

The Oceanic and Offshore Committee met virtually at 1000 UTC on 8 April 2025

1. Opening of the Meeting	1	6. Major Oceanic Event Organisers	3
2. Executive Office Update	1	7. 2025 Offshore Double Handed World Championship	3
3. Advocacy	2	8. Sailing Marathon and Offshore Advisory	3
4. Special Regulations Sub-Committee	2	9. AOB	4
5. Technology in Offshore Racing	3		

Present:

Matt Allen - Chair	Charlie Enright	Katrin Adloff
Corinne Migraine – Vice-Chair	Damian Foxall	Lee Pilsung
Joseph M Pla - Vice-President	Denise Caffari	Mariana Douka
David Hughes - Vice-President	Jennifer Hall	Orhan Ref K Gorbon
Bruno Finzi	Johan Tuvstedt	Tatiana Almeida
Thomas Nilsson	Alan Massey – Int Regs Chair	James Dadd – SRSC Chair
Katrina Ham - WS Offshore & Safety Manager	Jaime Navarro – Director of Technical & Offshore	Glen Stanaway – Sailor Categorisation Chair

Apologies:

Yasutaka Funazawa		
-------------------	--	--

1. Opening of the Meeting

a. Chair's Opening Remarks

Matt Allen welcomed members to the Committee and thank them for volunteering. He highlighted the proportion of participants who sail on offshore capable boats and emphasised the responsibility of the Committee to lead on various areas including safety.

b. Apologies for Absence

c. Minutes of the meetings on 7 November 2024.

It was noted that the minutes of the meeting were circulated and approved by the previous Committee.

d. Matters Arising

e. Introductions from Vice-Presidents

Joseph M Pla and David Hughes welcomed members to the Oceanic and Offshore Committee and thanked them for their contributions.

f. Terms of Reference

Matt Allen referred to the Terms of Reference noting the need for the Committee to have a work plan.

2. Executive Office Update

a. UMS Update

Katrina Ham provided a brief update on the progress regarding the use of a UMS sticker for sail measurements in the In-House Certification programme. She noted that it is a collaboration between ORC and IRC to use one sticker going forward, with an announcement to be made shortly. More information is available on the World Sailing website.

b. Governance Changes / Proposal Portal

Highlighting the recent governance changes, Katrina Ham emphasised that it is an ongoing process for all involved. It was noted that while the portal has not been launched, proposals can be made via the Executive Office. Katrina Ham welcomed members to contact her if they have any questions.

c. Annual Conference

It was noted that the 2025 Annual Conference will take place in Dun Laoghaire, Ireland from the 2nd -8th November. The schedule will be circulated once finalised.

3. Advocacy

Dee Caffari highlighted the reach and influence within the offshore community, as well as the ambition to be proactive in this area. While discussing potential topics, the rise of inadvertent cheating due to changes in technology was raised. The recent changes to Regulation 16 regarding Safety Reporting and RRS 56.3, were noted as examples of the potential impact the Committee can have. Matt Allen reported on an article that was written earlier in the year to communicate and the changes to Safety Reporting, noting the desire for more communications going forward. James Dadd detailed his experience in this area, noting the potential for stacking to be considered as an area to highlight. With changes in the community identified, including the potential absence of more experienced team mates to provide guidance in particular with the increase in short-handed racing, the importance of ensuring communications reach young audiences via social media as highlighted. Jennifer Hall noted her experience in marketing and communications and offered to assist in this area. It was noted that Matt Allen will be the Oceanic and Offshore Committee representative on the Safety Commission.

4. Special Regulations Sub-Committee

a. Minutes of the meeting on 6 November 2024

James Dadd recalled the history of the Offshore Special Regulations, noting its origins with the ORC. While outlining the approval process, he noted the changes following the recent governance reforms. He highlighted the need for the sub-committee to review proposals ahead of the Annual Conference which will allow the Oceanic and Offshore Committee more time to consider changes.

b. Urgent Changes

James Dadd provided an outline on the process for urgent changes and described recent examples.

c. Interpretation 25-01

It was noted that there is a specific process for issuing interpretations which is detailed in policy.

d. **IMOCA Report – MMSI/EPIRBS**

James Dadd highlighted the report provided by the IMOCA class following learnings ahead of the Vendee Globe. The importance for advocacy on the topic with event organisers was noted. James Dadd outlined some of the other recent work of the Special Regulations Sub-Committee including keel failures and the refinement of the Offshore Special Regulations document.

5. Technology in Offshore Racing

While introducing the topic, Matt Allen thanked Stan Honey for his work in this area. While discussing the challenges, the need for co-ordination with event organisers was highlighted. The addition of Appendix M to the Offshore Special Regulations as well as the changes made to the Racing Rules of Sailing were given as examples of World Sailing governance in this area to date. Johan Tuvstедt highlighted this as an opportunity for World Sailing to make a difference which providing examples of the challenges regarding RRS 52. Matt Allen emphasised the focus would be on the main body of the sport, while giving freedom to events such as the Vendee Globe. The desire to protect the human aspect of the sport was raised. Charlie Enright raised the question regarding potential definitions on outside assistance and the dramatic changes over reason years. Challenges regarding policing regulations were also raised.

6. Major Oceanic Event Organisers

Corinne Migraine provided a brief history of the meetings. She emphasised the importance of the link between World Sailing and both event organisers and classes. Noting the shift away from focusing on managing the calendar, she reported on the challenges reported by attendees at the most recent meeting in December 2024. She highlighted the concerns raised regarding events that do not use the Racing Rules of Sailing and operate outside the World Sailing community, and how they are impacting on the ability to organise events. The need to differentiate these events while educating stakeholders was emphasised to protect these classes and events.

While noted the ambitions for the future, Corinne Migraine noted the ambitions to hold separate meetings for the professional and amateur sectors, as while their issues are similar their approaches and ambitions are different.

7. 2025 Offshore Double Handed World Championship

Katrina Ham provided a brief update on the preparations for the event. She reported that the Notice of Race was published in late February and included a change to the format from the 2024 edition. She noted that this would allow 28 teams to compete and that the host group had reported a number of enquiries from interested parties. Katrina Ham also provided an update on the rudders and appointment of race officials.

8. Sailing Marathon and Offshore Advisory

Matt Allen outlined the work to date on a potential event to be considered for the Brisbane 2032 Olympics. He reported on the opportunity presented, highlighting the desire to hold the event in a regional area as well as the challenges posed by holding the event in winter. He reported on the potential broadcast benefits of having an event that runs overnight. Damien Foxall raised the need to consider bio-diversity concerns when considering potential event options.

9. AOB

a. Working Groups / Work Plan

It was noted that a work plan will need to be produced as per the Terms of Reference.

Matt Allen thanked members for their time and noted the ambition for more frequent meetings. The meeting closed at 1225.