supply copy of chart area)

Expected weather conditions

Medical facilities

Security

2.0 COMPETITORS

Local accommodation availability
and cost

Distance to accommodation
and connections to venue

Distance to nearest airport
and connections to venue

Local catering/dining arrangements
(complimentary or paid by competitors)

3.0 RACE MANAGEMENT

Proposed event director

Proposed race officer

Proposed race management team's
RM experience

Number and size of committee vessels,
including mark layers

Safety vessels

Course marks

4.0 UMPIRES

"Local" umpire or liaison with umpires

Umpires meeting room

Meeting room for welcome
and debrief with competitors

World Sailing race officials
accommodation

Daily transport

Umpire vessels (type, number etc)

5.0 WORLD SAILING TECHNICAL DELEGATE

Location of office

6.0 COMPETITION BOATS

Design & type

Number available for racing
(and spares if available)

Number of crew, including helm

Sails

Support, spare part availability

Equalisation programme

Berthing

7.0 MEDIA

Lead media person

Media plan / experience in working
with media before and during events

Are there any agreements with local/
national press or television companies
regarding media coverage?

Level of Internet connectivity for
media specifically for updates
and video transmission

Media facilities

Press / Media vessel(s)

8.0 COMMUNICATIONS

VHF/UHF Radios:

Event cell/mobile phone coverage

Event Wi-Fi: umpires/officials

At Base:

On the Race area:

Broadband Strength (cable/fibre & mobile)

9.0 FACILITIES

Competitor's area:

Seating/ Shelter

Refreshment

WIFI

Broadband Strength (cable/fiber & mobile)

Changing and shower facilities

Spectators viewing areas and/or boats

Public accessibility

Event advertising (local, regional, international)

10.0 INSURANCE

Public liability:

Event liability:

11.0 SOCIAL EVENTS

Proposal for the Opening Ceremony:

Proposal for the Closing Ceremony /
Prize Giving:

Proposals for (other) social events:



World Sailing

www.sailing.org

sport / nature / technology

Official Partners

