

# IRC Rating System - 2021 Annual Report to IRC Congress and World Sailing

## 1. IRC OVERVIEW

The IRC Rating System is managed by the IRC Rating Authority (RORC Rating Office & UNCL Centre de Calcul) and further administered by 42 additional rule authorities worldwide, on seven Continents, making it the most widely used Rating System available, with **IRC certificates issued in 44 countries**.

### ► IRC Boat and Certificate Numbers

Joint figures from RORC and UNCL show that at the end of August the overall total boats (new applications, revalidations, single event ratings (SERs)) rated is 3208 which is an increase of 15% (408 boats) from the end of August 2020. There are 4248 certificates issued.

The Coronavirus situation continues to affect the sailing season Worldwide and this is reflected in the IRC rated boat numbers for 2021. Encouragingly, there is a sign of recovery showing good activity Worldwide after the beginning of 2021. There is an expectation that some of the numbers will recover but not expected to be back to the regular number of annual rated boats for a while.

## 2. EVENTS AND CLASSES

IRC remains the principal International Rating System for a long list of events around the world, with the offshore classics, including among others the RORC Transatlantic Race, Rolex Fastnet Race, Rolex Sydney Hobart Race, Rolex Middle Sea Race, RORC Caribbean 600, Rolex Giraglia Race, Spi Ouest France, SNIM and the Voiles de Saint-Tropez using IRC as the rating system for the principal trophies.

There are many local inshore and offshore IRC racing events around the World from club events to IRC national and regional events. This report will highlight some of the major international events and for information on local events please refer to the individual country reports submitted to the annual IRC Congress on the IRC website: [ircrating.org/about/irc-congress/](http://ircrating.org/about/irc-congress/)

### ► 2020/2021 Events and Championships

In October 2020 there was the 41<sup>st</sup> Rolex Middle Sea Race organised by the Royal Malta Yacht Club under the authority of the Malta Sailing Federation and the Federazione Italiana Vela, with the



collaboration of the Royal Ocean Racing Club (RORC). The overall trophy is in IRC with 6 IRC Classes in total. The event also forms part of the RORC overall season points championships. In an uncertain 2020 there were 50 boats competing with the overall winner Elusive 2 a Beneteau First 45 repeating their success from 2019. In 2021 there are currently well over 100 IRC boats entered with the race due to start on 23 October.

RORC (UK) and UNCL (France)

Report produced by RORC Rating Office [info@rorcrating.com](mailto:info@rorcrating.com)

[www.ircrating.org](http://www.ircrating.org)

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The 2021 Rolex Fastnet Race organised by the Royal Ocean Racing Club (RORC) started on 8 August 2021. While the pre-race entry list at one point exceeded 450, given Brexit, the pandemic and its travel restrictions, and, closer to the start, a severe forecast, it was impressive that when the race started on Sunday 8 August still 337 yachts set off. This included over 250 IRC boats starting with additional classes of IMOCA, Class40, Multihulls etc. Tom Kneen and his young team on JPK11.80 Sunrise were overall winners of the 2021 Rolex Fastnet Race and recipient of its top trophy, the Fastnet Challenge Cup, as well as winning IRC Two.



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The 2021 Giraglia Rolex Cup was organized by the Yacht Club Italiano, together with Yacht Club Sanremo and Société Nautique de Saint-Tropez, with the sponsorship of UNCL and Yacht Club de France. It is a major offshore race in the Mediterranean IRC International Race Program with usually more than 120 IRC boats participating. In this particular year, and due to the pandemic situation last year, it was not possible to break participation records.



While the current general trend is more towards offshore racing, fans of Windward/Leeward and short coastal races meet at two major events: Spi Ouest France in the Atlantic and the Semaine Nautique Internationale de Méditerranée in the Med. Spi Ouest France is organized by the Société Nautique de La Trinité (SNT), while the « SNIM » is organized by the Société Nautique de Marseille (SNM).



© Marc Olivier – Ouest France



© Société Nautique de Marseille

Both SNT and SNM are key IRC partners, and both races are sponsored by UNCL. Tradition has it that these two races are organized during Easter week but the two organizing clubs have been able to adapt to the health context and to postpone the races. The Spi Ouest France 2021 took place from October 7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>. SNIM will be held from October 29<sup>th</sup> to November 1<sup>st</sup>, with an average of 130 IRC entries (Crew, Double or One handed).

Organized by the Société Nautique de Saint-Tropez, Les Voiles de Saint-Tropez 2021 was held from 25<sup>th</sup> September to 9<sup>th</sup> October. The race brings together the most beautiful and prestigious boats in the Mediterranean. Classic yachts and hi-tech IRC racers from the latest generation offer a unique spectacle in the bay of Saint-Tropez for two weeks (Week 2 is especially dedicated to the biggest boats: IRC Maxi Yachts and Wallys). This year 180 IRC boats entered the race (including 49 IRC boats on Week 2).

#### ► 2021 Maxi Yacht Rolex Cup

The 2021 Maxi Yacht Rolex Cup featured a 44 boat fleet which, over the course of the week long regatta, delivered an impressive display of prowess and performance. The regatta was organized by the Yacht Club Costa Smeralda (YCCS) in conjunction with the International Maxi Association (IMA). Divided into five principal classes based on size and potential, the winners were: Magic Carpet Cubed (Maxi); Cannonball (Mini Maxi 1); Capricorno (Mini Maxi 2) and Lyra (Mini Maxi 3).

#### ► 2021 & 2022 IRC European Championship

The 2021 IRC European Championship was due to be held in the Mediterranean in Hyeres, France together with UNCL, COYCH and Yacht Club de Porquerolles. Unfortunately the event was cancelled due to the local Coronavirus situation in June 2021 which meant it was impossible to run the racing.

The 2022 IRC European Championship will be held at in Breskens, Netherlands alongside the Breskens Sailing Weekend. The 7th edition of the IRC European Championship will take place over four days of racing in late August 2022.

#### ► 2022 IRC/ORC World Championship

The 2022 IRC/ORC World Championship is scheduled from 23 June to 1 July 2022. A large fleet is expected to take part in Porto Cervo with organization provided by the Yacht Club Costa Smeralda.



### 3. IRC CONGRESS

The IRC Congress will meet on 16 October in person at the Royal Ocean Racing Club and via video conference call. The IRC Congress will discuss the organisation of IRC and IRC Events around the World. The proposed technical development will be presented and approved. There will also be considerations of the IRC European Championships and IRC/ORC World Championships for the future. Papers can be seen on the IRC website: [ircrating.org/about/irc-congress/](http://ircrating.org/about/irc-congress/)

### 4. TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENTS 2021

#### ► IRC Program and Certificate Processing

The new IRC processing program in 2021 has worked well with a new certificate format and processing. There have been further developments throughout the year with more data checks and tools for research. The program and calculation methods will be updated for the 2022 IRC formulation and rule, and development will continue in 2022.

#### ► IRC Technical Committee

The IRC Technical Committee consists of nominated representatives from RORC and UNCL. The committee continues its many discussions via digital meetings etc. Rule changes have been developed to present to the IRC Congress in October and a good number of IRC rating calculation developments are being discussed.

#### ► IRC Rating and Rule Changes for 2022

There are proposed rating changes for the following areas:

- Rating of larger, light fast boats (e.g. TP52, Volvo65/70, Maxi72 etc.)
- Renewable sources of power
- Manual power and automatic steering devices
- Whisker Poles
- Headsails

The final modifications will be confirmed at the IRC Congress and will be published later in the year for sailors to understand the changes.

#### ► Rating Changes Beyond 2022 and for Further Consideration

Technical Committee research continues into the following areas: crew number, keel types, hull types, foils, number of headsails and aerodynamic drag.

### 5. MEASUREMENT AND RULE AUTHORITIES

We continue to help our Rule Authorities around the world who look after the network of IRC measurers while offering resources for appointing and training measurers. The work on UMS with ORC and World Sailing continues and we maintain the use of IHC for sail measurement around the world expanding its use for IRC.

*Note: IRC Fleet statistics on next page*

## 6. IRC FLEET STATISTICS

To provide suitable statistics for comparative purposes we have included the total number of certificates issued as well as the number of boats rated for each of the last 5 years in a table below. From this we can see that the predicted number of certificates for 2021 is in the region of 3,700 worldwide, to approximately 3,500 boats. Information on fleet distribution is shown on p.5 below.

### IRC Certificate Distribution at 31/8/21

IRC area	Country	Continent	Region	To end of certificate year					To 31 August			
				2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2020 to 31/8/20	2021 to 31/8/21	boats 2021 - 2020	if >10 boats % difference
501	ARG	S America	South	2	0	10	5					
401-407	AUS	Oceania	South	371	388	442	439	380	192	173	-19	-9.9
204-205	BEL	Europe	North	48	48	56	45	16	14	29	15	107.1
244	BRA	S America	North	46	49	61	89	57	45	7	-38	-84.4
206	BUL	Europe	North	28	18	20	21	20	17	26		
136	CAN	N America	North	32	24	27	22	3	4	1		
511	CHI	S America	South	18	13	17	20	1				
207-208	CHN	Asia	North	80	72	86	93	20	6			
512	COL	S America	South	0	0	6	4					
209	CRO	Europe	North	12	6	12	10	5	3	3		
138	DEN	Europe	North			4	1					
235-236	ESP	Europe	North	110	106	96	115	63	60	75	15	25.0
139	FIN	Europe	North	12	16	19	12			1		
212-217	FRA	Europe	North	761	694	603	608	469	409	427	18	4.4
101-117	GBR	Europe	North	1608	1472	1424	1399	950	897	1083	186	20.7
140	GER	Europe	North	30	44	47	38	11	10	23	13	130.0
218	GRE	Europe	North	39	22	23	25	6	6	22	16	266.7
410	HKG	Asia	South	77	84	84	84	65	53	58		
421	IND	Asia	South	1	11	16	11	7	2	1		
118	IRL	Europe	North	310	326	301	293	204	192	243	51	26.6
144	ISL	Europe	North	12	13	13	11	12	12	10		
146	ISR	Europe	North	2	1	2	0					
219-220	ITA	Europe	North	526	468	459	440	269	135	217	82	60.7
148	JPN	Asia	North	293	296	269	286	225	214	226	12	5.6
150	KOR	Asia	North		1	3	1					
147	MLT	Europe	North	48	42	49	33	32	24	28		
242	MRI	Africa	North	13	5	9	0					
243	NCAL	Oceania	North	5	1	0	0					
141	NED	Europe	North	139	126	118	113	74	73	67		
142	NOR	Europe	North	2	6	9	1	1	1			
408	NZL	Oceania	South	25	14	13	1	1				
412	PHI	Asia	South	1	1	6	6	2		3		
228	ROU	Europe	North		10	1	3	2		3		
409	RSA	Africa	South	34	6							
229	RUS	Asia	North	11	10	13	11	10	5	9		
414	SE Asia	Asia	South	86	70	92	78	16	10	17		
234	SLO	Europe	North		1	0	1	1				
237	SUI	Europe	North		5	4	10	6	5	6		
143	SWE	Europe	North		5	12	4	3	3	7		
153	TPE	Asia	North	5	5	5	9	8	8	7		
238-240	TUR	Europe	North	289	282	281	291	260	185	152	-33	-17.8
416	UAE	Africa	South	48	39	41	38	45				
509	URU	S America	South	15	14	18	17	18	11		-11	-100.0
120-133	USA	N America	North	180	165	157	156	68	67	11	-56	-83.6
152	Worldwide			56	68	57	70	39	30	33		
	Other	N/A	N/A	11	0	8	3	1	1	6		
			<b>Totals:</b>	<b>5386</b>	<b>5047</b>	<b>4993</b>	<b>4917</b>	<b>3370</b>	<b>2694</b>	<b>2974</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>10.4</b>
			As % of previous year:	93.1	93.7	98.9	98.5	68.5	79.9	110.4		