

Voting On ISAF Committees

Appointed to Contribute – Regulation 7.5.3

A submission from the International 49er Class Association

Purpose or Objective

To ensure that those committee members appointed to lead sailing do so. Abstaining from a committee vote on a proposal where there is no conflict of interest is against the very principle of appointing “experts” to ISAF committees. As long as there is no conflict all committee members should voice their opinion on a matter.

As long as a quorum is present Regulation 7.5.3 does not have a lower limit on how many positive votes are required to pass a submission.

Proposal

Amend Regulation 7.5.3 to read:

7.5.3 The matter will then be voted on. A vote by members of the Committee shall be made and **a motion shall be approved by a simple majority of votes casted unless more than one quarter of the represented Committee Members abstains from voting. In the event that more than one quarter of the represented Committee Members abstain the submission shall be defeated.** In the case of a tie in votes, the Chairman of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote.

Current Position

As above.

Reasons

1. This regulation is designed to ensure that most of those members appointed to an ISAF Committee voice an opinion by voting unless conflicted to do so.
 2. Too often non-conflicted Committee members abstain from voting, therefore they do not have an opinion. The aim of Committees is to guide Council with an opinion after investigation of the issues and debate thereon. Committees are often viewed as “experts”. Abstention by non conflicted Committee members is contrary to the very reason for their appointment.
 3. Abstentions at Committee level occasionally result in guidance to Council that is actually passed or defeated by less than the majority of the number of Committee members.
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