

Women's Match Racing

Crew Weight Limit - Regulations 27.2.3(a) and 27.2.3(d)

A submission from the Chairman of the Match Racing Committee

Purpose or Objective

To level the playing field and make the weight limit in women's match racing fair and inclusive to women of all weight ranges.

Proposal 1

Amend ISAF Regulation 27.2.3(a) as follows:

(a) Grade 5 – Open and Women

Any match racing event using boats of the same design
When provided by the organizers each pair of boats shall be of equal performance.
The notice of race shall be based on the current ISAF standard
The sailing instructions shall be based on the current ISAF standard
Matches shall be umpired.

The maximum average crew weight limit for open events is 87.5kg

~~The maximum average crew weight limit for women's events is 68 kg.~~

The weight limit for women's events may be either:

(i) a maximum average crew weight limit of 68kg; or

(ii) a maximum total crew weight limit of 'Y' (where Y = 68kg x the number of standard crew members for the boat (X)) and the organizing authority may permit the boat to be raced with X, X-1 or X+1 crew members.

Proposal 2

Amend ISAF Regulation 27.2.3(d) by deleting the following row in the table:

Description	Event Grade			
	2 - O	1 - O	2 - W	1 - W
Competitors				
[...]				
Maximum average crew weight (kg.) (when boats are provided)	87.5	87.5	68	68

Current Position

As above.

Reasons

1. Match Racing is practiced in a wide variety of different sized boats that are best sailed by different sized sailors. Weight limits are necessary to insure fair racing and provide clarity and consistency for the sailors while also allowing inclusion of both larger and smaller sailors.
 2. Previously the weight limit for open match racing was increased to allow for larger size men to compete more easily and the women's weight limit remained the same.
 3. The current Regulation allows for smaller sailors to compete by allowing more sailors with the same weight limit, but does not allow larger sailors to compete with fewer sailors and the same weight limit.
 4. Currently, the women's ISAF average weight on the match race criteria is 68 kg while men are 87.5kgs. The women have to be 23% lighter than men. According to Wikipedia the average male weight in the US is 88.3 kg while the women average is 74.7 kg. So, while the male weight is only .8 kg more than the ISAF guideline the women are 6.7 kg heavier than the ISAF guideline.
 5. This change would allow for a variety of sailors to compete on a level playing field and be inclusive to a larger number of sailors.
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