



ISAF IU News – August 2003

Yet again the year is flying by and so it has got to August before the first IU News of 2003. Behind this cover you will find a couple of attachments that go with the items. Some of these will end up in the IU Manual when that is next updated. In the meantime we look forward to receiving all the IU applications for first appointment and for renewals. This is a busy time for the IUSC as we prepare for the annual ISAF Conference in November and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the committee members for their work throughout the year, most of it unseen and unsung.

Seminars and Clinics

We have completed just one IU seminar this year. That focussed on team racing and was based in New Zealand in preparation for the ISAF Team Racing World Championships. Henry Menin and Jan Stage have tried endlessly to encourage MNAs to run IU seminars and Match Race Clinics with a couple of false starts but with little success.

We need MNAs to offer seminars and clinics!

Please think if your MNA could help and use the opportunity to get some team or match racing going in your country. It is not as hard as many make out. Please see the ISAF website for more information about seminars and clinics and if you think your MNA may be able to do something, please contact Trish@isaf.co.uk as soon as possible.

I would like to thank all those in New Zealand who made the seminar there a success. All those involved, including the competitors are certain that it made a significant difference to the standard of umpire at the Team Racing Worlds, an event attracting ever increasing interest around the world.

IU Conference 2004

In the first quarter of 2003 ISAF held a conference for IJs that focussed on rule 42. In 2004 it will be the turn of IUs. If you have any ideas for the topics that might be covered please contact Emily@isaf.co.uk again as soon as possible. The preliminary plans for this event will be worked out in the next few weeks in order to present them to the IUSC meeting at the Annual Conference for approval in November.

Rule 42 and Match Racing

Attached you will find a report from the umpire team at the Swedish Match Cup held in July 2003. It is self-explanatory but the bottom line is that there is no justification at this stage for changing rule 42 through the sailing instructions for match racing. If this occurs, it will not happen consistently around the world and we will rapidly be back where we started – with confusion and inconsistency. The ISAF rule 42 working party are monitoring the situation and working on the problems that undoubtedly affect all kinds of racing.

It does remain important that the competitors are informed before the start of each event that the ISAF rule 42 interpretations issued in April 2003 will be applied and have copies of the

interpretations available. There is no doubt that the interpretations of sculling change the way some teams handle their boats in the pre-start. This is similar to the changes dinghies have made to their starting techniques, especially in single-handed classes. However, while the game is a little different, it is no less playable.

Flags instead of Shapes

You will also find a document attached entitled 'Flags instead of Shapes'. This changes the way that outstanding penalties are displayed on the umpire boat and is a huge step forward in making match racing user friendly. While I am sure there will be some editing before the final version appears in the IU manual I hope you will find it detailed and accurate enough to be useful. It covers both the umpiring procedures associated with using flags instead of shapes as well as specifications and instructions for making a complete set of flags for an event.

All of those who have adopted the system have said, "Why did we ever use shapes?"

Damage

The subject of damage is a difficult one. We have been trying to develop a consistent way to control damage at events. The best so far is described in the attached paper. It has been used primarily at Grade 1 events. However, it does give the opportunity to change the monetary value at which each level of damage is assessed. It may well be appropriate to adopt significantly lower values at some events. We see no reason why this paper should not be shared with competitors.

And finally...

As will all such newsletters your feedback on any of the items is welcome, but please make positive proposals if you find any problems. Also, as ever, items for inclusion are always welcome and may even result in the next IU News arriving sooner!

Good umpiring and don't forget to get a seminar going in your country!

John Doerr
Chairman, ISAF IUSC
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