

Sailor Categorisation Code

The twelve months between the 2022 and 2023 World Sailing Annual Conferences has been a period of rebuilding for the Categorisation Commission and users of the Categorisation Code.

Tom Rinda stepped down as chairman of the Categorisation Commission, and his length of service and his dedication to ensuring events were serviced and how the Categorisation Code was being used must be recognised and commended. Tom also saw in the implementation of the Salesforce software system which the categorisation of sailors now uses. On behalf of the Categorisation Commission, I would like to thank Tom for his work and his sincere, unwavering care for the Categorisation Code.

Other changes are seen in the Categorisation Commission's membership. Andreas Christoforou (CYP) and Stephane Etienne (FRA) are joining the team as its new members.

World Sailing implemented new software systems for maintaining records and categorisation of sailors. This is the Salesforce platform now in use. Recognition must be given to World Sailing staff Bunmi Fatunla and Paul Deacon who drove the project from the office side. The system is now in place and operating without any significant problems.

In total, there are 15148 records in the system. In the last twelve months, 9071 sailors have been categorised, of whom 870 were Group 1 and 364 were Group 3. Only three cases were appealed, which in all cases the original decision was upheld.

Given the large number of categorisations, few technical problems, and even fewer appeals, the Salesforce implementation led by Tom Rinda, Paul Deacon and Bunmi Fatunla can only be considered a success.

Major events are returning to the practice of having a Categorisation Commission representative on site during registration and the first day's racing. The ORC and J/70 class did this during the last twelve months benefitting entrants whose crews still needed to resolve problems, assist race committees deal with last moment registrations and uphold the integrity of corinthian divisions.

Future work for the Categorisation Commission includes seeking feedback from organising authorities and classes using the Categorisation Code so that a review of the Regulations can be undertaken. The purpose is to ensure that the Categorisation Code is up to date and, most importantly, meeting needs and expectations of its users. We hope that submissions proposing changes to Regulations might be made at the 2024 Annual Conference.

Glen Stanaway
Categorisation Commission Chairperson