

WORLD SAILING POLICY REGISTER

RECOGNITION FRAMEWORK FOR AUGMENTED RACE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS (ARMS)

1. Purpose

- 1.0 This Policy establishes the principles, governance framework and recognition process for the use of Augmented Race Management Systems at Olympic Class events.
- 1.1 The objective of this Policy is to enable and support fair, consistent and transparent race management through the responsible use of digital systems, while preserving alignment with World Sailing's regulatory role.
- 1.2 This Policy applies to:
 - (a) World Sailing owned or sanctioned events including Olympic Qualifiers;
 - (b) Olympic Classes wishing to mandate the use of ARMS;
 - (c) Organising Authorities of Olympic Class events.

2. Definition

- 2.1 An augmented race management system (ARMS) is a system that may use digital positioning, communication and interfaces to support race management, officiating and sailor information functions, including but not limited to starts, finishes, penalties, race state, course management and mark zone identification. ARMS are considered race management and officiating systems, not class equipment.
- 2.2 Category 1 ARMS: a system that is recognised for use as a decision-support tool.
 - System used to assist race committees, umpires and officials by providing objective, real-time information.
 - Final race management and rule decisions remain with the relevant race officials. Outputs from the system may be used as evidence or guidance but are not determinative.
- 2.3 Category 2 ARMS: a system that is recognised for use as a rule-determining tool.
 - System used to make specific rule determinations automatically.
 - Outputs from the system may be determinative for designated race management or officiating decisions, requiring changes to the RRS via the NOR/SI.
- 2.4 ARMS categories, sub-categories or designations may be defined and changed by the Executive Office from time to time in order to:
 - (a) recognise the suitability of systems for specific intended uses, event types or decision-making functions;
 - (b) differentiate systems according to their operational characteristics, technical capabilities and performance levels;
 - (c) benchmark or rank systems against defined requirements or performance criteria in one or more functional domains; or;
 - (d) define requirements or benchmarks that may be applied for specific events, classes or purposes by World Sailing.

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3. Recognition framework

- 3.1 World Sailing may recognise ARMS that are assessed as meeting the requirements of this Policy. Recognised systems being referred to as “World Sailing recognised ARMS”
- 3.2 Any ARMS recognised under this Policy shall comply with the following principles:
 - (a) alignment with the Racing Rules of Sailing;
 - (b) fairness and equal treatment of competitors;
 - (c) transparency and auditability of decisions;
 - (d) data integrity, security and reliability;
 - (e) operational resilience, including offline capability;
- 3.3 To be recognised, an ARMS shall demonstrate compliance with requirements defined by the Executive Office, which may include:
 - (a) positional and timing accuracy appropriate for high-level racing;
 - (b) secure and encrypted communications;
 - (c) resilience to interference, data loss or system degradation;
 - (d) controlled system updates and version traceability;
 - (e) consistent and repeatable determination of race-critical events;
 - (f) interfaces for race committee, umpires and sailors that support correct application of the rules;
 - (g) global regulatory compliance for radio and communications use;
 - (h) ability to operate without continuous internet connectivity;
 - (i) interfaces for media, broadcast and other downstream data users.
- 3.4 Other technical requirements may be defined by the relevant Committees in guidelines approved by the Board.

4. Recognition process

- 4.1 The recognition process may include:
 - (a) submission by the system provider or a Class;
 - (b) review by the Executive Office against the requirements in this Policy and any additional guidelines approved by the Board;
 - (c) consultation by the Executive Office with the relevant Committees;
 - (d) demonstration at events or controlled trials;
 - (e) time-limited recognition, subject to review;
 - (f) an application fee to recover administrative costs associated with assessment, or as a revenue mechanism linked to recognition of systems;
 - (g) requirements to assess risks of unintended cost inflation.
- 4.2 Where the Executive Office is satisfied that the requirements of this policy are met, it shall submit a recommendation to the Board for inclusion of the system as a World Sailing recognised ARMS.
- 4.3 The Executive Office with the approval of the Board, may suspend or withdraw recognition where a system no longer meets the intent of this Policy.
- 4.4 Temporary or Conditional approvals:

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- (a) The Executive Office may grant temporary or conditional recognition to an ARMS for the purposes of testing, evaluation or limited operational use. Such approval may be restricted to specific events, classes, functions or time periods and shall not constitute full recognition under this policy.
- (b) Systems granted temporary or conditional approval shall be required to reapply for extension, modification or full recognition where the approval period expires, the scope of use changes, or the requirements of this policy or associated guidelines are amended or further developed.
- (c) As a condition of such approval, system providers and relevant classes shall cooperate with World Sailing and agree to reasonable requests necessary to enable validation, evaluation and oversight of ARMS, including access to systems, technical documentation, data outputs and participation in trials or testing activities as reasonably required by the Executive Office.

5. Use by Classes and Organising Authorities

- 5.1 Organising Authorities (OA) of Olympic Class events may require through the NOR/SI the use of ARMS when the systems are 'World Sailing Recognised ARMS'.
- 5.2 The necessary approvals for class rules changes to permit to carry World Sailing Recognised ARMS, shall be facilitated by the Olympic classes and by World Sailing.
- 5.3 World Sailing may withhold their approval of class rules changes necessary for OA or Olympic Classes seeking to require the use of non-recognised ARMS.

6. World Sailing Recognised ARMS

- 6.1 The World Sailing Recognised Augmented Race Management systems can be found in World Sailing's website [\[insert link here\]](#)

Policy Details:

Responsible group: Board
Administered by: Director of Technical and Offshore

Draft table as example only not part of the Policy, to be displayed on the website and updated by the Executive Office in line with the guidelines approved by the Board.

World Sailing Recognised Augmented Race Management systems

Product examples	Model & version		Notes	Effective
"Vendor 1"	Model 1	Category 1	Example: Recognised for the following classes: 470, ILCA, 49er/FX and Nacra17	Throughout 2026
"Vendor 1"	Model 2	Category 2	Example: When supplied by OA, recognised for	Throughout 2026

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		<i>the following classes: Nacra, 470, ILCA Excluding World Championships.</i>
"Vendor 2"	...	
"Vendor 3"		
"Vendor 4"		

Category 1 ARMS: a system recognised to support and inform race management and officiating decisions, where final authority remains with race officials.

Category 2 ARMS: a system recognised to make specified determinations automatically, in accordance with World Sailing authorisation and the Racing Rules of Sailing.
