

## **High Performance 2 Person Women's Trial**

A submission from the Royal Yachting Association

### **Proposal**

That ISAF should now run "Phase 2" of the High Performance 2 Person Women's Trial, in order to evaluate and make recommendations with regard to specific high performance 2-Person dinghy equipment for Women. This should be completed in time for Equipment to be considered for inclusion in 2016.

### **Current Position**

Following the Equipment Evaluation Trial in April 2007, Council noted the recommendation from the Equipment Committee that there was suitable equipment available for a Women's High Performance 2 Person dinghy event. (Council Minutes 2007 Mid-Year 9 (b)).

The Equipment Committee also minuted the following "It was agreed that before setting the specific requirements for the equipment, further evaluation (possibly in September/October 2007 in the UK) would be desirable in stronger winds and would also give opportunities to refine and optimise the equipment presented in Hyeres." (Equipment Committee Minutes, April 20 2007, minute 2.)

Since then, the ISAF Youth Worlds Championships has seen the addition of the Open 29er Class in addition to the girls 420, which was greeted with enthusiasm by sailors and event organisers.

It is evident that with the current system, there is no clear pathway that runs from youth to adult. On the men's side the pathways are 420 → 470, 29er → 49er, whereas on the women's side it is 420 → 470, 29er → ??

Council will be deciding the Events for 2016 Olympic Sailing Competition in November 2011 and the Equipment in November 2012.

### **Reason**

While Council have agreed that there is "suitable equipment", there is little in the way of specific recommendations in respect of the equipment and little or no direct evidence that the sport is seeing growth and retention of women in the sport, particularly on the double handed side.

It is recommended that to encourage and retain women, ISAF should take a more proactive approach (as with women on committees). The current class association nomination structure does not achieve this. While there may be attractive and exciting equipment, there is often no established class association, or where new class associations do exist, they have not had adequate time to develop strong international support.

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High performance sailing for women is an option that should be available to ISAF for the Olympic Sailing Competition as it can both retain more female sailors in the sport, and enhance the media appeal of the sport.

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## **2009 NOVEMBER CONFERENCE**

### **COUNCIL DECISION – NOVEMBER 2009**

Council received submission 071-09 from the Royal Yachting Association.

#### **Decision:**

**Council deferred submissions 071-09 to November 2010 pending the report from the Olympic Commission (30 in favour, 6 against. 1 abstain).**

Council noted the debate on this submission and that a clear definition of “High Performance” was needed.

#### **Recommendation from the Reporting Committee**

##### **Equipment Committee**

**Recommendation to Council: Approve**

#### **Opinions from the Other Committees**

##### **Events Committee**

**Opinion: Defer**

The Events Committee recommends to defer this submission until the Olympic Commission report in May 2010.

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