

Report from Dimitris Dimou, Chairman of the Equipment Rules SC

The two main areas of activity of the Equipment Rules Sub-Committee are the Class Rule approvals (new rules and changes), and the development and updating of the ERS. The former is also connected with the Standard Class Rules project, which includes the updating of the template.

We have started our work for the new term by organizing the members into specialized work parties/teams, based on each member's experience and expertise. These include three Class Rule approvals teams, for measurement-controlled dinghies/boards, for keelboats/yachts and for the manufacturer-controlled classes. This is similar to the pre-2005 separation of specialist committees based on the type of boat. In addition, we have separate teams for the development of training materials (guides to equipment certification and inspection), the event related documentation (event equipment controls and regulations), builder processes/standards and specifications, the in-house certification and finally the Standard Class Rule (SCR) template development.

The SCR template update will be given high priority, as it has been in place for many years without updates and was the one project in the previous term which was left unfinished.

The main task for the ERSC in the coming days is the full review of the class rule change proposals received within the 1st quarter 2025 period, with the decision making meeting scheduled at the end of April 2025. At the same meeting the SC will perform the final review of the class rules of all candidate classes for WS status. More details on these tasks will be given by the WS staff.

Ideally, Class Rules should be reviewed not only when a change proposal is received, but also periodically as part of the Equipment Committee class review program. This is especially important not only because it has been discovered that many existing rules include non-standard items or make reference to obsolete versions of other rules/regulations, but also because many new class rules are based on such similar class rules which include non-standard items or don't follow properly the SCR. Classes are more than welcome to seek advice from the ERSC in developing or re-drafting their rules, easing the workload of the office and making the final class rule change review process easier and quicker. The policy must be also clarified, enabling the ERSC and the EQ to enforce such updates when needed.

The ERS development project is targeting the normal updating of these rules and the addition of new/missing items. This is the task for the full sub-committee without the formulation of a specialist working party as in the past. In addition, priority must be given to the cleaning up/improvement of the technical/equipment related RRS, with a view to the 2029-2032 edition of these Rules. This must happen by cooperating with the WS Classes Committee and of course the Racing Rules Committee.

Dimitris Dimou
Chair – ERSC