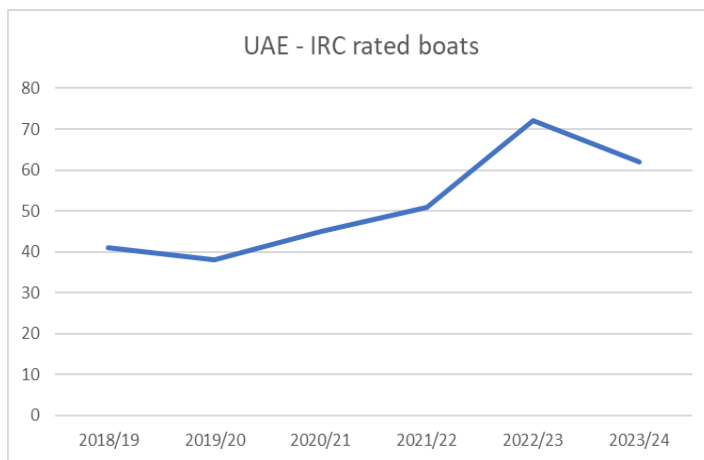


2024 IRC CONGRESS - UNITED ARAB EMIRATES REPORT

The IRC racing season in the UAE runs from October until May. Whilst we are geographically in the northern hemisphere, our certificate validity follows the southern hemisphere system.

Number of boats with IRC certificates



It is assumed that the total number of keelboats in the UAE is around 200 - 250. Around 140 are moored at the Dubai Offshore Sailing Club with the remainder spread out in marinas across the country.

The UAE IRC fleet numbers have shown a decline in 2023, however the overall trend remains positive.

This number of certificates represents somewhere between 20 - 25% of all sailing boats in the UAE, with around 40% of the boats moored at DOSC having an IRC certificate

Year	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
IRC rated boats	39	41	38	45	51	72	62

- Split IRC 3 into Division 3A/3B using displacement length Ratio, positive amongst the Division 3 fleet.
- Short Handed Series, we race everyone around the same course which meant we could run an overall IRC score as well as have division results.
- Amended our Club class rating system during short-handed series allowing a total crew of 4 persons per boat. This acts as a feeder for less confident sailors to start racing before moving into IRC.
- Drop in numbers largely because SB20 Worlds in Dubai in 2023 meant that most SBs focussed on OD racing last season rather than joining IRC.

2023 IRC Middle East Regatta

This season saw the second IRC Middle East Regatta which was run over two days in December. There were thirty-two entries across three divisions. The first day had three inshore races, the second day started with one inshore race and was followed with a coastal race.

2022/23 season - Number of IRC races/entrants:

Event	IRC Entrants	IRC Divisions	Race days	Total races
Commodore's Cup	43	5	9	24
Coastal series	38	5	3	3
Double-handed series	21	3	6	6
Short handed trophy	4	1	1	3
Offshore series	11	2	6	5
IRC evening series	7	1	5	5
IRC Middle East Regatta	29	4	2	5
Airbus Spring Regatta	29	4	2	5
Dubai to Muscat Race	18	4	3	2
D2M race to the corner	18	1	1	1

Total days IRC racing	38
Total IRC division race starts	220

- Average IRC race days held per month during the season: **4.75**
- Average race-day attendance as a percentage of overall IRC fleet: **35%**

Annual weighing and measuring:

Each September we run an annual IRC weighing and measuring weekend which is free of charge for any boat owners, whether members of DOSC or not. The number of boats that have signed up over the last six years are given below:

Year	2019		2020		2021		2022		2023		2024	
Measurement type	Hull	Sails	Hull	Sails	Hull	Sails	Hull	Sails	Hull	Sails	Hull	Sails
Boats measured	8	11	11	19	14	14	11	19	9	13	9	13

There are eight recognised IRC measurers in the UAE. We will aim to recruit one or two more next year so that we maintain a reasonable pool of talent within the country.

The measuring process has been gradually refined over the years. What took us two days in 2019 was completed in a single morning in 2024. There was an uptick in numbers in 2020, driven by a push to move boats from Club Class to IRC, and again in 2021 with the commencement of a new IRC Cruiser division specifically to cater for larger, more cruising-orientated boats that wished to race together.

We can arrange for boats and sails to be measured on request during the season. On average this may amount to two or three hulls and five sets of sails each year.



2023/24 revalidations

At the time of writing we are still receiving renewals for the new season. We expect the number of IRC certificates to be issued this season to be similar to last year, give or take 5%.

IRC feedback

In general the fleet seems to accept that IRC creates a fair and level playing field given the broad range of boats and weather/sea conditions it caters for around the world.

There have been occasional concerns raised that some boat types rate better than others. This is likely to be down to a combination of the courses we've run in the past and our sailing conditions which are, 95% of the time, 10-12 knots of wind, sunshine and flat seas. The former we have been finding a better balance with; the latter we are simply grateful to have.