

Racing Rules Committee Minutes

The Racing Rules Committee met between 10:00 – 11:30hrs UTC on Saturday 19 July 2025 by video conference



Present:

Richard Slater (AUS) – Chair
Line Juhl (DEN) – Vice-Chair
Lynne Beal (CAN)
Bence Böröcz (HUN)
Pauline den Burger (NED)
Sandy Grosvenor (USA)
Gonzalo Heredia (ARG)
Zuoru Jiang (CHN)
Chris Lindsay (IRL) (non-voting)
Finn Mrugulla (GER)
Jon Napier (GBR)
Christina Örtendahl (SWE)
Yoann Peronneau (FRA)
Luke Scott (RSA)

In Attendance:

Tomasz Chamera – Vice President
Beatriz González Luna – Vice President

Apologies for Absence:

Luigi Bertini (ITA)

1. Opening of the Meeting

(a) Chair's Opening Remarks

The Chair welcomed the members of the Committee, and the observers, to the meeting.

Vice President Tomasz Chamera addressed the meeting and thanked the Committee for its hard work on behalf of the Board.

(b) Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Luigi Bertini.

(c) Declarations of Interest

The declarations of interest of the Committee members in the World Sailing Register of Interests were noted.

(d) Approve minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were noted as being approved following the last meeting.

(e) Matters arising from the minutes.

There were no matters arising.

(f) Review of Draft 2029 - 2032 Racing Rules of Sailing

The Vice Chair updated the Committee on the distribution of the draft rule book for 2029 – 2032. Committee members were asked to make any comments over the next few weeks, after which the draft will be published online.

2. Review of the Work Plan

- (a) Use of Monday.com

The Chair updated the Committee on the use of the Monday.com platform.

- (b) Agree on meeting schedule of next 12 months

The Committee discuss its proposed meeting schedule for 2025 and 2026. The November meeting is already scheduled, and the Chair said he would aim to hold the first meeting of 2026 in the week commencing 16 March 2026. A Doodle poll will be sent around the Committee.

- (c) Review Proposals Procedure and Principles

Jon Napier presented the proposed procedures for Proposals and the draft principles of RRS decision-making.

Decision

The Committee approved the Proposals procedures and Principles of RRS Decision Making (set out in Annex A).

- (d) Report on ROWG Procedures

The Chair presented the new procedures being used by the Rule Opinion Working Group.

Decision

The Committee noted the new procedures.

3. Proposals

- (a) Proposal RRC/2025/001 – Appendix Naming

Decision

The Committee did not adopt the wording put forward by the Proposal, but the Committee to create a template (style guide) for such Appendices containing this required information and re-publish the Appendices / Development Rules in that style.

Luke Scott, Sandy Grosvenor, Pauline den Burger, and the Vice-Chair will create the template and ensure all applicable rules conform to that template.

The template must be approved by the Committee prior to use.

The Proposal is deferred to the next meeting pending this work.

(11 in favour, 0 against, 4 abstain)

- (b) Proposals RRC/2025/002 - Rule 14

The Committee discussed the Proposal and agreed to consider it in line with the report from the Proposals Working Group. It was noted a potential interpretation will be brought forward to the next meeting in November.

Decision

The Proposal is deferred to the next meeting with further work to be done on the wording to amend rule 14.

(11 in favour, 0 against, 4 abstain)

Decision

The Committee rejected any proposal to make an urgent rule change under Regulation 20.3(a)

(0 in favour, 11 against, 4 abstain)

- (c) Proposal RRC/2025/003 - Rule 60.4

The Committee discussed the Proposal and agreed to consider it in line with the report from the Proposals Working Group.

Decision

The Committee rejected any proposal to make an urgent rule change under Regulation 20.3(a)

(4 in favour, 7 against, 2 abstain)

Decision

The Proposal is deferred to the next meeting with further work to be done on the wording to amend rule 60.4.

(10 in favour, 0 against, 5 abstain)

Decision

The Committee agreed that an interpretation should be issued of the rule, the draft to be proposed separately to the Committee.

(10 in favour, 0 against, 5 abstain)

4. Any Other Business

Vice President Tomasz Chamera updated the Committee on the recent papers approved by Council concerning the 2028 Olympic Games.

There being no other business, the Chair closed the meeting.

Racing Rules Committee

Proposals

1. The Racing Rules Committee is responsible for making, changing, and interpreting the Racing Rules of Sailing. The Committee's decisions must be reported to the Board, which may reject them at its next meeting after the decision is made. (Article 38.4)
2. Changes to the Racing Rules of Sailing, Cases, Calls or other official interpretations of the Racing Rules, must be made by Proposal (Regulation 7.1(e)).
3. Rapid Response Calls and Rule Opinions (Q&As) do not require a Proposal and are not part of this procedure. They have their own procedure.
4. The Committee will meet three times a year – twice virtually and once in person at the World Sailing Annual Conference. Meetings are open for all WS Members to attend.
5. The ordinary method of deciding Proposals is at a meeting. Email decisions should only be used where the decision is necessary before the next scheduled meeting of the Committee.
6. **Sufficient time must always be allowed for a Proposal to be considered, consulted on, and then decided on by the Committee.**
7. Except in exceptional cases which have been notified to the Committee beforehand by the Chair, each Proposal and its supporting recommendations must be provided to each member of the Committee not later than 3 weeks before the Committee meeting at which the decision is to be made.
8. In the first year of the quad, the Committee will decide the deadlines for when:
 - all major decisions on the next edition of Racing Rules of Sailing are to be taken;
 - the Committee and the Working Groups are to finalise the text of each Appendix for the next quad; and
 - the final editing of the Racing Rules of Sailing for the next quad will be complete.
9. Proposals which are made at a time which does not allow for them to meet the above deadlines will not be considered for inclusion in the next edition of the Racing Rules of Sailing (unless the Committee agrees otherwise on report from the Proposals WG).

Racing Rules Committee

Principles of RRS Decision Making

Principle 1

In setting the Racing Rules of Sailing, RRC's role is to decide what is in the best interests of the sport of Sailing (in all its forms). This includes promoting the growth and development of Sailing around the world.

Principle 2

The purpose of the Racing Rules of Sailing is govern how the sport of sailing is played from the grass roots to the professional circuits.

Principle 3

The Racing Rules of Sailing should be written in 'plain English', be as easy as possible to understand, and avoid confusion or uncertainty. In particular, their use by non-native English speakers must always be considered.

Principle 4

When making decisions, RRC must ask itself whether the sport is going to be improved by the particular Proposal. Change must not be made for the sake of it.

Principle 5

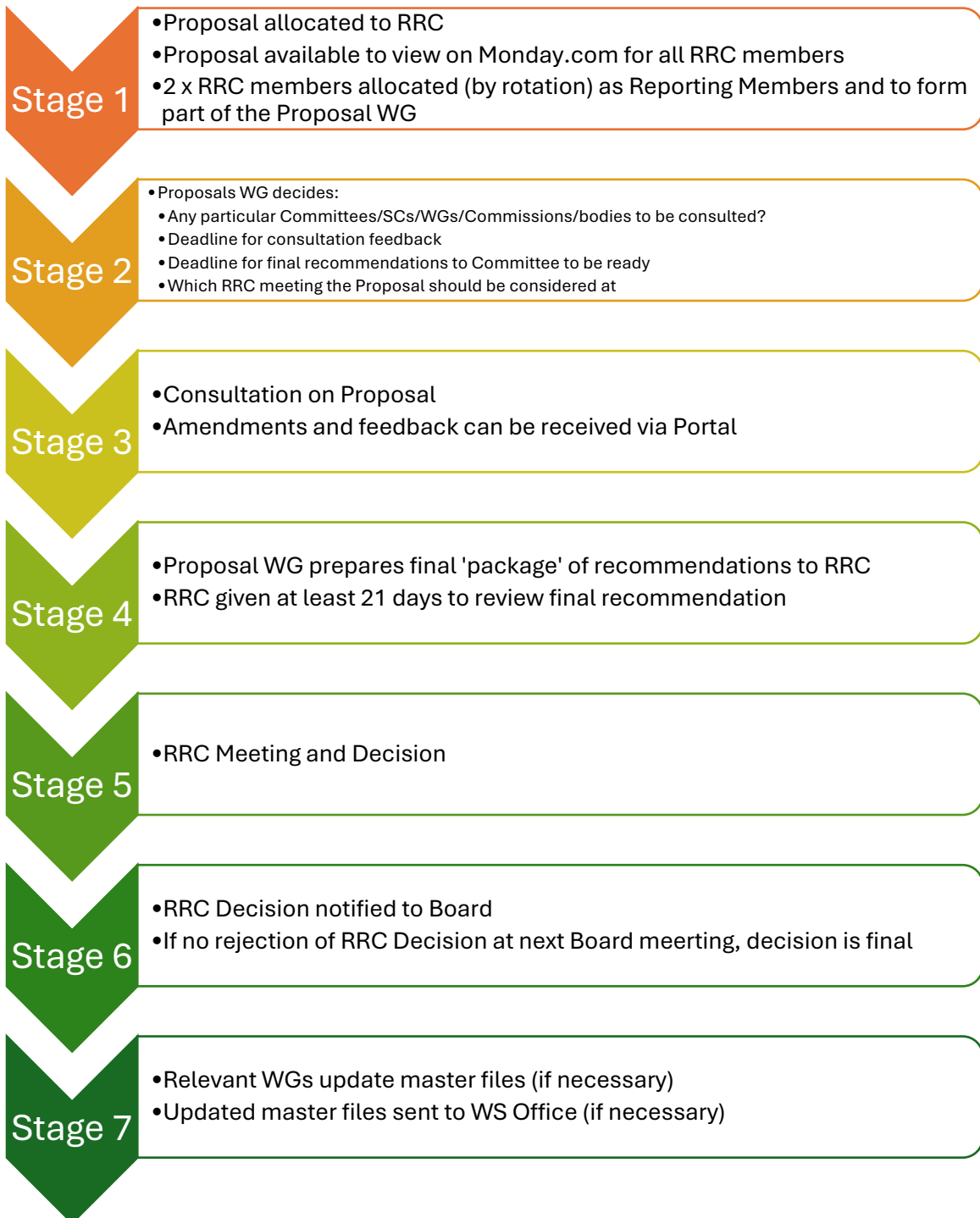
Disciplines should have the same rule position as far as possible (allowing for the purpose and particular nature of the discipline)

Principle 6

RRC will only consider undertaking 'testing' or development rules for specific and limited rule changes where the results will meaningfully inform the final decision.

Racing Rules Committee

Proposal Process



Role of Reporting Members

- Review a Proposal and highlight any major issues with it;
- Suggest any consultation with Committees/SCs/WGs/Commissions
- Monitor the feedback received in the consultation; and
- Report to the Committee at its meeting the recommendations received.