

WS Classes Status Review Update

1. Introduction

- 1.1 At its Mid-Year Meeting, the Equipment Committee conducted a review of World Sailing Class Associations in accordance with Policy D6. Following the implementation of the new governance model, responsibility for reviewing Class status and making recommendations to the General Assembly (GA) now rests with the Board.
- 1.2 At its meeting on June 30th, the Board noted and endorsed the Equipment Committee's recommendations to place certain classes under review. The Board directed the Executive Office to provide these classes with further opportunities to address identified non-compliances.
- 1.3 At its meeting on September, the Board took the following decisions.

2. Decisions taken by the Board

- 2.1 **To retain WS class status** for: Dart 18, Melges 32, Micro Cupper, 505, Fireball, Tasar, based on new evidence of compliance and commitments to resolve remaining issues. However, upon recommendation from the Executive Office if any identified issue is not resolved, the class shall be reviewed by the Board again no later than 2027.
- 2.2 **To suspend WS class status** for:
 - (a) IKA Open Class; recognising that activities are suspended under the GKA-IKA-WS tripartite agreement, with automatic reinstatement if and when the agreement terminates.
 - (b) Windsurfer Class; recognising that the reasons for being placed under review are largely due to lack of agreement between the class and the manufacturer. Should the disputes be resolved, the status could be reinstated without the need to reapply.
- 2.3 **To withdraw WS class status** for the following classes due to persistent non-compliance, unpaid fees, lack of engagement, or failure to provide evidence of global distribution and active racing requirements:
 - (a) Melges 20: unpaid subscription, no annual report, no evidence of meeting minimum global distribution or active racing requirements.
 - (b) X-35: unpaid subscription, no annual report, not believed active.
 - (c) B14: no IM, no evidence of meeting minimum global distribution or active racing requirements, exemption request not supported.
 - (d) RS500: has provided new evidence but failed to meet the minimum global distribution requirements, and fails to have an IM.

3. Reasons

- 3.1 The Executive Office notified the Classes under review and invited them to submit evidence of compliance.
- 3.2 The recommendation to retain the WS class status for the classes listed in item 2.1 was noted as supported by the Equipment Committee and is based on the following findings following further communication with the classes.

- (a) Dart 18: provided evidence of global distribution; pending appointment of IM and updated Class Agreement. Office will recommend review status again in 2027 if unresolved throughout 2026.
- (b) Melges 32: provided evidence of global distribution; committed to supporting a Class IM candidate and updating Class Agreement. Office will recommend review status again in 2027 if unresolved throughout 2026.
- (c) Micro Copper: provided evidence of global distribution; pending appointment of IM. Office will recommend review status again in 2027 if unresolved throughout 2026.
- (d) 505: Provided evidence of global distribution. Has committed to updating Class Agreement and to provide their 2024 World Championship report. The Executive Office will recommend review status again in 2027 if unresolved throughout 2026.
- (e) Fireball: provided evidence of global distribution. Has committed to updating Class Agreement and to provide their 2024 World Championship report. The Executive Office will recommend review status again in 2027 if unresolved throughout 2026.
- (f) Tasar: Provided evidence of global distribution. Has committed to updating Class Agreement. The Executive Office will recommend review status again in 2027 if unresolved throughout 2026.

3.3 The recommendation to withdraw the WS class status for the classes listed in item 2.3 is supported by the Equipment Committee and is based on the following findings:

- (a) Due notice has been given to all classes.
- (b) The recommendations from the Equipment Committee are not based solely on global distribution. The Committee considered many elements of World Sailing policy and not meeting global distribution expectations on its own would not result in any of the classes being recommended for review and withdrawal of status. In each case there were other elements taking the given class over the threshold such as agreements not being signed, builder's specifications or World Championship reports not being received, or unpaid fees.
 - (i) Melges 20:
 - Has agreed to the findings, understands and agrees to the withdraw of their WS class status
 - Does not meet the minimum global distribution numbers and has not provided new evidence
 - Annual subscription remains unpaid
 - Did not submit annual report
 - Has not provided evidence of meeting minimum global distribution numbers
 - (ii) X35:
 - Has agreed to the findings, understands and agrees to the withdraw of their WS class status
 - Does not meet the minimum global distribution numbers and has not provided new evidence.
 - Annual subscription remains unpaid
 - Did not submit annual report
 - Believed not to be active.

(iii) B14:

- Does not meet the minimum global distribution numbers. The Class requested an exemption which is not supported by the Equipment Committee. The exemption permitted by Policy is reserved for classes that serve a unique aspect of Sailing.
- Does not have a class IM.

(iv) RS500:

- Does not meet the minimum global distribution numbers. The Class does not achieve the required number of boats actively racing from one MNA on a different continent to those already represented, as required under the Policies. The Class has committed to submitting a letter from the missing MNA as soon as possible.
- Does not have a class IM
- Class Agreement requires update

3.4 The recommendation to suspend the rights and obligations to the IKA Open class is based on the following findings:

- (a) Class activities ceased following the tripartite agreement between IKA, GKA and WS which prevents the class from holding events whilst in force.
- (b) The Equipment Committee noted that there is no provision in the regulations allowing the Committee to wave requirements for classes.
- (c) The tripartite agreement does not explicitly address or grant retention of WS status to the class.
- (d) As the classes are inactive, the Executive Office considers they should not retain WS status and associated rights. However, if the tripartite agreement ends, reinstatement should be automatic without re-application.
- (e) The class agrees with this approach.
- (f) If approved, the Executive Office will draft a letter confirming the suspension of WS status, and conditions for reinstatement.

3.5 The recommendation to suspend the rights and obligations to the Windsurfer class is based on the following findings:

- (a) The decision to place the Class under review and consider suspension dates back to 2023. Plaque fees remain unpaid. Does not have a class IM. The required Manufacturing Specification has not been submitted.
- (b) There is an ongoing conflict between the Class and the manufacturer, and despite repeated requests from the Executive Office, the information has not been provided.
- (c) The Class Agreement has not been signed. Although the Class has indicated its willingness to do so, the dispute with the manufacturer continues to prevent conclusion of the agreement with World Sailing.
- (d) Despite these issues, the Class remains active in racing. However, The Equipment Committee noted that there is no provision in the Regulations allowing requirements for classes to be waived.
- (e) As the governance and compliance requirements remain unmet and the conflict with the manufacturer is ongoing, the Executive Office considers the Class should not retain WS status and associated rights at this time. If the conflict is resolved and the missing

documentation is provided, reinstatement should be possible without the need for a new application.

- (f) If approved, the Executive Office will draft a letter confirming the suspension of WS status and the conditions for reinstatement.

4. Background

- 4.1 World Sailing Class Associations must be regularly reviewed at least once every three years.
- 4.2 A dedicated Working Group, established by the Equipment Committee, reviewed WS Classes, identifying that nearly 50% were not fully compliant, with 13 presenting significant issues (e.g. missing annual reports, unpaid fees, insufficient global activity, no recent World Championships, etc.). The need to review the Regulations to allow more Classes to maintain their WS class status was highlighted.
- 4.3 Olympic Classes (Nacra 17, 49er, FX) were excluded from the Equipment Committee recommendation due to their Olympic Class designation.
- 4.4 Policy D6 governs the process of the reviews. If a Class fails to meet the criteria, the Equipment Committee may recommend that the Class be reviewed by the Board, and the Board may then recommend to the General Assembly that its WS class status be withdrawn.
- 4.5 If a Class is to have its status reviewed by the General Assembly, the World Sailing Class Association must be notified and is entitled to attend and speak at the General Assembly meeting.
- 4.6 In addition, Regulation 15.8 provides that if a World Sailing Class Association is in arrears to World Sailing, the Board may suspend any or all of the rights of the Class Association to hold world championships or be selected for a World Sailing event.

5. Issues

- (a) Strategy/Objective Implications
The recommendation aligns with World Sailing's Governance objective to implement best-in-class practices and maintain the integrity of the regulations.
- (b) Financial Implications
Class annual subscriptions and plaque fee minimally affected.
- (c) Consultation
 - (i) Original review and recommendations: Equipment Committee, Equipment Rules Sub-Committee, Governance Committee, WS Classes Committee (Chair).
 - (ii) Current recommendations: Equipment Committee Chair, Executive Office.
- (d) Risk Register Implications
None.
- (e) Legal, Governance and Compliance
Reviews required by Regulation 15 and Policy D6. If the outcome of the Board's review is to recommend to the General Assembly to withdraw a WS Class status, the class shall be entitled to attend and speak at the General Assembly meeting.
- (f) Responsibility

Director of Technical and Offshore