RACE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Meeting
held from 14:00 – 17:00
on Monday, 2nd November 2026 in Las Palmas

AGENDA

Present: Noora Westerlund (FIN) - Chairperson, Matthew Gallager (USA) - Vice-chairman, Joaquin Barenys (ESP), Agnes Lill (EST), Willem Ellemeet (NED), Ecky von der Mosel (GER), Alberto Pindozzi (ITA), Johan Tuvstedt (SWE)

Present online: David Bartol (SLO), Ed Cesare (USA), Nicola Sironi (ITA)

1. **Approval of Minutes of 2025 meeting**

   Minutes of 2025 meeting were unanimously approved.

2. **Submissions**

   a) FIN 2 - WRS Fallback method
   MANCOM 1 - Weather Routing Scoring backup
   NED 6 - Fall back scoring option

   FIN 2 - The Committee considered the proposal to require a fallback scoring method in the Notice of Race or Sailing Instructions. The ITC proposed new ORC Rule 403.4 allowing another certificate single-number scoring option if WRS becomes impossible or impracticable owing to technical difficulties or circumstances beyond the reasonable control of the Race Committee. The Committee unanimously supported the ITC wording, which was considered to address the concerns raised by this submission.

   MANCOM 1 - The proposed Green Book backup provision was discussed alongside the ITC rule text. The Committee supported the ITC wording as the appropriate common solution. It was noted that the rule would govern the circumstances in which another scoring option could be used.

   NED 6 - The Committee considered the request to allow the race organizer to revert to APH or another ORC scoring option when conditions differ from the forecast. The Committee supported the ITC fallback wording as addressing this submission; the precise authority and limitations remain subject to the adopted rule.

   b) FIN 3 - Weather model selected for WRS

   The Committee supported the requirement to publish the weather model or model combination used for WRS before the race, without a fixed 24-hour deadline. The Finnish proposal for a specific deadline was withdrawn following discussion in the Offshore Classes and Events Committee.

   c) FIN 5 - Sail numbers

   The Committee raised no objection to the proposed clarification on sail numbers and national identification, noting existing requirements under RRS Appendix G.

d) GER 2 - WRS Course planning tool

Alberto Pindozzi demonstrated the functionality of RaceFlow 2.0, including the course planning and routing tools. The Committee noted that the new application addresses several aspects of the submission. However, certain requested functionalities remain unavailable and are not expected to be implemented in the near future.

e) GER 3 - Clarification of using WRS or APH

The Committee discussed simplified single-number scoring for races with varying conditions. The matter was considered in the wider discussion of weather-model selection and fallback options; no separate amendment was recorded.

f) MANCOM 2 - Offshore scoring single numbers

The Committee follows ITC and notes that the MANCOM 2 submission had been withdrawn after ITC comments.

g) MANCOM 4 - ORC Standard penalties

The Committee discussed developing graduated standard penalties for infringements of ORC rules, including percentage-based penalties. Zoran Grubiša and the technical working group will continue to work and bring a proposal to the 2027 meeting. No new penalty schedule was adopted.

h) NED 1 - Use of storm jibs

The Committee discussed the definition of the Offshore Special Regulations and the question of a storm jib used as a staysail when the OSR do not apply. The principle that a sail should not be treated as both a storm jib and a headsail was discussed. A small working group of Willem Ellemeet, Johan Tuvstedt and Alberto Pindozzi produced an ORC rule amendment wording:

208.6 Headsail complying with OSR 4.27.4 shall not be set in conjunction with any other sail set forwards of the forward mast spar.

i) NED 3 - WRS - Blended TCF

The Race Management Committee supports the development of alternative weather-based scoring methods, including blended scoring and Weather Prediction Scoring (WPS), to address situations where Weather Routing Scoring (WRS) may produce extreme or unrepresentative correction factors.

The Committee recommends that these methods be evaluated and subject to technical validation and approval by the relevant ORC bodies, included as initial or fallback scoring options in the 2027 ORC Race Management Guide.

The selection and application of scoring methods shall be governed by clearly defined procedures in the applicable race documents and rules.

j) NED 4 - WRS - Retroactive routing

The Committee supported the ability to repeat pre-race routing with exactly the original inputs to correct technical or input errors, such as an incorrect start time or a missing mark. This is not intended to permit rescoring on changed weather information. ORC will discuss implementation with PredictWind.

k) NED 5 - WRS - Post-race scoring

The submission was withdrawn.

l) TUR 1 - Long term availability of race results

The draft records that Turkey 1 was withdrawn but describes it as an offshore single-number scoring submission, whereas the Chair's agenda identifies TUR 1 as results archiving. The correct disposition and submission identification must be confirmed.

m) TUR 2 - Secondary certificate

The Committee discussed an opt-in/opt-out mechanism for two active certificates representing different configurations. The Committee supported the spirit of the submission and would like to see this being developed when possible. It was noted that the Rating Officers Committee supports this in principle but considers it too early as technical and administrative implementation will require a fair amount of work.

n) USA 7 - Guidance on WRS and scoring methods

The Committee supported additional guidance in the Race Management Guide, including early publication of the selected model and use of the latest appropriate forecast run. Matthew Gallagher offered to work with ORC staff on the wording.

o) ITA 3 - ORC Scorer

The Committee supported the submission as amended: ORC Scorer should be the recommended scoring software, rather than the sole permitted software. The new online scoring service and API arrangements were discussed.

p) SWE 2 - Race course design

The Committee supported including guidance in the Race Management Guide encouraging varied wind angles and suitable open-water course design. This was treated as a recommendation for the Guide, not a mandatory course-setting rule.

q) MANCOM 5 – ORC Light expansion

The Committee supported expansion of the ORC Light trial, with national implementation at each MNA's discretion and certificate validity restricted to the issuing country. Concerns were expressed by Germany, France, Finland and Estonia that separating Light boats into their own fleets could fragment participation.

3. Weather prediction scoring and further development

Willem Ellemeet and Andy Claughton presented Weather Prediction Scoring, developed together with a working party including Thomas Nilsson, Panayotis Papapostolou and Raymond Roesink, using a combined wind-distribution matrix for boats in a class to calculate correction factors based on the group or class, as a far better fallback method then APH and as an initial scoring method when weather forecasts are uncertain or extreme (very lite or very heavy). The advantage of this method is that it is based on the wind distribution that will be seen by the group or class, is able to soften the edges when near extremes by blending while still benefitting from the power of the ORC system to rate any boat on any windspeed at any wind angle.

The Committee discussed the method as an initial or fallback alternative to WRS, particularly where forecasts are extreme or unreliable. Concerns were expressed about premature implementation and the need for evidence. With the new RaceFlow app now in place and with

the data of a significant number of races sailed under WRS now available, a thorough analysis can be made.

The Committee agreed to test approximately 20 past races, including ORC title events, before a final technical recommendation. Willem Ellemeet was to prepare amended submission wording for a further Committee meeting at 14:45 the following day.

Members discussed its potential to reduce extreme correction factors while retaining weather sensitivity. Testing of historic race results was requested before deciding on implementation. Panayotis Papapostolou offered to rescore selected races, and Ed Cesare offered North American race data. The Committee also discussed whether the weather-model publication requirement should apply to WPS.

It was firmly stated that Weather Routing Scoring remains the best and most accurate scoring method when the weather forecast is reliable and that Weather Prediction Scoring is a less precise but a lot better alternative then APH.

4. Any other business

The Committee discussed allowing one additional sailor under 18 without affecting crew weight at non-championship events. No final rule change was recorded.

A working party on the future of offshore sailing and technology in cooperation with IRC was discussed. Romain Lanos and Willem Ellemeet volunteered to be part of this working party.

The Committee discussed the submission from ORC to World Sailing regarding RRS Case 78 and asked members to seek support through their MNAs for the proposed change concerning rating classes.

Eckhard von der Mosel and Willem Ellemeet will develop VHF communication guidance for inclusion in the Race Management Guide, drawing on Dutch and German protocols.

The Committee proposed short webinars and a hybrid Race Management Summit before the 2027 season to improve communication and understanding of WRS.