

Team Racing Committee Annual Report

Submitted by the Chair, Amanda Callahan

Overview

This year was inspiring for Team Racing, as we celebrated a significant milestone – the Committee was upgraded from a sub-committee to a full committee reporting directly to the Council.

It was a period of growth and learning, during which we clarified our objectives and developed a detailed Work Plan. We have a geographically diverse and well-rounded group working to promote team racing worldwide.

There is a lot of team racing happening across the globe and a large appetite to introduce more sailors to team racing. There is a lot of opportunity.

Five Working Groups were formed to help us achieve our goals:

1. Team Racing Ranking System Working Group
2. Bid Guideline/Host Selection Working Group
3. Communication & Promotion Working Group
4. Youth Strategy Working Group
5. Education Working Group

2025 Open Team Racing World Championships, New York Yacht Club, Rhode Island, USA, 29 May to 1 June 2025:

It was a very well-organised and smoothly run event by NYYC and their volunteers, featuring a full international umpire team from around the world. The competition involved 2v2 team racing in keelboats, with 20 Sonars and 2 spare boats provided. Twelve teams from ten countries competed: Argentina, Bahamas, Bermuda, Great Britain, Greece, Italy, Ireland, Sweden, New Zealand, and the USA. Over the first three days, a double round robin was sailed with varying breezes, but we lost some time to the weather, which ranged from 5 to 25 knots, with winds over 30 on day 3.

The aim was to complete 132 races in a double round robin, but by day 4, only 120 races had been sailed, with a very clear division among the top 6 teams. A gold round robin was completed, but due to boat damage and high winds, we ran out of time to hold a final. There was a clear winner by three race wins, with 2,3 and 4 all tied on 17 wins and having to be split by two tie-breaks.

Corinthian YC USA took the win, with Kiwi Racing New Zealand and Baltimore YC finishing second and third on the podium. Reviving the World Sailing Team Racing Championship after a ten-year hiatus has occurred at a time when the niche is gaining momentum worldwide, as shown by the diverse range of countries participating in this year's event.

We surveyed the competitors after to gather feedback on the format, boats, rules applied, and other metrics. The opinions provided helpful insight which informed some decisions with the Bid Guidelines.

2026 Open Team Racing World Championships: The event will be held in the waters of Stockholm from 12 to 16 August 2026, hosted by Gamla Stans Yachts Sällskap. Although there have been a few delays from the original schedule, we're happy to share that preparations are now

moving forward smoothly. The contract is all set and has received approval for signing. The notice of race has now been finalised and will be published soon. The entry fee has been set at €4000 for teams of 8 members. A total of fourteen boats will be available for participants.

We are still working through the selection process. While we have been promoting and reaching out to regatta hosts to input result into the ranking system, it is still underutilized and doesn't have enough data to be used in the selection process.

2027-2028 Open Team Racing World Championships: The Bid Guidelines have been finalised and approved for publication. Final bids must be submitted by 1st February 2026, with final decisions expected in March 2026. We've had early interest from several countries.

Mix Youth Team Racing Demonstration Event: This mixed 2v2 demonstration event is scheduled before the Youth Worlds in Vilamoura on December 11. So far, twelve teams have registered, with room for four more. The event will use ILCA 6 equipment. Members of the Team Racing Committee are expected to attend, sharing their insights and experiences with the participants.

Team Racing Communication, Promotion, and Education materials: We have encountered similar issues as the Match Racing discipline concerning communication, promotion, and educational materials on the World Sailing website. Development work is required to effectively support the promotion of Team Racing events and other initiatives.