

## World Championships

### Women's World Championships

A submission from the International 29er Class Association

#### Purpose or Objective

Encourage the participation of women in sailing by permitting a World Sailing Class to award a Women's World Champion title and recognize past Women's World Champions where the requirements of Regulation 10.4(b) are met, notwithstanding the women do not race as a separate fleet.

#### Proposal

Amend Regulation 25.2.6 as follows:

- 25.2.6 Those competing for a subsidiary World Championship shall race as a separate fleet (**except in the case of a Women's World Championship unless required by the rules of the World Sailing Class**). The number of participating entries in this fleet **and the number of female entries in a combined fleet where a Women's World Championship is awarded** shall meet or exceed the number of entries shown in the table in Regulation 10.4(b), and the fleet shall include entries from more than one continent.

#### Current Position

As above

#### Reasons

1. Women sailing in the International 29er Class benefit from sailing in a combined fleet with male teams and mixed gender teams for a number of reasons. The 29er is a relatively young class and, for the women, it is a pathway class for another relatively young class, the 49erFX. In recent years, as more female teams have begun competing in these classes, developing a critical mass of all-female teams has become a top priority. Allowing the female teams to compete in the larger, mixed fleet gives them the benefit of racing at the highest level of competition and advances their development.
  2. The current regulations prevent the International 29er Class awarding the top female team the title of Women's World Champion because the females do not sail in a separate fleet.
  3. Provided the number of female entries meets the requirements of Regulation 10.4(b) and entries are from more than one continent, there is no valid reason to prevent the Women's World Champion title from being awarded to the top female team where they do not sail in a separate fleet.
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4. World Sailing and World Sailing Classes have an urgent need to take action that will encourage the growth of women in sailing, including at the highest levels, and to ensure the sport meets the expectations of the IOC. The International 29er Class is a key pathway class for women and the ability to award the title of Women's World Champion will be a positive step toward this goal.
  5. Experience has demonstrated that creating the opportunity to compete for a women's title increases female participation and skill levels. In the two years following World Sailing's decision to offer a girls' 29er fleet at the Youth Sailing World Championship, participation by all-female teams at the 29er World Championship increased fourfold and the number of female teams achieving a place in the gold fleet increased significantly. We believe that a Women's World Champion title creates incentives for those who support and promote sailing to devote resources to girls' and women's sailing which, in turn, increases participation, retention and skill level.
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