

IRSA Report to World Sailing 2017



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Radio Sailing within World Sailing

The International Radio Sailing Association (IRSA) is an Affiliate Member of WS, with a membership of 37 countries from all 6 continents. It is the International class authority for the Marblehead, Ten Rater, and "A" Classes, and has devolved administration of the IOM Class to the International One Metre International Class Association (IOMICA).

Radio sailing is an excellent way to enjoy the sport, and is an ideal way for sailors at all levels to quickly develop knowledge and understanding of tactics, racing rules, and boat setup. It is also an excellent way for Race Officials to develop umpiring, judging, race management, measurement, and mark laying skills. IRSA seeks to develop radio sailing worldwide, particularly in those countries who are not national members.

While no new members joined IRSA since the 2016 report, in 2017 we welcomed Greece (GRE) back from a period of lapsed membership, and note that Thailand (THA) is preparing an application for membership.

Events in preceding 12 months

The Marblehead 2016 World Championship Limone sul Garda (ITA), 23 – 30 September 2016. 15 races, 76 competitors. Podium places and points: Brad Gibson (GBR) 25, Matteo Longhi (ITA) 64, Graham Bantock (GBR) 70.

The Ten Rater 2016 World Championship Limone sul Garda (ITA), 1 – 3 October 2016. 15 races, 47 competitors. Podium places and points: Brad Gibson (GBR) 20, Graham Bantock (GBR) 34, Christophe Boisnault (FRA) 47.

The IOM 2017 World Championship Chemin de Sérignan, Pierrelatte (FRA) 12-20/05/2017. 76 competitors, 24 races. Podium places and points: JELACIC Zvonko (CRO) 89, BELTRI Guillermo (ESP) 94.8, WALSH Robert (GBR) 100.5.

Events in forthcoming 12 months

2018 Marblehead World Championship and 2018 Ten Rater World Championship are scheduled to be held in Germany in late summer.

Interpretations, Class Rule Changes, RRS Appendix E Changes

Following the issue of revised class rules in 2016 for the Marblehead, Ten Rater, and "A" Classes, some controversy continued on the introduction of multiple certificate validity. Legal advice was sought on a claim of defamation of IRSA, of the Chairman of IRSA, and of other IRSA Office Holders.

In due course, following a legal letter, the defaming party issued an apology and withdrew certain claims. We also note the resignation of the IRSA Racing Committee Chairman and note his achievements in developing racing in radio sailing. A new Chair was co-opted in early 2017.

A working group on Appendix E is in the process of being formed, following initiatives from both WS Racing Rules Committee and IRSA Racing Committee. The intention is to provide an appropriate and durable mechanism for IRSA to channel Appendix E submissions to WS.

No interpretations were issued in 2017, perhaps due to the provision of a quick response Q&A on the IRSA Web site from the IRSA Technical Committee. A change to one of the ERS defined terms (**spar**) has, however, created the need to revise all three class rules.

IRSA Achievements

Internal Administrative Reform: Draft proposals for a revised Constitution and revised Regulations are nearing completion, and it is expected they will be in place for the 2018 General Assembly of the IRSA Membership. The proposed Constitutional changes are the most significant in the 90-year history of internationally regulated radio sailing in the restructuring of the IRSA Executive away from geographically- (regionally-) based Officers and towards class-based Officers.

IRSA Classes and Racing: Given the increasing popularity of 3D printing, draft rules for an innovative new class, the 0.5 metre “NANO”, have been prepared to support the 3D printing of a hull, appendages, and rigging fittings for radio control. A working party on the RG65 class rules has been formed with the intention of recognising the class as an IRSA Class able to run World Championships.

Publicity: Apart from now being a substantial library of information, the IRSA website has further evolved into a major focal point for notifying International Events.

IRSA Objectives

While the list of future objectives remain under review, the priority is to spin out the management and administration of each IRSA Class to an independent International Class Association.

General Assembly 2018

The biennial meeting of IRSA’s overseeing body, the General Assembly, will meet online in 2018.

Executive Committee 2017

Chairman	Lester Gilbert (GBR)
Vice Chairman	Bernard Merlaud (FRA)
Secretary	Selwyn Holland (AUS)
Racing Committee Chairman	Patrick Vilain, IJ (FRA)
Technical Committee Chairman	Graham Bantock (GBR)
Organisation & Policy Committee Chairman	vacant
Publicity Officer	Henning Faas (GER)
Treasurer	Eric van der Kindere (BEL)
Regional Officer Europe	Matteo Longhi (ITA)
Regional Officer Oceania	Glenn Dawson (AUS)
Regional Officer Americas	Bob Wells (USA)