

ISAF Junior World Championship

Regulation 17.4

A submission from the International RS Feva Class

Proposal:

Amend Regulation 17.4.3, 17.4.4 and 17.4.10 as follows to permit a Two Person Junior Dinghy event at the ISAF Youth Sailing World Championship:

17.4.3 To be eligible to participate in the Championship, all competitors shall be under the age of 19 years on 31 December of the year of the Championship. **For the Two Person Junior Dinghy events, all competitors shall be up to and including age 16 years during the Championship.**

17.4.4 The following events shall be included in the programme of the Championship:

Boy's One Person Dinghy
Girl's One Person Dinghy
Boy's Two Person Dinghy
Girl's Two Person Dinghy
Boy's Windsurfer
Girl's Windsurfer
Open Multihull
Boy's Two Person Junior Dinghy
Girl's Two Person Junior Dinghy

17.4.10 The Classes for the ISAF Youth Sailing World Championship are:

Boy's One Person Dinghy - Laser Radial
Girl's One Person Dinghy - Laser Radial or Byte
Boy's Two Person Dinghy - 420 or 29er
Girl's Two Person Dinghy - 420 or 29er
Boy's Windsurfer - RS:X with the 8.5^m rig
Girl's Windsurfer - RS:X with the 8.5^m rig
Open Multihull - Hobie 16 with spinnaker or Sirena SL16
Boy's Two Person Junior Dinghy – RS Feva
Girl's Two Person Junior Dinghy – RS Feva

Pursuant to Regulation 17.1.2, no class shall remain on the approved list for more than four years without obtaining ISAF Class status.

Current Position:

As above

Reason:

When selecting the age group for the sailing event at the 2010 Youth Olympic Games, ISAF recognised the importance of encouraging competition for junior sailors of age 15-16 years, stating that *"ISAF specifically selected the 15-16 year age group for inclusion in the Youth Olympic Games to complete the pathway and act as catalyst between junior sailing and the elite youth events"*.

The RS Feva Class believe that the introduction of ISAF World Championships for both two-person boys and girls in the 15-16 age group to be held in RS Fevas would encourage junior sailors that are not ready for the larger youth boats and promote sailing for young people internationally at competition and grass roots level.

The suitability of the RS Feva for this purpose is evident from its rapid development since its introduction in 2003 during which time 3000 boats have been sold world-wide. International competition has also developed quickly and at this year's RS Feva World Championships in Sweden there are over 100 competitors from 12 nations. The RS Feva has also been selected for the 2009 Australian Youth Olympic festival which will involve competitors mainly from nations in the Asia Pacific region.

Although RS Feva class racing is open to any age, most competitors are in the 13-16 age group. The attraction for this age group is that the RS Feva is modern, exciting and fast but relatively easy to sail, and the crew competitive weight is around 85kg to 115kg which is the typical combined weight for two 13-16 year olds.

All girl teams can compete on equal level with all boy teams in the RS Feva, girl teams having won the European championships. The size of boys in this age group can vary considerably but this is not an issue in the Feva as larger individuals can team up with smaller persons and still be competitive.

Further important reasons for introducing this event in RS Fevas are the low cost of the boats (probably less than half the cost of race-prepared two-handed youth boats) and the high strength and durability of the polyethylene construction. This means that RS Fevas are just as suitable for training and developing grass roots sailing as for international competition. These features also make it easier to supply RS Fevas for the ISAF World Championship.

The success of the RS Feva in completing the pathway from junior sailing to elite youth events has recently been demonstrated emphatically at the 2008 ISAF Youth Sailing World Championship where both the Girl's and Boy's Two Person dinghy events were won respectively by the past RS Feva European and World Champions.