



2026 REPORT OF THE NETHERLANDS

A large part of this report is similar to 2025. However there are some trends that are reason to be sharp.

In the Netherlands IRC is run mainly as dual scoring with ORC, except for 'Damen Breskens Sailing Weekend' in the south of the Netherlands where IRC is the primary system – also because part of their market is the Belgium racing community.

There also is a substantial number of Dutch boats that is mostly active around the Solent or in the Med.

The general trend where high level regatta's have been attracting less boats seems to have stabilized. Our IRC1 class (>1.050) seems very steady. Where in 2025 our IRC2 class appeared to have stabilized, 2026 seems to show a drop again.

For Breskens Sailing weekend in 2024 we thought it would be best to combine IRC2 (1.000 tot 1.050) and IRC3 (<1.000). In 2025 we actually scored both classes combined and had a good group. In 2026 there were only 8 boats for IRC2 and none for IRC3. Only in IRC1 (10 boats) a national championship was awarded as our rules state that you need at least 15 boats in the class or at least 75 crew. Please note that a part of these boats are from Belgium.

The large regatta's had good attendance. Several smaller regattas had to be cancelled due to lack of entries or race committees. Several more local and around the can races where well attended but mostly with our local Yardstick SW as the system.

2025 was a Fastnet year which normally means that the number of certificates are usually higher.

In 2026 our MNA moved to a registration of boats rather than certificates. This gives a different result in comparison with what was reported in 2025 and before. This can be explained by the fact that uptneeds to be further analyzed but would suggest that the decline of racing yachts at a higher level is continuing.

As reported in 2025

2025 (as per moment of reporting)	123 certificates
2024	112 certificates
2023	188 certificates
2022	98 certificates

As reported in 2026

Categorie	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026 ytd
IRC Standard	27	92	66	73	58
IRC Secondary	1	7	7	12	9
Total	28	99	73	85	67

The trend that more and more boats are preferring the local Yardstick solution is also continuing. A lot of owners and potential participants rightly or wrongly perceive racing under a handicap system, whether IRC or ORC as complicated, because you have to get your boat measured and you need to comply with safety regulations which is obviously not true.

As data becomes better, it appears that part of the trend is also that owners change or sell boats but that simply not enough new boats are sold.

The trend (as reported in earlier years) that we also see more and more former owners moving to one design racing with boats like J/80 and Finn also seems to be a bit on the rebound. Double Handed sailing seemed less popular. This year the Dutch National Championship was combined with the North Sea Regatta and was sailed.

The ORC Double Handed Worlds in Scheveningen was held under the most beautiful weather conditions, if not a bit light. The fleet was international but we would have hoped to see more the 30 boats participate. We realize that ORC and IRC are commercial rivals but we also believe that the biggest threat is the decline of participation across the board so we push both systems without prejudice.

Handicap systems in general should try and aim more with rules and regulation for the majority of the fleet rather than focus less on the top end of the fleet.

Last year we reported that the Belgium and Dutch fleets were growing closer together and participating in each others regattas. This is unchanged, however participation in both countries was less than previous years.

No significant progress was made to further develop the cooperation between both countries.

We should encourage more cooperation to promote the success of regattas in the Belgium and Dutch area's.

Below is an overview of the major Dutch events and participation. It should be noted that the Antwerp Race still needs to be held:

IRC 1 - Stand Noordzee Club Competitie Verbondsbezem 2026



Plaats		Zeilnummer	Boothnaam	Type	Schipper	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Totaal	Hoogste
1	NED 7084	Olympix	Landmark 43 mod		Hugo Gommers	26	28	27	24	22								153	81
2	NED 17001	Van Uden	Ker 46		Laura van Veen	24			26	26	23							127	80
3	NED 1112	Jack Rabbit	J/112e		Rutger Krüger	25												78	78
4	NED 1077	CheckMate	MAT 1070		Michel Dorsman	23			25	28	22							165	77
5	NED 8935	Moana	J/122e GP		Frans v Cappelle	21			27	23								71	71
6	GBR 1513L	Euphoria	Grand Soleil 43		Memo Vercouteren	22			23	24	21							112	69
7	BEL 455	NRJ-Ball	Elan 400		Emile Jacobs				22	25								68	68
8	BEL 3901	Alegria	Grand Soleil 39R		Tibor Janssens													0	0
9	BEL 9982	Anne Bonny	Swan 45 MkII		Sigrid Huyghe													0	0
10	BEL 4343	Antilope	Grand Soleil 43 BC		Luc Feremans													21	0
11	BEL 450	Aquavit			Franklin Wagemans													0	0
12	BEL 2729	Athoma	Dehler 300D		Laurent de Kerckhove													0	0
13	NED 8254	Barcarolle 2	Salona 42		Jaap Gelling													0	0
14	SWE 33	Barracuda	Dehler 41		Harry Rek													0	0
15	NED 8135	Bateleur	Bashford 41		Marco de Bat			24	22									46	0
16	NED 20002	Boudragon	Open 60		Hans Bouscholte													0	0
17	BEL 4050	Byron II	First 40		Nathalie de Keyser													0	0
18	NED 1111	Ibex	J/111		Jeroen Visser													0	0
19	NED 14545	Emotions	Swan 45		George Westerkamp													0	0
20	GER 7759	GINGKO	H 39		Dirk Clasen													0	0
21	BEL 299	Independent Bear	Corby Yacht Custom		Eric Van Campenhout													0	0
22	NED 112	Jet Rebel	J/122e		Arend Jan Velsink													23	0
23	BEL 2400	Jsoif	J/111		Nicolas Boel													0	0
24	BEL 333	Just Fine	J/122e GP		Florent Oosterynck													0	0
25	NED 8900	Karma	Agile 42		Maarten Jan Reijnders													0	0
26	NED 67	K-Force Jr	Cape 31		Thomas de Kraker													29	0
27	BEL 4701	Moana	First 47.7		Francois Goubau													27	0
28	BEL 1802	MonAqua	Prima 38		Jan Alleman													0	0
29	BEL 385	Mother Lynx	Reflex 38		Jan-Jacob Muyls													0	0
30	NED 9102	Narwal	J/112e		Ubbo Neisingh													0	0
31	BEL 9112	Njord	J/122e		Paul Jonckheere													48	0
32	MLT 47	Otra Vez	J/122		Uneco de Meester				23									0	0
33	GBR 4512R	People	Farr 45		Joost Smits													0	0
34	GER 443	Phantom	ONE TON Farr		Justi Rissanen													0	0
35	BEL 5355	Pinta 42	Rodman 42		Dirk Hellemans													0	0
36	BEL 9852	Ragazza (4)	Mills 37		Jan Gabriel													0	0
37	BEL 7111	Raquero	Grand Soleil 45		Karel Verhulst													0	0
38	BEL 1517	Rayo2	Comet 45		Wouter Borghijs													0	0
39	NED 66	RED66	Class 40		Hans Brouwer													0	0
40	BEL 4528	Samantaga			Dries Van Den Abeele													0	0
41	NED 8910	SK-01	Waarschip 1012 LD		Do Tetteroo													0	0
42	BEL 16500	Snelle Vliet	Grand Soleil 43		Emiel van Hemeldonck													0	0
43	NED 3040	Spitfire	J/121		Frederic de Vlaser													0	0
44	NED 7030	T Heiner II	Maxfun 35		Lies de Rouw													0	0
45	NED 8427	Vesper	First 40		Eveline Heijning-Nederhof													0	0
46	NED 8489	Windshift	Variaanta 44		Zeevellers v Marken													0	0
47	NED 4416	Xantho	XP44		Renco Schilderick				21	DNF								21	0
48	SA 2371	Zeus	Fast 42		Martin Lossie													0	0

Aantal deelnemers per wedstrijd en in groen het aantal unieke deelnemers

6 0 0 7 6 3 0 0 2 0 3 0 9 0 0 0 0 14 6

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