

Annual Conference Report from Dimitris Dimou, Chairman of the Equipment Rules SC
Cross Rep to the Equipment Committee (EQ)
Cross Rep of the EQ to the Race Officials Committee (ROC)

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.

The two main tasks for the ERSC in the period between the Mid-Year meeting and the Annual Conference have been: the full review of the class rule change proposals received within the 2nd and 3rd quarter 2025 periods, with one decision-making meeting done at the end of July 2025 and the next one coming up at the Annual Conference, and the review of the class rules of all current candidate classes for WS status, namely the VX1 and the 11M, plus the RS Venture from the previous periods. The ERSC together with the WS staff spent a considerable amount of time on this particular project, because all of the proposed draft class rules had a number of issues which needed a lot of attention and continuous discussions with the relevant classes in order to bring them to an acceptable state. 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 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. This has been the case time and time again when new Classes are making applications to WS. 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 the next project to start after the Annual Conference, 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.

The SCR template update project, although given high priority, has not advanced as expected, and one of the reasons was the unanticipated amount of work required in August and September for the review and finalization of the class rules of the new Classes. Under the new Governance, there are different timelines for proposals to the various decision-making bodies which put a lot of pressure on the ERSC and the Office in order to finalize the required documentation on time.

With regards to the ROC, the major projects that have been presented to the committee members so far is about education/race officials development, with two online meetings happening in July and October. The normal full agenda of the ROC will be taken up at the Annual Conference meeting.

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