

Reporting committee **MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**
PROMOTION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
RATING OFFICERS COMMITTEE

ORC LIGHT CERTIFICATE

PROPOSAL

To introduce ORC Light as a low-threshold entry product, designed to attract owners and crews not yet active in ORC racing. The certificate will be based on the ORC scientific database, be quick to obtain, affordable, and limited in scope to recreational/local competition.

RATIONALE

Participation in handicap racing worldwide is declining, while occasional coastal and club-level events are still thriving. Many of these events use local yardsticks that are simple but often inconsistent. ORC can provide a credible, science-based alternative that is equally accessible but more reliable.

ORC Light would:

- Provide an entry-level ORC certificate at a very low fee (e.g. €25–50).
- Be available through a simple online application (basic boat model, year, standard sails, propeller type, etc.).
- Be valid for local/national use only, not mixed with ORC Club or ORCi classes.
- Be time-limited (e.g. 2 years), with the possibility of renewal if ownership changes.
- Have clear restrictions to keep racing recreational, such as:
 - Crew limits depending on boat length,
 - Limited sail inventory (e.g. 1–2 headsails, 1 spinnaker),
 - Ban on high-tech sailcloth (carbon, aramid, etc.).
- Exclude windward/leeward racing, with focus instead on coastal and adventure-style courses.

Benefits:

- Provides a clear and accessible entry point into ORC.
- Replaces inconsistent local yardsticks with a simple, science-based system.
- Offers MNAs and event organizers a consistent framework and revenue-sharing opportunities.
- Builds a natural pathway for sailors and boats to progress toward ORC Club and ORC International.