

WEATHER MODEL SELECTED FOR WRS

PROPOSAL

When Weather Routing Scoring is used, the weather model or defined combination of models used for the WRS calculation shall be published sufficiently before the start of an offshore race using WRS. For ORC World and Continental Championships:

- The selected weather model or model combination shall be published no later than 24 hours before the scheduled race start
- ORC or the organizer shall provide a brief explanation of why the model is considered appropriate for the geographical area and time of year
- The model's relevant resolution and the forecast run intended for the final calculation shall be identified

Any subsequent change of model shall be communicated promptly to all competitors, together with the reason for the change.

Publishing the selected model in advance shall not change the procedure of using the most recent available forecast run from that model for the final WRS calculation.

Suggested wording for publishing the WRS information:

"Weather Routing Scoring will use [weather model/model combination]. The most recent available forecast run from the selected model will be used for the final WRS calculation. Information about the selected model, its resolution and the reason for its selection is published at [location]. Any subsequent change will be communicated to competitors together with the reason for the change."

RATIONALE

The weather model is a fundamental input to Weather Routing Scoring. Different models may predict materially different wind strength, direction, timing and development, particularly around coastlines, islands, frontal passages and local weather systems. The selection therefore affects the rating of every boat and the outcome of the race. Despite this, competitors do not know in advance which model will be used or why it has been selected.

Publishing this information no later than 24 hours before the scheduled start would allow skippers and navigators to:

- Understand one of the principal inputs to the scoring method.
- Study the model's characteristics and known limitations in the race area.
- Understand how the final WRS factors will be produced.
- Have confidence that model selection is transparent and consistent.

The advance announcement concerns the selected weather model or model combination, while the most recent available forecast run from that model would still be used for the race.

The purpose is simply to make a material input to the scoring calculation known to competitors before the start, improving transparency and confidence in WRS.