

OFFSHORE RACING CONGRESS

World Leader in Rating Technology

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New ORC Grand Prix Classes

Progress at the Offshore Racing Congress continues on schedule for development of the package of parameters and measurement requirements for its three new Grand Prix classes to be published in June. The new International Level Classes are set at three levels of maximum length: 26, 33 and 42 feet.

A set of parameters for each class establishes limits to control design including length, beam, displacement, draft and a number of other limitations for rig, appendages, materials and sails. In all classes, the boats are intended to yield very high performance relative to existing boats of the same size. A low maximum crew weight has been set in order to help reduce campaign costs and materials limitations are set for the same reason. Consideration has been given to a revised interior height formula to prevent exaggerated coachroof size with the eventual prospect of revising the Racing Division IMS Regulations, permitting the new class yachts to participate in conventional IMS racing.

The ORC's Management Committee, led by Chairman Bruno Finzi, has been closely following the rule developments by the group of designers and technicians coordinated by Paolo Massarini, leading up to the rule's finalization. It is expected to circulate "Revision 3" of the rule shortly through the final loop of review, with special attention to measurement issues and the stability assessment.

Various Yacht Clubs have been contacted with the aim of creating a circuit of regattas in 2006. A number of owners already expressed their interest and are awaiting final decisions on the rule details. Royal Ocean Racing Club Commodore, Chris Little, said "We shall continue to discuss the new Grand Prix Rule vigorously with the ORC and others to ensure there is a clearer and more competitive rule for the Admiral's Cup in years to come." The ORC views with interest the Storm Trysail Club (USA) initiative regarding a new Box Rule 65' along lines similar to those of the ORC classes and the prospect of a synergy among the several classes being launched.

A further update on the Grand Prix Classes will be found in the next issue of Seahorse magazine (3rd May)

IMS 600 World Championship and ROLEX Baltic Week

This year's IMS 600 World Championship will be sailed under the crown of the ROLEX Baltic Week and for the first time it will take place in northern Europe. It will be held from August 19th to 28th 2005 in Neustadt in the Bay of Luebeck, about 100km north of Hamburg. The Bay of Luebeck offers an ideal racing area with no tidal currents. This regatta is coordinated with The International German IMS Championship 23rd-28th July in Travemünde, the IMS Europeans 29th June to 5th July in Sandhamn, Sweden and the IMS 600 Championship of the Baltic in Bornholm, Denmark.

Besides the IMS 600 World Championship, the Dragon World Championship will also take place during this year's ROLEX Baltic Week. As a prelude to the ROLEX Baltic Week, a Charity Race in aid of the International Childhood Foundation will take place. This race is organized under the patronage of H.M. Queen Silvia of Sweden who is going to attend the event. The NORDDEUTSCHE REGATTA VEREIN and ROLEX invite IMS 600 sailors to compete, participate the high level social events and to enjoy the famous Baltic Sea.

Further Information at www.rolex-baltic-week.com , www.orc.org and www.nrv.de

“Go for speed” – the German IMS academy successfully starts into the 2005 season

Since 2003, “Go for speed” has been an initiative of the German sailing association, Deutscher Segler-Verband (DSV), to support handicap racing under IMS and offshore racing in general. “Go for speed” addresses medium level regatta sailors who want to reach the national top level. Furthermore, the academy is a part of the DSV’s search for new talents.

There are three annual sessions scheduled; one weekend to improve theory and two weekends for practical training. Professional help comes from top class consultants such as Jesper Bank, Morten Henriksen, Karol Jablonski and Dobbs Davis.

This year the theory weekend was held in Kiel during the weekend of the 19th and 20th March. About 180 sailors participated. It started with a lecture on weather-forecasts by Meeno Schrader. People were especially interested in his comments about offshore weather conditions and the forecasts during the world record trip of Ellen McArthur. For the following topics - sail and mast trim and crew management/tactics - the participants split into groups of different performance levels. Among others, Peter Kampmann (World champion X-99) and Wolfgang Schäfer (Deputy Chairman, ORC) as well as chairman of the DSV Offshore Committee, shared their experiences and gave important advice.

As the last topic of the meeting, Boris Hepp (DVS Chief Measurer) and Fietje Judel (yacht designer) presented an update of IMS rule developments. After the successful theory session, the participants look forward to using their new knowledge in the practical training April and July.

Further information can be found at www.goforspeed.de

International Symposium on Yacht Design and Production March 2006 – Call for papers

The International Symposium on Yacht Design and Production will be held in Madrid 30th -31st March 2006. The topics will cover the latest designs and trends in hydromechanics, aerodynamics, new materials and structures etc. The Association of Spanish Naval Engineers invites authors to submit papers to be presented at the symposium.

For further information contact mdyassistant@etsin.upm.es

Velum NG Scoring Software Released

After an intense period of testing and release of Beta versions, the new Windows based Velum NG software was released in early April. It handles the full spectrum of IMS scoring options, from the simplest to the most complex ones. Velum NG allows ample customization of results and combination of Classes and Groups, and features the possibility of constructing the course by direct entry of GPS lat./long. data. It can also access club's and sailor's databases if they are made available by the respective National Authorities in the specified format.

The software is offered for a price of 320 Euro (215 pounds) per license, and can be ordered through the www.orc.org website. Further improvements will periodically be uploaded and made available to the users at no additional cost. A demo version is available for free download on the website

Mediterranean Activity

The IMS Grand Prix Spanish season opened in Malaga last week-end. Several professional campaigns with renewed boats fought it out in five tightly contested windward/leeward races sailed with a crisp breeze always above 15 knots, with gusts getting close to 30 knts. The constructed course/performance curve scoring method was used, giving, as usual, very close results among the four IMS Classes.

At the same time the "Millevele" took place in Genoa with a 50 boats IMS Division, all grouped in the same overall scoring.

Other current events scheduled in the Med include the popular Trofeo Accademia in Livorno, Italy and the Palmavela in Palma de Mallorca.

The results of these and other events can be checked at the ORC website through the links provided. Some of the event sites are very efficient and provide a "live" coverage, race by race, straight from the sea. Please try them on www.orc.org.

ORC 2005 Publications

On www.orc.org downloadable PDF editions of the 2005 ORC rule publications available and you can also order printed versions through the secure order system.

ORC Management Committee Meeting -- 7-8 May in Santa Margherita, Italy

At their next meeting, the ORC Management Committee will discuss the development of the Grand Prix Classes, further cooperation with other offshore organisations as well as further work to improve the IMS and ORC CLUB rules. Planning for next AGM in Singapore 2005-11-02—06 will also be finalized.

ORC Newsletter Number 4 will be published around mid-May and will contain a summary of the Management Committee Meeting. Further comments on the ORC website are expected, as well as further news about the new Grand Prix Classes.

For further information, call

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