WASZP International Class Association

September 2026; Version 1.0

Hybrid RaceSense Policy

Hybrid RaceSense is an optional race management model for any WASZP event. WICA and National Class Associations (NCAs) may choose to use the model at events for which they are responsible, subject to the applicable Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions (Example wording as attached).

1. Purpose and scope

This policy sets out the Hybrid RaceSense model and the minimum principles for its use. It applies when an event chooses Hybrid RaceSense and identifies that choice in its race documents.

The policy allows events to retain useful race management support and make use of existing equipment while reducing dependence on competitors' Vakaros units. It also preserves competitor choice and avoids a requirement for organisers to supply rental units.

2. Hybrid RaceSense model

Under Hybrid RaceSense, conventional race management under the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) remains primary. Race officials observe the start line, make and signal race management decisions, count laps and record finishes. RaceSense is a supplementary source of information for officials; it does not replace their observations or the applicable rules and event documents[*].

2.1 A competitor Vakaros unit is not compulsory. Competitors may use a Vakaros unit, another device or no device. A Vakaros unit is not a condition of entry or racing.

2.2 Automatic RaceSense OCS notification to competitors is disabled. A competitor's device display is not an official recall or scoring signal.

2.3 Officials may use RaceSense information to check a decision about a boat they identified from their observations as OCS or in breach of a starting-penalty rule. Race officials must not add a boat to an OCS or starting-penalty list solely because RaceSense data identifies it.

2.4 Officials remain responsible for the official race time, starting signals, recalls, lap counts, finishes and scoring. RaceSense timing and other data may support those tasks but are not the sole basis for them.

3. Event preparation and operation

Where an event will use Hybrid RaceSense, that decision should be clearly stated in its race documents, including that Vakaros units are optional and whether rental units will be available. The organising authority should arrange any unit registration and rental process, brief the race team on the role of RaceSense data, and explain the model to competitors before racing.

Racing follows the normal RRS starting sequence and signals. Any on-water device check-in should be tightly controlled. A failed unit or the time needed to replace one should not delay racing. If RaceSense information is unavailable or unreliable, officials continue using conventional procedures under the RRS and the event documents.

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[*] *A subsequent version of the model is anticipated to include an option for an association to choose Full RaceSense and a simple, easy-to-understand method for switching to Hybrid RaceSense if that becomes necessary.*

Attachment

Suggested wording for race documents

Notice of Race

1. Hybrid RaceSense

1.1. The event will use Hybrid RaceSense in accordance with the WICA Hybrid RaceSense Policy (see [*add link here*]).

1.2. A Vakaros unit is optional. Competitors may race with a registered or unregistered Vakaros unit, another device or no device. Rental Vakaros units [*may*] be available to rent or purchase (see ONB).

Sailing Instructions

1. Starts with RaceSense

When stated in the Notice of Race, the Vakaros Hybrid RaceSense system will be used.

1.1. [NP] A Vakaros unit (Vakaros Atlas 2 or Atlas Edge) may be registered by each boat before the end of registration.

1.2. The RaceSense system may be used by the Race Committee for race management and officiating functions. Time and starting line information will be available on all registered Vakaros units.

1.3. The race committee will be responsible for identifying boats on the course side of the starting line, or boats that did not comply with RRS 30.3 or 30.4. The RaceSense system may be used by the race committee as a method to confirm such boats but may not be used to identify additional boats.

1.4. The starting line will be between the RaceSense unit attached to the staff displaying an orange flag on the race committee vessel and either:

1.4.1. The course side of the laid starting mark with a RaceSense unit attached, or

1.4.2. the RaceSense unit attached to the staff displaying an orange flag on the race committee pin-end vessel.

1.5. When the race committee displays flag ROMEO (R) with one long sound, competitors with a registered Vakaros device shall restart it (switch off, wait 10 seconds and switch on). Flag R will be displayed for no less than 2 minutes. The next start sequence will not be given while Flag R is displayed.

1.6. After the Orange flag has been displayed, a race will not be postponed or abandoned to allow replacement of a competitor Vakaros unit.

1.7. When requested by the OA, competitors with registered Vakaros devices shall perform a firmware update prior to the next scheduled racing session.

1.8. Alleged failure, inaccuracy or malfunction of the RaceSense system or a competitor Vakaros device shall not be grounds for a request for redress by a boat. This changes RRS 61.1(a).

1.9. When flag OSCAR (O) with one long sound has been displayed on the race committee vessel before the warning signal of a race, SI1.2 to 1.8 [*Check cross-referencing*] will not apply to that race.

2. Starts without RaceSense

2.1. When the Vakaros RaceSense system will not be used, or when the race committee displays flag OSCAR:

2.2. The starting line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the race committee vessel and either:

2.2.1. The course side of the laid starting mark, or

2.2.2. A staff displaying an orange flag on the race committee pin-end vessel.