

ISAF Sailor Classification Code – Definitions / Competitor Classifications

Regulation 22

A submission from the Executive Committee

Purpose or Objective

To lengthen the 'time out' period of Group 3 sailors who have raced at the level of the Olympic Sailing Competition, Volvo Ocean Race and America's Cup in order to reflect the advantage they have over Group 1 sailors.

Proposal 1

Amend Regulation 22.1

22.1 Definitions of this Code

The Qualification Period to become a Group 1 competitor or to change from a Group 3 competitor to a Group 1 competitor is:

the continuous period of 24 months before the *Classification Date*, during which the competitor has not been engaged in Group 3 activities **except when Regulation 22.2.3(a) applies.**

Proposal 2

Insert new Regulation 22.2.3

22.2.3 Group 3

If a Group 3 competitor has *raced* in the Olympic Sailing Competition, the Volvo Ocean Race or any *racing* which forms part of the events connected with the America's Cup (as determined by the Commission (which shall issue prior written notice of such determinations)), whether or not the competitor was Group 3 at that time, then:

- (a) the competitor shall be a Group 3 competitor for a period of at least five years from that event notwithstanding that he may otherwise be entitled to a Group 1 classification during that time;**
 - (b) at the end of the five year period, the normal *Qualification Period* shall be applied when assessing the competitor's classification; and**
 - (c) this Regulation shall not apply to any *racing* in the listed events by a competitor prior to 1st December 2011 and the Commission may on a transitional basis exempt certain *racing* from the effect of this Regulation.**
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Current Position

As shown in the Definitions. Regulation 22.2.3 is new.

Reasons

There has been a strong feeling that at a certain, elite level the 'time out' of 2 years to become a Group 1 sailor from being Group 3 is far too rapid and that this weakens the respect for the Code in the view of many.

A Group 3 sailor racing at this level holds an advantage over a Group 1 sailor by having devoted himself to the sport in this way and this advantage is not usually lost in as short a period as 2 years

There are already precedents for this approach. A number of Classes do not accept such sailors as helmsmen for 5-10 years after the event and in Golf the period to regain amateur status can be much longer according to reputation and results.

Please note that:

1. in a survey in June 2011 of all known Classes and events that use the Code all but one respondents strongly supported this proposal.
 2. a sailor who races in the Olympic Sailing Competition and at the time has maintained Group 1 status and does not become Group 3 afterwards is not affected by this proposal.
 3. there are transitional arrangements for sailors who have competed in the listed events prior to approval of this new Regulation.
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