

Australian Sailing Affiliated Class Association Survey 2025

52 Class Associations responded: -

- 28 National Associations
- 24 State Associations
- 26 are World Sailing Classes
- 35 unique Classes

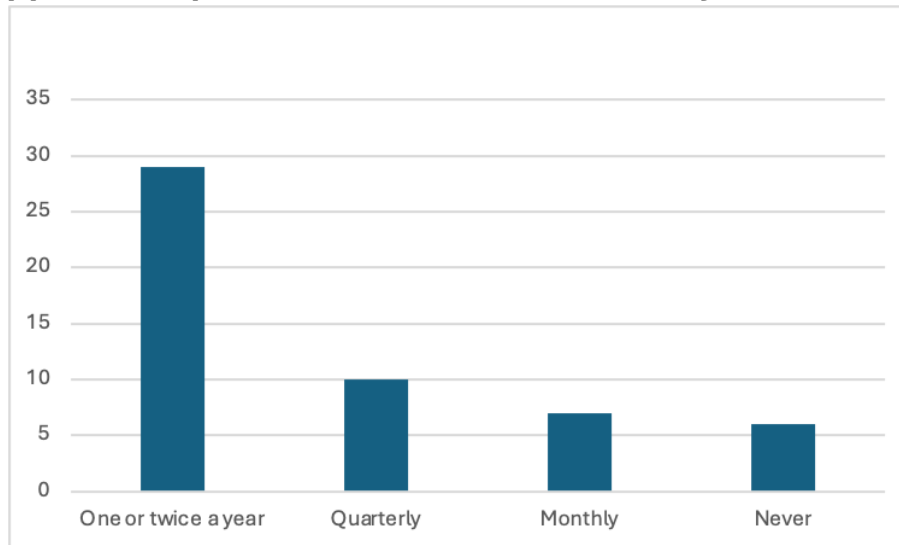
Classes who Responded: -

125 Association	International Mirror Class of SA
2.4M Class Association Australia	Mirror Class Association of Victoria
Australian 505 Association	International Moth Class Association (IMCA) Australia
Australian Blokart Association Inc	Leeuwin Ocean Adventure Foundation
Australian International Dragon Company Limited	Mosquito catamaran association Victoria
Western Australian International Dragon Association	Multihull Yacht association of South Australia
Australian National Sabot Council	NACRA Association of Australia
Australian Open Skiff Association	National Heron Sailing Association of Australia Inc.
Australian Paper Tiger Catamaran Association	NSW & ACT 9'er Class
Australian Radio Yachting Association	Queensland 9er Class
Australian Sabre Association	OK Dinghy Australia
Australian Sports Boat Association	South Australian OK Class Association
Australian Windsurfing Association	Old Gaffers Association of Western Australia
Castle Yacht Association of Australia Incorporated	Pacer Australia
Etchells Class Australia	Radio Sailing Tasmania
Etchells WA Fleet	S80 Yacht Association of WA
International Cadets TAS Fleet	Sabre Sailing Association of Australia
Flying 11 Association of Australia	Sabre Sailing Association of South Australia
NSW F11 Association	Sabre Sailing Association of Queensland
ILCA Australia	Sabre Sailing Association of Tasmania
ILCA NT	Sabre Sailing Association of Western Australia
ILCA Victoria	SB20 Australia
Queensland ILCA	Trailer Sailer Association of South Australia
International 470 Class Association of Australia	WASZP Sailing Association of Australia
International B14 Class Association of Australia	WASZP WA Fleet
International Mirror Class Association of Australia	WA International Optimist Dinghy Association

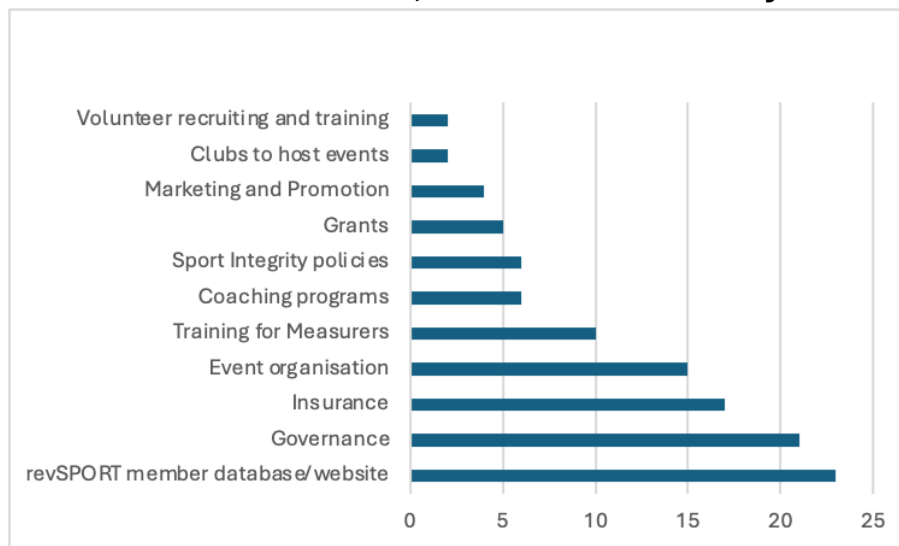
Survey Responses

The survey asked the following questions to gauge how engaged Classes are with Australian Sailing, their level of good governance, what they perceive as their main challenges, the support they require, and any success stories they wanted to share.

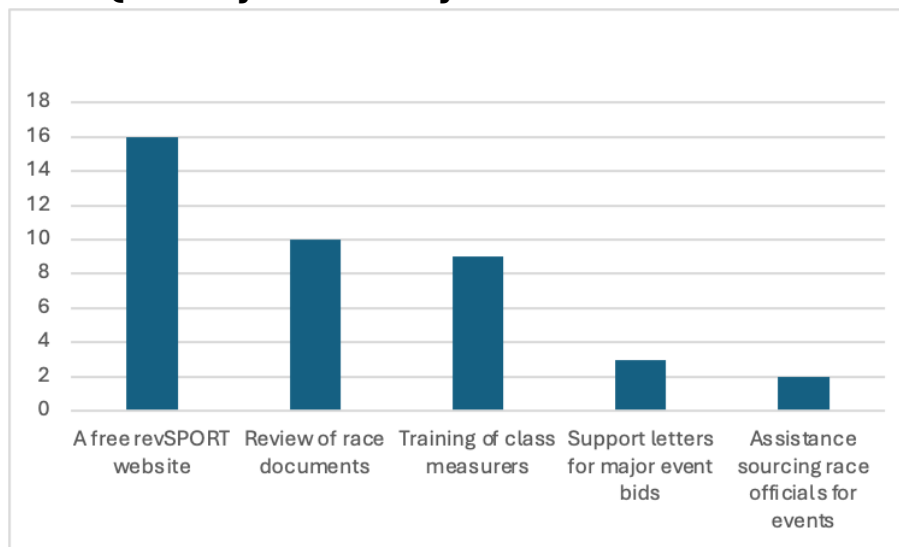
Q. How frequently do you visit the Australian Sailing website for resources to support the operations or administration of your association?



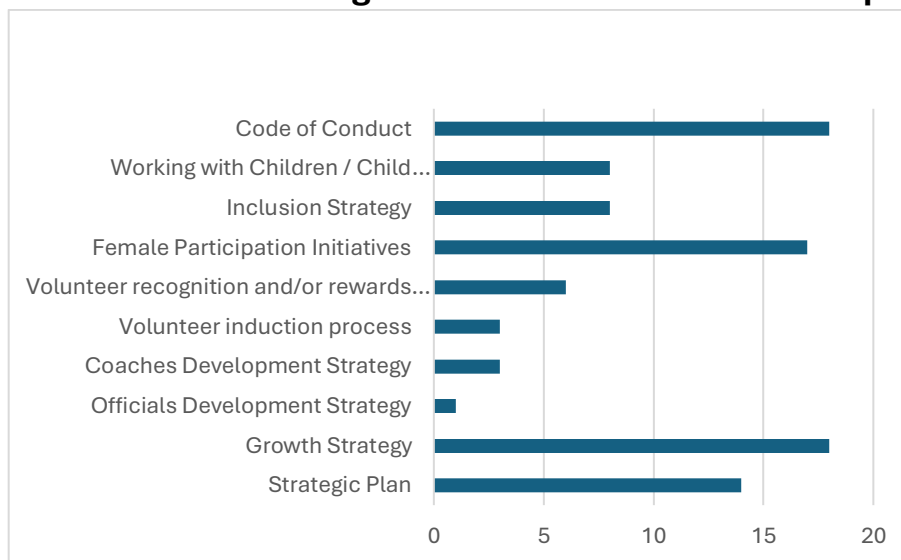
Q. If you do visit the AS website, what resources are you looking for?



Q. Have you used any of these AS services?



Q. Which of the following does the association have in place?



Q. What are the 3 main challenges for your association?



The “other” responses were – Insurance for overseas events, cost of equipment, sourcing equipment, attracting female members, and class rules issues.

Q. Why are these areas challenging for your association?

A summary of the key trends and findings:

Cost as a Barrier to Participation

- Entry and ongoing participation costs (boats, courses, equipment, travel) frequently cited.
- High costs limit junior, female, and socio-economically diverse engagement.
- Some classes have no Australian builder, requiring expensive imports.

Volunteer Shortages and Burnout

- Difficulty in attracting volunteers, many roles are held by the same individuals for years with no succession plan.

Decline in Youth and Retention Post-Teens

- Significant drop-off in late teens and early 20s.
- Lack of clear, supported pathways between youth and adult sailing classes.
- Competing priorities (university, work, finances) reduce ongoing engagement.

Fragmentation and Competition Between Classes

- Too many small, fragmented classes competing for limited participants and resources.
- Niche classes struggle to attract sailors who prefer more popular or Olympic pathway boats.
- Internal conflicts within classes around “one design” vs performance innovation.

Lack of Visibility, Marketing, and Branding

- Many classes have outdated or weak public images (e.g. seen as old-fashioned or niche).
- Missed opportunities in national marketing, storytelling, and promotion (especially on digital and social media).
- Classes with strong branding (e.g., Optimist, ILCA) draw interest and sponsorship.

Challenges with Coaching Access and Quality

- Shortage of accessible, qualified coaches across regions and skill levels.
- Cost of coaching programs is prohibitive without scale or subsidies.
- Tension between high-performance squads and class coaching impacting local delivery.

Administrative Burden on Associations

- Governance tasks (e.g., managing constitutions, running regattas, fundraising) are time-consuming and often fall to a few.
- Many associations lack strategic planning, succession, or operational infrastructure.
- Grant access is difficult for associations compared to clubs.

Limited Pathways for Juniors and Women

- Some classes report few or no female or junior sailors.
- Weight or skill expectations, lack of visibility, and cultural norms create barriers.
- Stronger, inclusive entry programs needed to attract underrepresented cohorts.

Geographical Imbalance and Sparse Fleets

- Remote locations and long travel distances hinder participation in national events and growth of classes in states with low or no representation.
- Inconsistent local club support leads to fleet fragmentation.

Lack of Support or Alignment with Australian Sailing (AS)

- Perceived disconnect or insufficient support from AS in areas like coaching coordination, class governance, rule interpretation, and junior transitions.
- Classes feel overlooked or unsupported, especially non-pathway or less mainstream boats.
- A national platform or clearer collaboration structure with AS is seen as essential.

Q. What support would you like to see from Australian Sailing for your association?

A summary of the key trends and findings:

Strong Desire for Strategic Engagement and Support from AS

- Many associations feel disconnected from Australian Sailing and want proactive, two-way communication.
- There is a desire for collaborative planning, especially on growth, participation, class pathways, and promotion.

Marketing, Promotion & Visibility of Classes

Classes want AS to elevate visibility, particularly for:

- Non-pathway and traditional classes.
- Affordable and inclusive options.
- Junior and double-handed boats.
- Support requested includes promotion and social media exposure to boost awareness and participation.

Coaching Access, Quality, and Equity

- Shortage of skilled coaches at grassroots levels.
- Need for clearer coaching pathways, more affordable coaching support.
- Concerns about exclusive coaching access during events.

Volunteer Burnout and Succession Challenges

- Classes rely on a few long-term volunteers, with no clear succession plans.
- Difficulty finding new committee members, especially with growing compliance and governance burdens.

Inclusion and Broader Participation

- AS should support recreational sailing, not just elite competition.
- Many classes feel excluded from formal pathways and not acknowledged in national development models.
- Calls for clearer, broader class transition plans, especially from juniors to youth to adult sailing.

Administrative and Governance Support

Classes request help with:

- Measurement training.
- Standard documentation (SIs, strategic plans, Codes of Conduct).
- Insurance guidance.
- Event delivery support.
- Need for templates, digital tools, and centralised platforms to reduce duplication and confusion.

Event Support and Coordination

Requests for assistance with:

- Hosting national/state events.
- Sourcing venues and officials.
- Avoiding calendar clashes.
- Interest in multi-class regattas to boost participation and efficiency.

Technology and Systems Support e.g. RevSPORT

RevSport is broadly appreciated, but there's demand for:

- Better usability.
- Technical support.

Improved Networking and Collaboration Between Classes

Strong interest in cross-class collaboration, such as:

- Shared training events (e.g., 420s and 470s).
- National networking opportunities.
- Collective promotion of double-handed or niche classes.
- Suggestions include forums, working groups, and class-to-class/club matchmaking.

Does the class have any success stories or case studies you would like to share with Australian Sailing and other Class Associations?

South Australian OK Class - We have grown our fleet by over 100% in the last couple of years by being inclusive and supportive

ILCA Australia - We have established a girls ILCA 4 Solidarity Program running at our Australian Championships. We aim for "ILCAs for Life" to attract the maximum number of graduating junior sailors to develop their skills so they enjoy and prosper in the sport, to retain as many as possible beyond teen years and engage and encourage 30 years plus sailors to join and/or remain active in sailing until they can't.

Sabre Sailing Association of Tasmania - Around 10 years ago Lindisfarne Sailing Club in Tassie was struggling with numbers. Sabres had become the main fleet, and we were down to less than a handful of regular sailors. Over a bottle of red a few members decided we need to run a build programme or we are toast. The class Association along with the club advertised in the community and we had 10 builders interested. Each Thursday evening, we would meet in the club to demo next steps or tricky parts to build. 10 were finished and 8 started sailing at LSC which was the saviour of the fleet. Since then, LSC has gone on to be the strongest fleet in the state.

Australian National Sabot Council - Sabots thrive in regional clubs that may not have access to the large fleets of more commercial classes. The Class Association now own a new mould which is being used to build quality new boats at a reduced cost. Northern NSW has already completed four boats, and we plan to make the mould available to other zones. This is a significant step toward reducing barriers to entry and rejuvenating club fleets.

International Mirror Class Association of Australia - 2025 nationals were nearly 50% female, and had sailors from 8 to 60+, with roughly 1/3 aged 13-18

Multihull Yacht Association of South Australia - We conduct the largest yachting regatta in South Australia. We do not discriminate between monohulls and multihulls.

Etchells WA Fleet - The recent World Championship were considered a success, with competitors enjoying competitive racing and a relaxed approach to the social aspects of the regatta. The use of Vakaros Racesense was considered a major factor in keeping racing moving, minimising general recalls.

International Cadet TAS Fleet - Our biggest success this year has been our results at the Cadet Nationals, with Tasmania taking out 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 8th and 12th and sending 5 boats to the 2025 World Championships. We have been working extremely hard to improve our programme, launching new coaching programmes, trialling new technologies (cameras, boat tracking) and enhancing our training offering -- all while trying to improve our marketing.

International B14 Class Association of Australia - The B14 fleet has a long history of being an inclusive fleet with a strong female representation as well as a big spread of age groups. In the most recent National and World titles sailed at Woollahra Sailing Club in Sydney we had 16 female sailors with four being skippers in the fleet and sailors ranging from 17 to 71 years.

Pacer Australia - Pacer days held at a number of clubs have been very well received with excellent feedback. Many clubs have Pacers set up for training only and have not had the experience of setting these boats up for spinnaker use or race tuning. We have run several successful sessions at clubs demonstrating - for trainers and for boat owners - how to set up the spinnaker, a full list of fittings required, different legal setup options and also race tuning.

Trailer Sailer Association of South Australia - Our monthly newsletter, the 'Bilgewater,' has been essential in maintaining membership numbers by providing regular information to members. It is available in both digital and printed format to ensure all members have access.

Australian Radio Yachting Association - The hosting of the 2024 International One Metre Class World Championships in Gladstone Queensland was an outstanding success. Our World Championship Working Group produced the best ever World Championship, including a groundbreaking live stream of the entire championship.

Western Australian International Optimist Dinghy Association - 50% year on year improvement in membership in the last few years.