

Racing Rules of Sailing

Rule 89.1

A submission from the Russian Yachting Federation

Purpose or Objective

The RRS 89.1 is quiet in the case if 2 different national authorities have a political dispute upon the fact which is the right national authority representing the venue of a regatta.
This dispute leads to a blockade of sailing sport and development of sailing in the area of that venue.

Under this circumstances MNAs are not promoting the sailing sport, but damaging the regatta sailing activities of sailors and organising authorities.
The following proposal shows a way to get out of a political dispute between MNAs and maintains the sailing activities in that venue.

Proposal

Add to RRS 89.1 as sentence 2:

If there is an unresolved dispute between national authorities which one of the national authority of a specific venue is the proper national authority, then it is enough if the organising authority is affiliated to one of the national authorities who are claiming to be the only rightful national authority of the venue.

Sentence 3 in RRS 89.1 becomes sentence 4.

If the Racing Rules Comm., the Constitution Comm. or any other Comm. dealing with this submission is in favour with it, provided the wording is changed in some way, the wording may be changed

Current Position

If MNA 1 and MNA 2 are both claiming that the venue X of a regatta belongs only to MNA 1 or to MNA 2 and the organising authority of the venue X is affiliated to MNA 2, MNA 1 may claim that the organising authority of the venue X is unaffiliated to MNA 1 and shall therefore not organize regattas under the WS-RRS, whereas MNA 2 claims that the venue X belongs to its territory and therefore the organising authority of the venue X is entitled to organize regattas under WS-RRS because the organising authority of the venue X is affiliated to MNA 2.

This dispute between 2 MNAs, to which MNA the venue of regatta belongs, is in fact a political dispute between 2 countries and may lead to a situation in that venue that organising authorities of regattas are blocked or at least hindered to organise regattas under WS-RRS. Under this situation are suffering the sailors who wish to have regattas under the WS-RRS as well as organising authority who want to be sure that they are affiliated to the MNA of the venue and have the right to organise regattas under the WS-RRS.

This scenario is right now happening on Crimea Peninsula (especially Sevastopol) where the Russian Sailing Federation and the Ukraine Sailing Federation are in a political dispute whether this territory belongs to Russia or to Ukraine.

The Sevastopol Sailing Association, which has in the past organised independently from any MNA for many years high level regattas, is now affiliated to the Russian Sailing Federation and wants to organize several high level regattas under the WS-RRS in Sevastopol.

The Ukraine Sailing Federation protested against this toward World Sailing.

Because of that and to avoid international complications the Sevastopol Sailing Association has voluntarily cancelled or removed the events from Sevastopol.

On the other hand, there is no organising authority on Crimea which is affiliated to the Ukraine Sailing Federation and does organise high level sailing regattas in this area.

Because of this political dispute between 2 MNAs the venue of Sevastopol and whole Crimea is now without a strong organising authority which promotes sailing in this territory on a high level.

Presently the Crimea Peninsula has been turned down to a dark spot in the sailing world.

The Ukraine Sailing Federation even has lodged to the WS Conference 2018 in Saratoga a submission to exclude the Russian Sailing Federation from WS because of breaching RRS 89.1.

Reason

With the proposed amendment of RRS 89.1 the sailors, the organising authorities, the MNAs and the whole sailing sport in that venue can stay out of a political disputes between 2 countries, which is not our business as sailors.

Such an issue is a political matter on which WS shall not have a discussion (WS Constitution art. 28d and 56).

With the proposed amendment of RRS 89.1 the sailing sport in venues under trouble can develop and proceed and are not obstructed by controversial political opinions.

This scenario may happen in other places as well and not only on the Crimea Peninsula.

Therefore, it is considered as necessary for the sailing sport to avoid situations like this in the future.

The proposed amendment of RRS 89.1 makes it possible that MNAs and organising authorities can continue the promotion of sailing regardless of political issues.
