



World Sailing  
Special Event

# Sustainability Charter

World Sailing Special Events

sport / nature / technology



This Charter has been formulated by existing World Sailing Special Events and World Sailing to ensure that World Sailing Special Events not only deliver world-class sailing competitions but showcase and deliver world-class event sustainability, aligning and supporting World Sailing's Sustainability Agenda 2030.



## 1. Sustainability Strategy

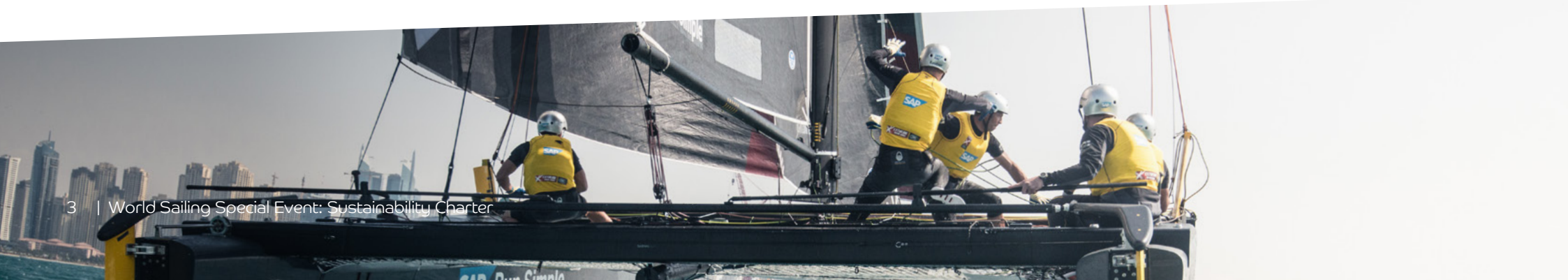
All Special Events will have a comprehensive sustainability strategy that will be approved by World Sailing (WS), prior to being accepted as a World Sailing Special Event or prior to re-signing a Special Event Agreement with World Sailing.

- The strategy must align with the applicable principles set out in World Sailing's Sustainability Agenda 2030 and must commit to work in partnership with WS to accelerate some of the objectives and targets.
- The strategy must have identified its own sustainability impacts (positive and negative) and address these proportionately in the strategy.
- The strategy must set time-bound targets and be supported by an action plan that aims to deliver continual improvement.
- The strategy must commit to reporting (at least annually) on progress against its sustainability goals and objectives.
- The strategy must engage with the participating teams, the event suppliers and partners – establishing, for example, a Charter that is signed by all teams.

## 2. Setting best-practice targets

World Sailing will review and approve the targets set out in the Special Event's Sustainability Strategy. These will be expected to achieve the following as a minimum:

- To meet the Sailors for the Sea World Sailing platinum standard.
- To operate a sustainable event management system in accordance with the international standard ISO 20121.
- To implement a comprehensive waste management plan that targets:
  - the elimination of single-use materials, in particular plastics (please see the Volvo Ocean Race/11th Hour Racing guide)
  - the safeguarding of the waters from waste, aligned to the UN Clean Seas Initiative
  - the establishment of a reuse and repurposing plan for sailing equipment and clothing
- To set a measurable roadmap for carbon reduction, aligned to the UNFCCC Sport for Climate Action Framework; identifying carbon avoidance, reduction and where appropriate offsetting targets.



### 3. Transparent reporting

World Sailing Special Events will be expected to report annually on their sustainability targets. As a minimum, World Sailing Special Events will:

- Report on the overall carbon footprint of the Events for Scope 1 and 2 emissions in line with UNFCCC Sport for Climate Action Framework.

### 4. Working with partners, suppliers and third-party venues

World Sailing Special Events will be expected to engage with their partners, suppliers and third-party venues across their supply chain on sustainability. They will be expected to establish and implement a sustainable procurement code that sets the sustainability expectations for partners, suppliers and third-party contracts. This will include:

- Encouraging contracted boatbuilders to carry out an impact assessment (LCA/carbon footprint) of their manufacturing processes and put in place plans to reduce their impact.
- Supporting and accelerating end of life options for boats and associated equipment that currently cannot be recovered.
- Avoiding certain materials that have a negative impact in their production and are difficult to dispose of, such as PVC in branding. Wood should be sustainably sourced, e.g. certified FSC (Forestry Stewardship Council) or equivalent.
- Where possible, selecting venues with sustainability credentials such as Clean Marina certification or ISO 14001 and encouraging their adoption.

### 5. Protecting the environment

World Sailing Special Events are expected to take measures and ensure their events do not negatively impact the environment. World Sailing Special Events will be expected as a minimum to:

- Align with or support the UN Clean Seas programme
- Promote best practice to on-water spectators and support boat drivers to avoid cetacean strikes and report on all incidents.
- Where appropriate, develop a marine biosecurity plan with the local organisers.
- Secure all event-related rubbish on and off the water to ensure no waste enters the water.

### 6. Gender equity

World Sailing Special Events are expected to promote gender equity across their event operations to ensure equal opportunities are available. World Sailing Special Events are expected to support World Sailing's Agenda 2030 target of achieving 50% gender equality by:

- Having a gender equality strategy promoting equality between males and females in positions of responsibility both on and off the water.





## 7. Showcasing future technologies in the marine industry

World Sailing Special Events are expected to support solutions to the sustainability challenges in the marine industry and work in partnership with World Sailing and other Special Events to accelerate solutions. World Sailing Special Events are expected to:

- Promote and showcase innovations in the marine industry to accelerate solutions to sustainability challenges.
- E.g. use and showcase at least one non-fossil fuel powered support boat during events.

## 8. Education, outreach and wider community engagement

World Sailing Special Events are expected to promote and inspire event visitors, sailors, staff, partners and suppliers across sustainability and use the event as a platform to drive wider social and environmental benefits. World Sailing Special Events will be expected to:

- Engage with the local community through outreach activities such as STEM activities and local marine environmental organisations.
- Promote the World Sailing Trust through the event, which aims to help access to and participation in sailing across the world and improve ocean health.
- Support or create projects whose aim is to attract more people to sail, especially from underrepresented demographics.

## 9. Role of World Sailing

World Sailing will ensure that best practice from the Special Events is shared widely and used to drive sustainability through their Member National Authorities and Class Associations. World Sailing will coordinate solutions to the sustainability challenges common across the events, driving collaborative approaches to these challenges across all Special Events.

## 10. Compliance with the Charter

This charter is a collaboration between World Sailing Special Events and World Sailing. It is a commitment to progress the sustainability performance of world-class sailing events and ensure that World Sailing can use these events as exemplars to support the wider implementation of their Strategy. World Sailing will audit progress against the targets set out in the Special Event's Sustainability Strategy and will re-assess this commitment when renewing Special Event contracts. In summary:

- The Special Event will demonstrate continual improvement across all aspects of the Charter and report on progress.
- Progress will be reviewed by World Sailing, carried out through the submission of annual sustainability reports to World Sailing. Improvement points aligned to initial strategy will be identified, and improvements in the subsequent year will be expected.
- Progress and revised strategic objectives will be reassessed every three years or at contract renewal.



## Sustainability Charter: Signatories





# World Sailing Special Event

## Official Partners



Global Climate Action  
United Nations Climate Change



World Sailing is a signatory to the United Nations Climate Change Sport and Climate Action Framework to reduce carbon emissions of the sport

UN environment



World Sailing has established a strategic partnership with UN Environment to collaborate on campaigns related to Ocean Health and UN SDG delivery



World Sailing has signed up to the Clean Seas initiative with the aim of turning the tide on plastic in our oceans