

IRC Rating System - 2025 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 & YCF Centre de Calcul) and further administered by 43 additional rule authorities worldwide, on seven Continents, making it the most widely used Rating System available, with IRC certificates issued in 35 countries in 2025.

► IRC Boat and Certificate Number

Joint figures from RORC and YCF show that at the end of August the overall total valid rated boats (including single event ratings (SERs)) is 3484, this is a reduction of 2% (74 boats) from the end of August 2024. In total, 4958 certificates have been issued to 3484 boats since 1 January in 2025. The secondary certificate permitted by rule 8.2.1 continues to prove popular with 283 boats holding a valid secondary certificate on 31 August 2025, in 18 countries.

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 the RORC Transatlantic Races, Rolex Fastnet Race, Rolex Sydney Hobart Race, Rolex Middle Sea Race, RORC Caribbean 600, Aegean 600, Rolex Giraglia Race, Baltic Sea Race, and regattas such as Cowes Week, Hamilton Island Race Week, Maxi Yacht Rolex Cup, Phuket King's Cup Regatta, China Cup Regatta, Spi Ouest France, SNIM, the Voiles de Saint-Tropez and Cap Martinique using IRC as the rating system for the principal trophies.

In 2025 the Admiral's Cup was revived by RORC, using IRC rating for scoring. 15 teams of 2 boats competed from 12 countries. The Event Technical Committee undertook three days of equipment inspection and rigorous post-race checks each day. The next Admiral's Cup will be held in 2027. In parallel the Yacht Club Costa Smeralda announced the revival of the Sardinia Cup, as similar team event to be held in 2026 under IRC.

Prestigious events like the Admiral's Cup and Sardinia Cup demand extensive preparation and active participation from both Rating Offices including on the Event Technical Committees; the strong positive image they create for the IRC fully justifies this.

There are thousands of boats club racing around the world using IRC rating. For more information, please refer to the individual [country reports](#) submitted to the annual IRC Congress.

For news about IRC regional and championships please visit [IRC News](#).

3. IRC CONGRESS

The IRC Congress will meet on 11 October 2025 in person in Cowes, UK, 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. IRC Rule Changes proposed by the IRC Technical Committee, and any submissions received from Congress members, will be presented for approval. The proposed technical development will be presented and approved. There will also be considerations of the Championships for the future. Papers can be seen on the [IRC website](#).

4. TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENTS 2026

► IRC Program and Certificate Processing

The IRC processing program continues to work well, and further updates to the [IRC valid boat data](#) for boats rated since 1 January 2024, providing relevant information for competitors and for measurers

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 2026 IRC formulation and rule, and development will continue in 2026.

► IRC Technical Committee

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

► IRC Rating and Rule Changes for 2026

The IRC Rule and formulation have worked very well this year with only the need for some minor changes to the rule and formulation. Proposed rule/rating changes for the following areas:

RULES:

- Rules removing gender specific wording referring to a boat.
- Updating references to the World Sailing Advertising Code.
- Rules to clarify headsail foot offset measurement.
- Rules for permitting adding lifeline to boats when event rules require them.
- Rules to update age date definition to be consistent with hull shell definition
- Rules to update hull shell definition to not include a transom lip or interceptor.
- Rules to clarify the spinnaker pole length (SPL) measurement point at the mast.
- Update mainsail seven-eighths leech point to be consistent with ORC etc.
- Change of twin rudder relative angle before they are considered foils (IRC Rule Appendix F)

RATING (ongoing, amongst others):

- Rating of interceptors to not reset age date due to hull shell modification.
- Identification and rating of scow bows on modern boats.
- Rating of Code sails used to windward.
- Rating of keel trim tabs for modern boats

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 Rating Offices will be happy to receive any requests that the rule authorities may make in this regard.

The [IRC Measurement Manual](#) is updated when necessary to reflect any changes in IRC rules and definitions, or measurement practices. It includes measurement procedure and policy guidance for measurement of hull, appendages, rig and sails.

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. The Rating Offices have worked with World

Sailing and ORC to have a consistent sail measurement stamp for all systems under the umbrella of the UMS. This makes it simpler for sailmakers to build sails for both systems.

6. RACE MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

We continue to offer advice on IRC race management, both directly to event organisers and through published [Race Management Guidelines](#). The Rating Authorities monitor events and their use of the IRC Rule and update guidance to the organising authorities when we see issue arise or further advice is needed. The published guidelines are updated when necessary to reflect changes in IRC rules or race management trends.

7. 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 the end of 2025 is in the region of 6000 worldwide, to approximately 4000 boats. Information on fleet distribution is shown below.

IRC Certificate Numbers at 31/8/25

	CUMULATIVE FIGURES - NUMBER OF CERTIFICATES (ALL TYPES)											
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
2021	180	607	1376	2012	2711	3450	4018	4248	4667	5097	5316	5440
2022	656	1208	1963	2774	3490	4105	4526	4853	5217	5570	5787	5926
2023	757	1313	2310	3065	3789	4424	4885	5120	5422	5787	6025	6171
2024	664	1301	2267	3027	3743	4202	4625	4967	5319	5701	5917	6116
2025	654	1291	2019	2852	3619	4197	4717	4958				

Including: New application, Revalidation, Amendment, Trial, Secondary, Single Event Rating

Note: IRC Fleet statistics table on next page

IRC Boat Distribution at 31/8/25

Full certificates only, excludes SEC (worldwide) and SER (GBR/FRA)													
IRC area	Country	Continent	Region	End of certificate year						To 31 August			
				2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2024 to 31 Aug	2025 to 31 Aug	boats 2025 - 2024	if >10 boats % difference
101 - 117	GBR	Europe	North	1399	950	1133	1178	1181	1117	1086	1040	-46	-4.2
118	IRL	Europe	North	293	204	254	274	264	254	245	252	7	2.9
120 - 133	USA	N America	North	156	68	14	22	30	22	20	33	13	65.0
136	CAN	N America	North	22	3	1	1	0	0				
138	DEN	Europe	North	1			2	2	1			0	
139	FIN	Europe	North	12		2	14	4	16	16	4	-12	-75.0
140	GER	Europe	North	38	11	25	24	41	31	26	46	20	76.9
141	NED	Europe	North	113	74	74	70	90	64	63	71	8	12.7
142	NOR	Europe	North	1	1	1	2	35	22	22	31	9	40.9
143	SWE	Europe	North	4	3	10	11	7	12	12	5	-7	-58.3
144	ISL	Europe	North	11	12	10	9	6	8	8	5	-3	
146	ISR	Europe	North	0				1	1	1		-1	
147	MLT	Europe	North	33	32	33	31	39	41	35	35	0	0.0
148	JPN	Asia	North	286	225	230	266	258	237	218	218	0	0.0
150	KOR	Asia	North	1					3	3		-3	
152 & 452	Worldwide			70	39	54	57	60	63	49	56	7	14.3
153	TPE	Asia	North	9	8	8	18	21	19	18	11	-7	-38.9
203	AUT	Europe	North			1							
204 - 205	BEL	Europe	North	45	16	31	40	41	46	43	38	-5	-11.6
206	BUL	Europe	North	21	20	27	31	29	28	22	26	4	18.2
207 - 208	CHN	Asia	North	93	20	0	17	64	42	8	17	9	
209	CRO	Europe	North	10	5	10	6	5	6	5	4	-1	
210	CZE	Europe	North			2	2	1				0	
211	EST	Europe	North						3	2	1		
212 - 217	FRA	Europe	North	608	469	492	562	591	557	533	560	27	5.1
218	GRE	Europe	North	25	6	24	29	23	27	25	17	-8	-32.0
219 - 220	ITA	Europe	North	440	269	320	317	360	331	274	237	-37	-13.5
223	LTU	Europe	North			1	1	1	1			0	
225	MON	Europe	North					1	1	1	1	0	
226	POL	Europe	North			1	4	5			1	1	
227	POR	Europe	North					1				0	
228	ROU	Europe	North	3	2	8	3	2	1			0	
229	RUS	Asia	North	11	10	18	11	12	13	11	7	-4	-36.4
234	SLO	Europe	North	1	1	1		2				0	
235 - 236	ESP	Europe	North	115	63	77	104	106	105	97	94	-3	-3.1
237	SUI	Europe	North	10	6	6	9	7	4	3	2	-1	
238 - 240	TUR	Europe	North	291	260	244	287	294	278	242	173	-69	-28.5
241	UKR	Europe	North					1				0	
242	MRI	Africa	North	0				10				0	
244	BRA	S America	North	89	57	7	2						
401 - 407	AUS	Oceania	South	439	380	339	372	324	321	189	187	-2	-1.1
408	NZL	Oceania	South	1	1	1	3	7				0	
409	RSA	Africa	South				8						
410	HKG	Asia	South	84	65	65	77	74	68	59	52	-7	-11.9
412	PHI	Asia	South	6	2	7	8	10	9		2	2	
414	SE Asia	Asia	South	78	16	31	58	65	61	17	21	4	23.5
416	UAE	Africa	South	38	45	51	72	62	65	6	2	-4	
421	IND	Asia	South	11	7	15	11	11	2		10	10	
501	ARG	S America	South	5									
505	MEX	S America	South			1							
507	MRI	Africa	South					1					
509	URU	S America	South	17	18	12	10	2					
510	NCL	Oceania	South	0		12	2		27		23		
511	CHI	S America	South	20	1	7	36	32	22	1	1	0	
512	COL	S America	South	4				8	4	2		-2	
Totals:				4914	3369	3660	4061	4191	3933	3362	3283	-79	-2.3
As % of previous year:					68.6	108.6	111.0	103.2	93.8		97.7		

RORC (UK) and YCF (France).

www.ircrating.org