

6 International Race Officer (IRO)

This section provides the qualifications and competences required for appointment as International Race Officer (IRO).

Role of IRO

6.1 Overall

The title of “International Race Officer” is awarded by World Sailing to persons who meet the criteria set out in the World Sailing regulations 31. Their role (title) in the event could be the following in according to the World Sailing Race Management Manual and the Race Management Policy:

- a** Principal Race Officer (PRO) responsible for the overall race management where there are multiple courses.
- b** Course Representative (CR) appointed by World Sailing, an MNA or Class Association to oversee the work of a race committees on a single course area.
- c** Course Race Officer (CRO) a local race officer responsible for the race management team on a single course area.
- d** Deputy Race Officer (DRO) a local race officer working with the Course Race Officer on the race committee signal vessel.
- e** Assistant Race Officer (ARO) a local race officer, usually on the start pin vessel, or finish vessel working closely with the Course Race officer.
- f** International Technical Official (ITO) World Sailing appointment other than PRO or CR at World Sailing events.

When an International Race Officer is the person in charge of the race management of the event the primary responsibility is to ensure that the competition is run according to the standards of WS and classes involved.

The role of the International Race Officer will vary according to the makeup of the race management team.

International Race Officers bring additional experience and expertise to an event. The tasks include, but are not limited to, those listed in the three sub-sections below.

Normally, (a), (b) and (c) is the final decision-maker over any race management related questions or disputes concerning the conduct of the competition.

Before the event

- a** supervise any race management aspects in the agreement with the organizing authority,
- b** gain an overview of all aspects of the race management, including but not limited to race areas, classes involved, race committee equipment and event personnel,
- c** advise and assist on the specification and technical aspects of the competition,
- d** consult and assist in the appointment of local race officers, deputies, assistant race officers and other race committee members,
- e** consult the format of competition and the schedule for the event where appropriate,
- f** consult the rules and regulations for the event (including notice of race, sailing instructions and any other race documents),
- g** consult and approve event documents related to race management,
- h** advise and approve the specification of all race committee vessels,
- i** advise and approve the race management equipment required to deliver the event,
- j** consult and advise of any race committee volunteer programme,
- k** consult results delivery software.

During the event

- a** arrive before the event in order to assist and approve final preparations of the race management team,
- b** ensure that the race officers act as a coordinated team,
- c** ensure good communication with competitors and coaches,
- d** chair daily meetings of the race management teams,
- e** chair the race committee,
- f** liaise with:
 - (i) the Technical Delegate, when appointed, and local race officers to ensure that WS race management policies and best practice are implemented;
 - (ii) the chief measurer or chief equipment inspector to be aware of any measurement issues;
 - (iii) the jury chairman to anticipate any difficult rule situations linked to race management;
- g** consider necessity and consequences of any changes to race documents before approving and publishing,
- h** ensure that results are published in a timely and adequate manner,
- i** in general, remain aware of any issues affecting the smooth and fair running of the races and to take action accordingly.

After the event

- a** Send the Race Officer Regatta Report for WS office, including recommendations for the event in future.
- b** Give other written feedback which may be useful to WS, event organisers and other parties involved.

Specific Qualifications Required

6.2 A candidate for first appointment as International Race Officer shall have complied in the 4 years prior to 14 October of the year of application with the following requirements:

- a** attended a WS Race Management Seminar;
- b** have knowledge of matters affecting the safety of competitors in respect of race management;
- c** passed the WS examination for the discipline in accordance with Regulation 31.11;
- d** served as Race Officer responsible for the management of the races on the water (that is, Course Race Officer (CRO) or Course Representative (CR)) at the following events:
 - (i) four principal events. Notwithstanding this requirement, a candidate may count no more than two events in a 4 year period at which he/she served as an International Technical Official (ITO) on the race management team at the Olympic Games, Paralympic Games or Youth Olympic Games, or as Principal Race Officer (PRO), Deputy Race Officer (DRO), Course Representative (CR) in events listed in Regulation 25.8.10; and
 - (ii) four other events.
- e** included with the application a letter of recommendation from a class association or organizing authority of a principal event at which the candidate was a race officer responsible for running the races;
- f** obtained three completed International Race Officer Reference Forms (on the water assessment) from three different WS Race Officials who observed the candidate's performance on the water as Race Officer. At least two references shall be completed by a International Race Officers. Agreement to complete a reference form must be made prior to the event and the completed reference form is to be given to World Sailing within sixty days from the last day of the event;
- g** experience in race management training; and
- h** be prepared to work with the Race Management Sub-committee on race management matters.

- 6.3** A candidate for re-appointment as an International Race Officer shall have complied in the 4 years prior to October 14 of the year of application with the requirements in 6.2 except items (a) (c) and (f). Eight Regatta Report Forms should have been lodged with WS during this period.

Specific Competences Required

- 6.4** International Race Officer shall present following competences:
- a** maintaining a high level of understanding and application of the rules, procedures and WS policies.
 - b** ensuring that each decision or action taken is based upon the rules and principles of fairness and objectivity, and is made with care and without prejudice.
 - c** responsible for their actions concerning the safety and welfare of competitors, race officials, support personnel and volunteers.
 - d** team-work and team management.
- 6.5** Non-technical competences:
- a** uphold the confidentiality of race committee deliberations during and after the regatta;
 - b** be polite, courteous, open-minded, and patient with colleagues, competitors, regatta officials, support persons, and hosts;
 - c** respect cultural differences in colleagues, competitors, regatta officials, support persons, and hosts;
 - d** maintain appropriate relationships with competitors and support persons at events; and
 - e** declare any conflict of interest before accepting a race committee membership invitation. (See WS regulation 34);