

Sail Canada Offshore

Does your club run any *Offshore* races (and why should you care)?

Ask a simple question, “Do your boats leave the dock?” If the answer is yes, there is an Offshore Special Regulation (OSR) that applies.

Of the 7 OSR categories (numbered 0 through 6), category 6 covering dinghy races and category 5 covering evening or afternoon course races are described as inshore races and you’re likely following most of the requirements.

The remaining 5 categories are considered to be offshore. As the boats get farther from the nearest harbor and farther from help, they have to become more self-sufficient. The boats have to become more seaworthy, they may have to carry storm sails to survive heavier winds, they need better crew retrieval gear and better medical preparedness. This gets to the heart of why you should care – if your fleet is equipped for the conditions it may encounter, the boats will likely get back to shore safely, albeit with some epic tales to share around the clubhouse.

How much equipment and training is required? The International Sailing Federation (ISAF) has an Offshore and Oceanic committee which reviews any racing mishaps that occur anywhere in the world. They meet every year and maintain a set of equipment and training lists known as the Offshore Special Regulations.

These can be downloaded from the ISAF website: <http://www.sailing.org>

Follow the links through Documents and Rules.

Since, historically, the Europeans have been the main contributors to the ISAF OSRs, they tend to be Euro-centric. Sail Canada maintains a Canadian version of the OSRs with prescriptions that better apply to our needs.

These prescriptions and extracts for race categories 1 through 4 can be downloaded at:

<http://www.sailing.ca/>

Follow the links through Racing; Offshore Racing.

Note that we may be modifying the website over the next few months so the links might change.

The Sail Canada Offshore Group is working toward adding resources such as stability listings and crisis management.

If you have any questions please contact

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