

History of the Offshore Special Regulations

- Developed from the experiences of the 1979 Fastnet Race by ORC at special council meeting in Barcelona in 1980.
- A Guide was produced by ABS alongside ORC for boats built after 1st January 1986 for Cat 0 & 1.
- Guardianship transferred directly to ISAF/World Sailing in 2001.

Purpose of the Offshore Special Regulations

- To ensure that anyone who goes yacht racing does so with equipment that will keep them safe and provide them with the opportunity and equipment to help others when required without putting themselves in undue danger.
- To ensure that the push for improved performance does not come at the expense of safety.
- To encourage the use of environmentally sustainable methods and equipment.
- To encourage participation.

Standardisation

- With OSR adopted widely, the need for changing equipment from venue to venue is removed.
- Equipment Inspector training and methods are centralised and standardised.
- Training of use of equipment and maintenance of equipment is simplified.

Understanding

- We participate in a complex sport, in complex equipment. We keep it as simple as possible, but no simpler.
- Safety equipment develops and OSR needs to keep up. This requires constant development.
- Always going to be a work in progress.

The Sport

- Safety cannot come at expense of enjoyment and enjoyment cannot come at expense of safety.