



**ORC European championship
2026 Klaipėda, Lithuania**

**SUSTAINABILITY
POLICY**



VISION

The ORC European Championship 2026 aims to establish a new benchmark for sustainable sailing events across the Baltic Sea region and Europe.

Hosted in Klaipėda, on the shores of one of the world's most environmentally sensitive marine regions, the Championship recognises its responsibility to protect marine ecosystems, minimise environmental impacts, and promote responsible behaviour among sailors, organisers, partners and local communities. We believe that sustainability is not simply a communication theme – it is a fundamental principle guiding the planning, delivery and evaluation of the event.

OUR COMMITMENT

The ORC European Championship 2026 is committed to delivering the event in accordance with the principles of the Sailors for the Sea Clean Regattas programme and to achieving the highest level of certification – Platinum Clean Regatta.

We are committed to integrating sustainability principles into every aspect of event planning, organisation and delivery, while supporting the objectives of the World Sailing Sustainability Agenda 2030 and contributing to the long-term protection of the Baltic Sea environment.

Through this commitment, we aim to create a lasting positive legacy for Klaipėda, the Lithuanian sailing community and future international sailing events.

OUR SUSTAINABILITY PRIORITIES

1. Waste Prevention and Circularity

We will prioritise waste prevention over waste management by reducing unnecessary consumption, eliminating single-use products wherever possible, and promoting reusable, recyclable and compostable alternatives.

We will implement responsible waste separation systems and work closely with suppliers and partners to minimise waste generation throughout the event.

2. Baltic Sea and Coastal Protection

We recognise the ecological importance and vulnerability of the Baltic Sea.

The Championship will actively contribute to the protection of coastal and marine ecosystems by implementing pollution prevention measures, promoting environmental awareness, encouraging responsible practices in coastal areas, and organising community-based environmental initiatives.

3. Climate Awareness and Emissions Reduction

We will strive to reduce emissions associated with the organisation of the event by encouraging more sustainable transport choices, reducing resource consumption, and prioritising local suppliers whenever possible.

We will monitor key sustainability indicators and continuously evaluate opportunities to improve our environmental performance.

4. Community Engagement and Local Partnerships

We will engage local organisations, volunteers, educational institutions, businesses and environmental partners in the implementation of our sustainability initiatives.

Whenever possible, preference will be given to local suppliers and service providers, thereby strengthening the local economy while reducing the environmental impacts associated with transportation.

5. Education and Leadership

The Championship will use its international platform to raise environmental awareness and promote responsible sailing practices.

Competitors, volunteers, race officials, organisers and event visitors will be encouraged to participate in sustainability initiatives both during and beyond the event.

MEASUREMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The Organising Authority will establish sustainability objectives, collect and analyse performance data, and document the implementation of sustainability initiatives throughout both the planning and delivery phases of the Championship.

Following the event, a Sustainability Report will be prepared and published, summarising the actions implemented, achievements, lessons learned and opportunities for future improvement.

The report will support the Championship's application for Platinum Clean Regatta Certification and contribute to sharing best practices within the international sailing community.

DECLARATION

The Lithuanian Sailing Union endorses this Sustainability Policy and is committed to promoting responsible event management practices that contribute to the protection of the marine environment and the advancement of sustainable sailing.

Lithuanian Sailing Union
ORC European Championship 2026
Klaipėda, Lithuania



APPENDIX 1

ORC European Championship 2026 | Klaipėda | Lithuania PLATINUM CLEAN REGATTA COMMITMENTS FRAMEWORK

This document outlines the sustainability commitments of the ORC European Championship 2026, prepared to fulfil all requirements of the Sailors for the Sea Clean Regattas Platinum Certification.

A. REDUCING SINGLE-USE ITEMS

1. Eliminate Single-Use Plastic Water Bottles and Provide Water Refill Stations

Commitments	Evidence to be Collected
- Do not distribute single-use plastic water bottles - Install water refill stations in key event locations - Encourage participants to use reusable water bottles - Communicate the locations of refill stations through event communications	- Water refill station layout/map - Photographs - Communication materials - Supplier information - Number of refill stations installed

2. Eliminate Plastic Straws

Commitments	Evidence to be Collected
- Do not use plastic straws at official event venues - Use reusable or compostable alternatives only - Include this requirement in supplier agreements	- Photographs - Catering service descriptions - Supplier confirmation that plastic straws were not used

3. Serve Food Without Plastic Tableware

Commitments	Evidence to be Collected
- Use reusable tableware and cutlery - Where reusable options are not feasible, use compostable alternatives - Do not use single-use plastic tableware or cutlery - Ensure supplier compliance with these requirements	- Photographs - Sample supplier agreement

4. Eliminate Single-Use Plastic Bags or Use Reusable Alternatives

Commitments	Evidence to be Collected
- Do not use single-use plastic bags - Provide participant bags made from reusable materials - Encourage participants to use their own reusable bags	- Photographs - Specifications of participant bags - Supplier information

5. Provide Practical, Reusable or Recycled Awards and Gifts

Commitments	Evidence to be Collected
- Provide practical and functional awards - Give preference to local manufacturers - Use recycled or sustainably sourced materials - Avoid disposable promotional giveaways	- Description of awards and prizes - Photographs

B. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

6. Promote Sustainability Initiatives

Commitments	Evidence to be Collected
- Publish the event Sustainability Policy - Communicate sustainability initiatives before and during the event - Inform participants about sustainability goals and activities	- Website publications - Social media posts - Press releases - Newsletters - Sustainability guides and information materials

7. Engage Local Organisations

Commitments	Evidence to be Collected
- Collaborate with environmental organisations - Engage schools, universities and local communities - Involve local partners in sustainability initiatives	- List of partner organisations - Photographs

8. Use Educational and Reusable Signage

Commitments	Evidence to be Collected
- Use reusable educational and informational signs - Provide clear information about waste separation - Use QR-code-based information wherever possible	- Signs designs - QR code materials - Photographs

9. Source Local Food or Responsibly Harvested Seafood

Commitments	Evidence to be Collected
■ Give preference to local food suppliers ■ Use locally sourced products whenever possible ■ Serve responsibly sourced seafood ■ Promote short food supply chains	■ Supplier information ■ Sample menu and/or photographs ■ List and number of local suppliers

C. RESPONSIBLE WASTE MANAGEMENT

10. Establish a Green Team

Commitments	Evidence to be Collected
■ Appoint a Sustainability Coordinator ■ Establish a Green Team ■ Provide sustainability training for volunteers ■ Ensure coordination of all sustainability activities throughout the event	■ Green Team structure and number of members ■ Training materials ■ Photographs

11. Provide Clearly Marked Waste Sorting Stations

Commitments	Evidence to be Collected
■ Install clearly marked waste sorting stations ■ Ensure waste sorting facilities are available in all key event areas ■ Use clear educational signage	■ Waste station layout ■ Photographs ■ Number and types of waste sorting stations provided

12. Divert Food Waste from Landfill

Commitments	Evidence to be Collected
■ Arrange for food waste to be composted or recycled ■ Cooperate with waste management companies ■ Minimise food waste throughout the event	■ Photographs ■ Confirmation from the waste management contractor ■ Description of composting or recycling solution ■ Data on collected food waste (where available)

13. Deliver a Paperless Event

Commitments	Evidence to be Collected
■ Use an electronic registration system ■ Digitise event documentation ■ Provide information using QR codes ■ Minimise printed materials	■ Registration system records ■ QR code solutions ■ List of digital platforms used ■ Examples of digital documents

D. ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

14. Organise a Beach or Coastal Cleanup

Commitments	Evidence to be Collected
- Organise a beach or coastal cleanup activity - Involve participants, volunteers and the local community - Record and report the results - Promote sustainability and environmental responsibility by creatively reusing waste materials during educational activities and public engagement initiatives (e.g. repurposing old sails)	- Photographs - Number of participants - Communication materials - Quantity of waste collected

15. Prevent Pollution from Entering the Water

Commitments	Evidence to be Collected
- Implement fuel and oil spill prevention measures - Ensure environmentally responsible operation of boats and equipment - Inform participants about environmental protection requirements	- Procedures - Instructions - Marina environmental rules and procedures - Photographs

16. Raise Awareness of Wildlife and Habitat Protection

Commitments	Evidence to be Collected
- Inform participants about the biodiversity of the Baltic Sea - Raise awareness of protected species and sensitive habitats - Integrate environmental messages into event communications	- Educational materials and presentations - Communications and publications - Photographs

17. Offer Vegetarian and Vegan Meal Options

Commitments	Evidence to be Collected
- Offer vegetarian meal options at all official catering functions - Provide vegan alternatives whenever possible - Clearly identify vegetarian and vegan options	- Sample menus - Photographs - Supplier confirmation

E. CLIMATE AWARENESS

18. Promote Sustainable Transportation

Commitments	Evidence to be Collected
■ Encourage walking ■ Promote cycling ■ Provide information about public transport options ■ Encourage carpooling and shared transport	■ Communication materials ■ Information about bicycle parking, public transport and transport routes

19. Reduce Daily Event Emissions

Commitments	Evidence to be Collected
■ Optimise logistics ■ Reduce fuel consumption ■ Plan transport operations efficiently ■ Monitor the main sources of greenhouse gas emissions	■ Logistics plans ■ Fuel consumption records ■ Operational data

20. Inspire Continued Sustainable Action

Commitments	Evidence to be Collected
■ Prepare and publish a Sustainability Report ■ Share best practices and lessons learned ■ Encourage participants to continue sustainable behaviours beyond the event ■ Contribute to a more sustainable sailing culture across the Baltic Sea region	■ Sustainability Report ■ Communication materials