

**2024 IRC CONGRESS  
AUSTRALIAN REPORT**

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**Author:** Chris Zonca

**Overview of IRC in Australia:**

Table 1 - Revalidations and New IRC Primary and Secondary Applications<sup>1</sup>

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of IRC boats</b>	<b>Number of new boats</b>	<b>Percentage of New Applications to Revaluations</b>
2018	446	62	14%
2019	329	30	9%
2020	283	33	12%
2021	307	39	13%
2022	364	51	14%
2023	335	48	14%

For year ending June 2024, there has been a slight drop in the number of revalidations. This reduction is likely due to the timing of the data analysis, having been performed prior to the end of September. The months since the start of the new rating year do show similar numbers to those from the previous year. It is expected the number of active certificates will increase slightly in 2024 with the introduction of standard certificates in Australia. The percentage of new certificates relative to revalidations remains constant as seen in the Table 1.

Australian Sailing (AS) is working on several initiatives to improve the quality of measurements and reduce owner anxiety about the ratings of other yachts they are racing against. The initiative from the Rule Authority to ensure all the load cells used throughout the country are correctly selected, calibrated and used. Prior to weighing days, measurers have been requested to submit the documentation for the scales to the AS Rating Office for approval to use.

The guideline for determining whether a yacht requires weighing is being finalised. We have conducted several town hall style meetings with all the appointed measurers and with the primary stakeholders regarding the implementation of these weighing guidelines. It is expected we will have released the guideline by the date of the forthcoming congress.

On the racing front, after of plenty of encouragement, Australian sailing clubs are beginning to appoint and implement Technical Committees to monitor rule compliance at regattas and offshore races. At the Australian IRC Championships in February this year, the involvement of a technical committee inspecting the fleet was very well received by all competitors. As the chair of this committee, it was interesting to see how many of the yachts were not fully compliant with many not having correctly measured sails and bands missing from spars. The use of technical committees will continue.

### **Looking Forward**

The introduction of standard certificates has not yet shown any real change in the number of certificates issued. This is expected to change as the year progresses. The Australian IRC Championships is being hosted by the Derwent Sailing Squadron in 2025 immediately after the 2024 Sydney to Hobart. A strong fleet is expected to compete.

Chris Zonca

Rating Officer, Australian Sailing

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