

2020 IRC CONGRESS AUSTRALIAN REPORT

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Author: Nicolas Degorce

Endorsement policy:

IRC rating certificates are endorsed in Australia. A survey was sent earlier this year to the IRC sailors to see if they would be interested by standard certificates and 73% of the answered were negative. Most of the clubs using IRC also replied they were strongly against a standard IRC. So IRC will stay endorsed in Australia.

Overview of IRC situation in Australia:

- IRC numbers:

Year	Number of IRC boats	Number of new boats	Percentage of new boat	Percentage of endorsed boat
2016	413	41	10%	95%
2017	429	54	13%	95%
2018	437	50	11%	95%
2019	440	44	10%	98%
2019 (31 st of august)	311	19	6%	97%
2020 (31st of august)	217	11	5%	98%

- IRC is used for inshore and offshore racing in Australia, but it's mainly used for national or states events. Only a small amount of club, usually big ones use IRC for club racing.
- A lot of interest for SH with the Sydney To Hobart new SH class. But not many applications because the Sydney to Hobart is still uncertain.
- The creation of SH class in the big events has also created a lot of protest from long term IRC members. Firstly because of a rumour saying that if you apply for a SH IRC certificate you will get a better number. Secondly because the SH Class can use the auto pilot which is not the case for the full crew class.
These complaints have led to a separation of the IRC SH class of the Sydney to Hobart from the full crew IRC Class. So IRC SH boat can not win the main price.
- The local rating used in the south part of country that is competing with IRC is slowly dying. This rating is replaced by ORC Club for small club and IRC for big ones.
- The uncertain Sydney to Hobart due to the states borders still closed is postponing the revalidation for most of the boats, but there is a good hope that the race will go ahead.