



Race Rules updates

The IRF Sport & Competition Committee annually updates the IRF Race Rules. This is usually started at the end of the year, concluding by March.

The schedule is as follows:

- a date will be set for when rule change proposals need to be received by the Exec Com. Proposals are then debated in the Exec Com, and then based on a vote, will either be rejected or added to the list to be sent to S&C for further debate and vote. The Exec Com will first hammer out the primary pros and cons of the proposed change so the S&C can understand the points to be considered.
- a date will be set for when the Exec Com presents the final list to the S&C com for debate.
- a date will be set for when a vote on new rules will be finalized. This date would need to allow for enough time to debate, and all votes to be counted.
- a date will be set for when any rule changes will be published so that all federations are aware of the changes. Ideally two months before the change goes into effect.
- a date will be set for when the changes will go into effect. This is ideally 1 January but should be no later than 1st March.

Any rule change requests that fall outside this schedule will have to be looked at as a request for a Rule Exception rather than a rule change. A decision based on merit on whether to accept the request for debate and follow up will be made.

Exceptions to the schedule in case of the need of an emergency change of rules for the good of the sport can be made, but it would have to be agreed by the Exec Com that it is an emergency.

The margin required when a vote is made is 4 or more. If it is less than that a revote may be run to see if a better margin can be gained.

The process to update the rules is as follows:

- Rule proposals may be submitted only as one of the three possible options. 1) Eliminate a rule, 2) change a rule, or 3) add a rule.

- 1) When suggesting that a rule be eliminated, a copy of the rule must be included in the proposal.
- 2) When proposing a change to an existing rule, the proposal must include a copy of the existing rule, and the suggested change.
- 3) When suggesting a new rule, the submission must include a copy of the new rule written in a rule format.
- All proposals must include Clear REASONS as to why this change has been suggested. Submissions without clear reasons will be rejected.
- All proposals must include the name of the person/organisation making the suggestion, and must come through an IRF member organisation representative or with their written approval.
- All proposals will be assessed by the Exec Com and those which merit further discussion will be presented to the full S&C Com for full discussion. Discussions will be conducted on the IRF Forum.
- After discussions have concluded, all members of the S&C Com who have been active in the discussions will vote. The aim is to conclude the voting by 15 February.
- Updated rules, with all changes, will be published on the IRF website and sent by email to IRF member organizations. The aim is for this to be done by 1 March.