World Leader in Rating Technology

OFFSHORE RACING CONGRESS

ORC Championship Rules
2018

ORC Championship Rules

1   Authority

The Offshore Racing Congress (ORC) is the international authority recognised by the World Sailing as the sole authority to administer the International Measurement System (IMS), the ORC Rating Systems (ORC International and ORC Club), the ORC Grand Prix Classes Rules and the co-related Regulations, measurement and classes.

2   Championships

2.1   The ORC has overall authority on the World and Continental Championships as follows:

- The Offshore Team World Championship
- The ORC International Championships
- The Championships of the ORC classes.

The Offshore Team World Championship is open to National Teams to be proposed by the organizing authority from time to time and approved by the ORC Offshore & Classes Events Committee.

2.2   Except for the Offshore Team World Championship which is held biennially, World and Continental Championships will be held annually in accordance with these Championship Rules, using the ORC Standard Notice of Race, the ORC Standard Sailing Instructions and relevant class rules whenever necessary.

2.3   ORC may approve regional championships where participation of boats from a specific region and other neighbouring countries is expected. The use of these Championship Rules is strongly recommended for regional and national championships.

3   Applications for Hosting Championships

3.1   Applications to host Championship events shall be received by ORC not later than one month before the date of the Offshore Classes and Events meeting at the AGM. The application shall be related to the championship to be organized during the second year after the AGM. It shall be from the host organization, preferably with the endorsement of their National Authority. Furthermore, it is strongly suggested that applicants who are contemplating the possibility of hosting future events make their intentions known to the ORC three years in advance.

3.2   The application shall include the name of the Organizing Authority (OA) and the following information:

a) OA's history of organizing past major events

b) A best estimate of the number of entries and countries expected

c) The maximum number of yachts that can be accommodated at the venue.

d) Suitability of shoreside facilities as follows:

- Adequate space to measure sails and conduct other measurement controls, including a well-protected area to measure freeboards and perform inclining tests as needed
- Haul-out facilities
- Accommodation and housing information, such as hotel and real estate agency options
- Confirmation that suitable accommodation (eg, minimum 3-star) will be provided by the OA for the Race Committee, the Jury and all other principal Committee members (eg, accommodation should include meals, local transport, broadband internet connection, etc.)

- Office space for the Race Committee, Measurers, Jury and arbitration meetings, and a Media Center with restricted access, suitable working space for all accredited media members and staff, broadband internet connection, etc.
- Availability of suitable Boats for the Race Committee, including mark set boats, Jury and Measurement Committee boats, and media boats for photographers and videographers.

e) Charts identifying suitable inshore and offshore racing areas.

f) Availability of commercial shoreside facilities for competitors, including restaurants and marine equipment and support services, sail repair service plan, support vehicle parking plan, security, etc.

g) Outline of the hosting authority's financial plans for the event, any potential sponsors, and periodic updates on the financial status of the event. The organizers should also collaborate with ORC on the entry fee amounts and deadline for entry schedule, with an emphasis placed on encouraging early entry commitments from competitors.

h) Report on the local active racing fleet that may be qualifying for the Championship.

i) Plans for the promotion, marketing and media relations for the event.

j) Any special features or innovations that will enhance the attraction and unique nature of the venue, format and/or character of the event.

The application shall provide written answers to the questions shown above in 3.2 (a) – (j), and Appendix 1 - the Championship Checklist - should be used by both parties to monitor progress on key features of the event. The application should include detailed materials to provide a full description of the venue and its facilities. A pre-approval visit from an ORC representative may be necessary, to which the OA shall provide a complete tour of the proposed venue and a meeting with the principal Committee members.

The application shall clearly state the OA's acceptance of the obligations imposed by these regulations and its commitment to conduct the Championship in full conformity with such regulations, by signature of the senior officer of the organization.

3.3   In approving an event venue, the ORC will take into account the geographical location in the context of other scheduled events. Once approved, a Letter of Agreement will be drafted and signed by the ORC and the hosting authority to outline the terms of their cooperation for the event.

4   Organization of the Championship

4.1   With the consultation and approval of the ORC, the OA shall make the initial appointments for members of the Race Committee, International Jury and Technical Committee. The Principal Race Officer, International Jury Chairman and Technical Committee Chairman shall have suitable experience with use of IMS, ORC Rating Systems and offshore racing.

4.2   ORC Approval

It is expected that the OA work closely with ORC to meet the expectations outlined in Section 3 above in order to maximise the success of the event. Moreover, a list of all committee members shall be submitted for the approval of ORC at least six months prior to the event unless agreed otherwise. The ORC retains the right to request personnel additions or replacements as it deems necessary to maximize the success of the event.

4.3   Official language

The official language shall be English. All senior officers, including the Race Committee, International Jury and Techcnial Committee shall be fluent in English, with all announcements and briefings in that language. Local language communications are permitted, but when offered are not official.

4.4 International Jury

The International Jury shall include an ORC Representative and shall conform to RRS Appendix N. A majority of Jury members including the Chairman and the ORC Representative shall be present from the first day of measurement and inspection. Should there be a difference of opinion regarding the interpretation, definition or intent of any rules and/or regulations, then the query shall be referred to the International Jury, whose ruling on the interpretation, definition or ruling on the intent of that rule or regulation shall be final and not subject to appeal.

4.5 ORC Representatives

In order to ensure the consistent quality and integrity of ORC Championship events, the ORC shall, in agreement with the OA, appoint a team of ORC members to be present as part of the Race Committee, International Jury, Measurement Committee, Media and Organizing Committees (if any) for each ORC championship. The ORC representatives shall have the right to consult with and advise each Committee prior to and during the event. These ORC representatives on site shall report to the ORC Management Committee at its next meeting after the championship with an account of the conduct of the event and with any recommendations or relevant observations to evaluate the event and help improve future ORC championships. The costs for travel, accommodation and meals for ORC representatives during the championship shall be covered by the OA.

4.6 Technical Committee and measurement checks

a) Technical Committee shall have suitable number of measurers for the number of entered boats (6 members for up to 40 boats, 8 members for 40 – 60 boats, 10 members for 60 – 80 boats, 12 members for more than 80 boats). Members shall be form at least three different countries.

b) Pre-race measurements checks shall include:

    i) Sail measurements checks and stamping
    ii) Safety equipment check
    iii) Measurement inventory check

c) Post-race measurement checks shall include:

    i) Flotation and stability checks
    ii) Crew weight checks
    iii) Sail measurements check

based on the results in each class as follows:

Offshore race

- Ashore: safety equipment and use of sails among randomly selected top three boats in elapsed time in each class

Inshore races

- On the water: top two boats in each class after each race
- Ashore: freeboards and/or stability for 1st boat in the latest available overall results
- Ashore: crew weighing for 2nd boat in the latest available overall results
- Ashore: sail measurements check for 3rd boat in the latest available overall results

These measurement control criteria shall be applied in each of the following days except that the same boat need not be checked twice for the same item. In this case a different check may be scheduled for that boat and if needed boats placed 4th, 5th, 6th etc. will be selected for the check.

Independently from its results, any boat can be checked upon a measurement protest or by the choice of the Measurement Committee.

d) An official calibrated scale shall be made available to the crews before the start of the races and to the Technical committee during the races.

4.7 Notice of Race

At a minimum of six months before the first day of the championship, the OA will publish the Notice of Race. The standard Notice of Race as found in the Appendix of these championship rules shall be used. Prior to publication, a draft and any modifications to the standard Notice of Race shall be approved by the ORC. The final version and any amendments shall be posted on the event website as soon as they are approved.

4.8 Sailing Instructions

The standard Sailing Instructions as found in the Appendix of these championship rules shall be used. Prior to publication a draft and any modifications must be approved by the ORC. Copies shall be provided to the International Jury and all committee chairmen prior to their arrival at the event. Copies for competitors shall be available upon their arrival at the event, with the final version and any amendments posted on the event website.

4.9 Website and digital information

The OA shall provide a suitable and functional website (preferably with its own URL that includes the year and name of the event) where all administrative and promotional materials can be accessed before, during and after the event. The details of the functions and structure of the site shall be agreed with ORC so that it has maximum efficiency to provide access to news and information in the most clear and efficient manner possible. The site may be in the local language, but it shall also have all official materials in available in English (see 4.3). For all international ORC Championships, there shall be a complete English version of the event website, with all information provided in English.

The site shall have a digital-based entry system where the entry list can be shown on the site, and includes country affiliation, sail number, boat type, owner name, skipper name, and approximate rating. A digital crew list system shall also be provided, where crew member names and their World Sailing Sailor ID's are provided, and for Corinthian Trophy entries their World Sailing Classification group status. Crew lists need not be in public view (eg, only accessible through a log-in access), but shall be made available to ORC and World Sailing for verification purposes. Additional entry information, such as a boat photo, team and/or skipper biography, and past race results are encouraged.

For 2018 the use of the ORC event management website is recommended, and this will become mandatory starting in 2019.

All official documents shall be posted on the website as soon as they are available, preferably in html or pdf format. Race results shall also be posted online as soon as available, even if provisional and subject to revision after any protests. Scoring software to be used shall be agreed between the OA and ORC and shall provide results available quickly and distributed widely as possible. It is recommended to use the free ORC Scorer software in 2018, and its use is mandatory starting in 2019.

4.10 Tracking

To help race organizers properly plan and manage offshore races and to help build media and sponsor value for the event, it is recommended that a tracking system be used for all boats entered in an ORC Championship event. This system should be able to communicate and display boat position and speed data to the OA, and in turn be made publicly available on the internet. For 2019 the TracTrac system is recommended, and for 2020 this system will be mandatory. Costs for such a system will be borne by the OA and subsidized through entry fees and/or sponsor support.

4.11   Marketing, promotion and media coverage

The OA shall work with ORC for the marketing and promotion of any ORC Championship event with the intent to maximize its international exposure and prominence. This includes providing advanced news-updates in English and the local language for posting on the ORC website.

During the event, and with help from ORC, daily summaries in English shall be provided and distributed by the OA, along with appropriate copyright-free photos from races and related events, such as the opening ceremonies, prize giving, etc. These shall be updated daily on the event website. Social media channels shall also be provided with content updated by the event media team prior to and during the event.

5   Disclaimer

The ORC, including its committees and representatives, has provided these rules and recommendations in the interest of sailors, but on the understanding that it cannot be held responsible for any loss, damage, injury or inconvenience arising from its policies and rulings.