

Foiling Race Management Training Programme – Proposal

Over the past five years, the world of sailing has seen an increase in the number and variety of foiling classes, pushing the limits of performance – revolutionising events and attracting a new wave of participants.

With this evolution comes new challenges for event organisers and race management teams with foiling demanding a different approach to ensure safety, efficiency, and world-class competition.

Recognising the need for specialised knowledge, World Sailing, in partnership with Foiling Week is proud to pilot a dedicated race officer training course, designed for International Race Officers providing essential education and hands-on experience in managing foiling competitions.

Creation of Foiling Race Management Training Programme

Recognising the rapid growth and technical demands of foiling, the World Sailing Executive Office proposes the creation of a Foiling Race Management Training Programme.

Two International Race Officers with proven expertise in foiling events with educational experience will be appointed to lead content creation. The programme will be designed as a hybrid learning model, combining online modules with in-person workshops and on-the-water practice at live events.

This initiative represents the first continuous education course for existing international officials seeking to upskill their knowledge and practice in foiling race management.

The course is designed to provide officials with:

- Insight into the key elements of planning and organising safe and successful single- or multi-class foiling events.
- An understanding of foiling competitors, their expectations, and the culture of foiling racing.
- Guidance on foiling policies, including interaction with other water users.
- Awareness of shoreside, launching, and recovery challenges.
- Comprehensive knowledge of the unique safety implications associated with foiling.

The course will combine theory learning with practical on the water sessions, joining Foiling Week race teams to run the racing. Learning from the course will include:

- Event planning and documentation
- Racing Formats
- Course configurations
- On water race course management
- Starting/finishing and keeping track
- Safety and Risk Assessment – what is different?
- Race Management guidance and policies

Course Structure (Proposed)

Stage 1: Online Module (self-paced)

Interactive digital content introducing core foiling fundamentals.

Stage 2: Online Workshops

Online session(s) prior to attendance at Foiling Week focusing on the key elements outline above.

Session 1 –2 months prior to event

Potential session 2

Each course to be taught by the identified content creators

Stage 3 – Event On-Site

Day 1 - In-person classroom sessions reinforcing theory, case studies, and scenario planning.

Day 2-5 - Practical On-the-Water Experience. Embedded training with foiling race teams to gain hands-on experience in live racing environments.

Stage 4 – Post Event

One-to-one debrief with a personalised report summarising observations made throughout the training, providing constructive feedback on individuals strengths and areas for further improvement, offering practical guidance to support ongoing personal and professional growth.

Who is the course for?

The course is aimed at existing IRO's with limited or no knowledge of running foiling events and racing.

Opportunity is available for 4 Race Officers during Foiling Week held in Lake Garda, ITA and Aarhus, DEN as follows:

Lake Garda, ITA

26th – 30th June - 4 participants – arrival Thursday 25th – depart on 1st (6 nights) – With opportunity to extend stay at a personal cost to remain involved in the second half of the event.

Aarhus, DEN

Dates – To be Confirmed

Future opportunity to expand to additional foiling events in the future.

Costs and Local Arrangements

Participants would be responsible for their own travel and getting to the venue with World Sailing offering a travel grant to assist with partial travel costs.

World Sailing to cover accommodation and meals whilst on-site (in discussion with Organisers).

Course Creators/Instructors

The World Sailing Executive Office have identified Tim Hancock, recognised as the Principal Race Officer for Foiling Week in lake Garda. Request RMSC to identify an expertise within foiling events and with educational experience to lead in the content creation of this program with Tim. The identified course creators will co- instruct the delivery of the course. The project of content delivery will be led by the Executive Office (Tim Hancock).

Timeline

The development of the Foiling Race Management Training Programme will follow the below timeline to ensure suitable workflow, whilst ensuring the project is suitable for delivery in 2026.

Action Timeline:

Date	Action Items
November 2025	Support received from RMSC and ROC at the Annual Conference
End of November 2025	Confirm IRO content developers for the program
December 2025	Content creators confirm syllabus structure and identify project plan for content, including stage 1 structure, and Stage 2 plan for the 3 online sessions
January 2026	Open applications for IROs to apply for the program
January 2026 – February 2026	Content creators develop material for stage 1 ready to Launch 1 March
February 1 st – 14 th	Application Review and confirmation to those accepted to the program, with next steps for organising logistics for attending Foiling Week
May 2026	First Online Session held
June/July 2026	First IRO cohort attend Foiling Race Management Training Programme in Malcesine, Italy
August 2026	Second IRO cohort attend Foiling Race Management Training Programme in Aarhus, Denmark
September 2026	Review of the session and report to RMSC and ROC with proposal for future years plans

Future Development

Following the 2026 pilot, the course will be reviewed using feedback from content creators, participants and event organisers, exploring opportunity to evolve the program into a World Sailing certification through inclusion of theoretical and practical assessments. The programme will also seek to expand into additional foiling events, to offer opportunity to more IROs and further growth of the partnership with Foiling Week could explore the creation of a similar program for Umpiring.

Requests for Race Management Sub- Committee

To identify a suitable content creator with the Foiling skillset, educational experience and time available to commit to assist in the development of this project. This identified creator shall work with the Executive Office to develop this course and assist in delivering the pilot course in 2026.