

22. ISAF SAILOR CLASSIFICATION CODE

General

The ISAF Sailor Classification Code exists as a service to provide Events and Classes with an international system of classification for sailors.

Events and Classes are not under any obligation to use a classification system but should they wish to do so the ISAF Code is the only system that shall be used. When using the Code, they are under an obligation to properly administer and implement the Code.

Events organized for boats currently selected as equipment for an Olympic Sailing Competition shall not include any provision, whether in Class Rules, the Notice of Race or the Sailing Instructions preventing sailors from taking part, whatever their classification.

When the ISAF Sailor Classification Code is selected for an event it shall be stated in the Notice of Race unless already stated in the Class Rules.

The display of Competitor Advertising in accordance with the Advertising Code, Regulation 20, even if *payment* is received for it, does not influence the sailor's classification in this Code.

22.1 Definitions of this Code

Work includes:

employment, self-employment and any ad-hoc activity whether full time, part time or occasional and whether in person or through a partnership, limited company or any other organization and including any services for which there is payment or financial benefit directly or indirectly.

Pay and its derivatives means:

the receipt by a sailor of; or
the acceptance by a sailor of an offer to him to give money, money's worth, remuneration, fees, grants, gratuities, any financial benefit whether arising directly or indirectly or compensation in any form whether received by him or an associate, but not including *Personal Expenses*.

Personal Expenses means:

a grant towards; or
provision of; or
reimbursement of money not exceeding the amount of reasonable expense incurred for entry fees, travel, accommodation and meals in connection with and necessary for a specific event.

Entrant means:

as the context requires, the boat, the person or organization that enters the boat (RRS 75), the person in charge (RRS 46) and the boat owner.

Racing means:

Taking part in races organized in accordance with RRS 89.1

The *Classification Authority*:
is ISAF.

The *Classification Date* is:
the date when a classification or change of classification is requested, or, if later, the date when a classification is validly challenged by a protest or appeal.

The *Qualification Period (to become a Group 1 competitor or to change from a Group 3 competitor to a Group 1 competitor)* is:
the continuous period of 24 months before the *Classification Date*, during which the competitor has not been engaged in Group 3 activities.

The *Crew Deadline* is:

the date stated in the Notice of Race or Class Rules by which time a complete crew list for each *entrant* shall be submitted.

The *Classification Protest Time Limit* is:

The time and date stated in the Class Rules, Notice of Race or Sailing Instructions after which a boat shall not protest a classification under Regulation 22.5.1.

Competitor Classifications

22.2 The classifications of competitors are to be determined as follows:

22.2.1 Group 1

- (a) A competitor who takes part in *racing* only as a pastime is a Group 1 competitor, unless within the *qualification period* he/she has undertaken one of the activities listed in Regulation 22.2.2 and is a Group 3 competitor.
- (b) However:
 - (i) a competitor who is under 18 years of age is a Group 1 competitor; and
 - (ii) a competitor who is over 18 years of age, but under 24 years of age, is a Group 1 competitor provided that he/she has not engaged in any of the activities listed in Regulation 22.2.2 for more than 100 days in the *qualification period* (excluding any activities undertaken before his/her 18th birthday).

22.2.2 Group 3

A Group 3 competitor is a competitor who, within the *Qualification Period*

- (a) has been *paid* for *work* that includes:
 - (i) competing in a race; and/or
 - (ii) managing, training, practising, tuning, testing, maintaining or otherwise preparing a boat, its crew, sails or performance-enhancing equipment for racing, and then competed on that boat, or in a team competition, in a boat of the same team; or
- (b) has been *paid*:

- (i) to provide a boat or its sails; or
- (ii) for services in connection with providing a boat or its sails ; and
- (iii) then raced on that boat, or in a team competition, in a boat of the same team.

However a Group 1 competitor who, as an owner of a boat, is occasionally *paid* a charter fee to provide that boat for a *racing* competition shall remain a Group 1 competitor if he/she does not steer that boat in the competition. If the competition is a team event this dispensation shall only apply if he/she does not steer any boat in the same team as the boat chartered; or

- (c) has been *paid* for *work* (except coaching), in a marine business or organisation, which requires knowledge or skill:
 - (i) that is capable of enhancing the performance of a boat in a *race*; and
 - (ii) which can be utilised by the competitor whilst on board a boat when *racing*; or
- (d) has been *paid* for *work* that includes the coaching of
 - (i) any competitor, crew or team to prepare for or compete in any of the following:
 - The Olympic and Paralympic Sailing Competitions and Qualifying Events;
 - Regional Games;
 - America's Cup Match, Acts and Series;
 - Grade WC or Grade 1 Match Racing Events;
 - World and Continental Championships of ISAF Classes;
 - ISAF Events;
 - Global and Trans Oceanic Races; or
 - (ii) a National, State or Provincial Team; or
 - (iii) a Collegiate or University Team where the work is the principal paid activity of the competitor; or
- (e) has been *paid* for allowing his or her name or likeness to be used in connection with his or her sailing performance, sail racing results or sailing reputation, for the advertising or promotion of any product or service; or
- (f) has publicly identified himself or herself as a Group 3 competitor or as a professional racing sailor.

Classification Procedures and Requirements

- 22.3.1 A Competitor may be required to be a member of his/her MNA to hold a valid ISAF Sailor Classification.
- 22.3.2 A competitor applying for, or holding, a classification shall comply with the following requirements: He/she shall
 - (a) not hold, nor apply for, more than one classification;
 - (b) not take any action or act in a manner which is contrary to the spirit or purposes of the Code or which is a subterfuge for circumventing the Code;

- (c) at all times fully and freely disclose all relevant information to the *Classification Authority* (whether or not specifically asked for);
 - (d) not provide the *Classification Authority* with information that is false, misleading or potentially misleading;
 - (e) immediately notify the *Classification Authority* of any change in his circumstances which affects, or may affect, his classification status; and
 - (f) if a Group 1 competitor, he shall not engage in any activities which are incompatible with Group 1 status unless he has notified the *Classification Authority* of a potential change of classification.
- 22.3.3 If the Classification Authority has good reason to believe that a competitor has breached any provision of the Classification Code, it may immediately change, suspend or cancel his classification (or in the case of an application for classification, may decline to issue a classification).
- 22.3.4 A competitor, having read this Code, shall declare his or her correct classification by personally completing a form approved by ISAF and submitting it to the *Classification Authority*.
- 22.3.5 There is no fee. The *Classification Authority* shall review each form and confirm or correct the competitor's classification within 28 days of receiving all necessary information. It may ask the competitor to supply further information, or may itself seek further information from any source.
- 22.3.6 A classification, once issued, shall remain in force for two years, unless the classification is previously changed, suspended or cancelled by the *Classification Authority*:
- (a) because the competitor has submitted a form indicating that his or her classification has changed; or
 - (b) because the *Classification Authority* believes it has good reason to do so; or
 - (c) as a result of an appeal requested by the competitor under Regulation 22.3.7.

However when a competitor would have been classified as Group 3 but for Regulation 22.2.1(b) the Classification Authority may issue a classification that shall only remain in force up to his 24th birthday.

- 22.3.7 When a competitor does not agree with a decision made by the *Classification Authority* which affects his classification (except the making of a report under rule 69), the competitor may appeal to the *Classification Authority* within 60 days of the decision using the process on the ISAF website or by such other method as shall be notified in the ISAF Yearbook. An appeal shall state the grounds on which the competitor believes the decision was incorrect.
- (a) Appeals shall be considered by three members of the Classification Authority (the Appeal Panel) who were not party to the decision. No more than two shall be from the same country.
 - (b) The Appeal Panel will consider the Appeal and review the information in the Appeal, the decision and any previous application and where necessary ask for more information from the competitor, from the original reviewers, or from any other source. It may uphold, change or reverse the decision, dismiss the appeal or declare it invalid.

- (c) The Appeal Panel having made its decision after receiving all necessary information will inform the competitor of its decision in writing. A fee may be payable.
 - (d) The decision of the *Classification Authority* shall be binding on the competitor until the decision of the Appeal Panel is published.
 - (e) Subject to the provisions of Regulation 51, the decision of the Appeal Panel shall be final.
- 22.3.8 The *Classification Authority* may decline to issue a classification or may suspend a current classification when the competitor has been penalized under RRS 69 for a classification matter. Such refusal or suspension shall not be longer than the period during which the competitor's eligibility is suspended under Rule 69.
- 22.3.9 ISAF will maintain and publish on a website a list of the classifications of competitors. The list will state the status or expiry date of the classification.
- 22.3.10 Information provided by the competitor or from any other source shall be kept confidential within the *Classification Authority* and the ISAF Secretariat and not disclosed to any other person except to an International Jury or Member National Authority which has been sent a report by the *Classification Authority* concerning the competitor's classification or sent a report under RRS 69 and then only after notifying the competitor through the classification process.

Event Procedures

- 22.4.1 The *entrant* shall give to the Organizing Authority, no later than the *Crew Deadline* in the Notice of Race, a Crew List stating the ISAF User ID and classification of each competitor. The Crew List may comprise more competitors than will take part in any one race, in which case the *entrant* shall also give the Organizing Authority, no later than the *Crew Deadline* in the Notice of Race, a Crew List for each race.
- 22.4.2 An *entrant* wishing to use a competitor not included in the initial Crew List shall submit to the Organizing Authority a revised Crew List no later than the *Crew Deadline* when no change to the crew is permitted after that time, otherwise as soon as possible.
- 22.4.3 The Organizing Authority will display the latest Crew Lists on the Official Notice Board as soon as possible after the Crew Deadline.
- 22.4.4 The Notice of Race, Sailing Instructions or Class Rules may alter these arrangements.

Protest Grounds and Procedure

- 22.5.1 After the Crew Deadline a boat may be protested on the grounds that:
- (a) when classification for a competitor was applied for, information that should have led to a higher classification was not disclosed; or
 - (b) a competitor has, since being classified, engaged in activities incompatible with the classification
- and that the boat would break the Crew Limitations in the Notice of Race, Sailing Instructions or Class Rules were the classification to be corrected. The time limit for a boat to protest is the *Classification Protest Time Limit*, or, if later, 24 hours after the posting of a changed Crew List. The Sailing Instructions may state a different time limit.

22.5.2 When a protest is upheld, and

- (a) the boat has not yet raced in the event, the boat will not be penalized; but if
- (b) the decision to uphold the protest is made after the boat has raced in the event, the boat shall be disqualified from all races already completed except when the protest arises from a report as set out in 22.5.6 in which case 22.5.6 shall apply.

The boat shall not race with that competitor as crew, unless the Sailing Instructions permit a change of crew after the *Crew Deadline* and then only when the Protest Committee is satisfied that the boat meets the Crew Limitations.

22.5.3 The protestee is entitled, on request, to present evidence of a personal or private nature in the absence of the protestor, and the Protest Committee shall not record that evidence in the protest decision. When the Protest Committee, on hearing the evidence, is not satisfied that it is of a personal or private nature, it shall disregard the evidence unless it is offered again in the presence of the protestor. This changes RRS 63.3(a).

22.5.4 When the Protest Committee is in doubt as to the classification of a competitor, it may refer its facts found to the *Classification Authority* and shall be governed by the decision by the *Classification Authority* on those facts.

22.5.5 The Protest Committee shall report within 14 days its decision to the *Classification Authority*. If a competitor has given evidence under Regulation 22.5.3 the Protest Committee shall also report within 14 days a summary of that evidence to the *Classification Authority*.

22.5.6 When the classification of a competitor has been changed, suspended or cancelled during an event in accordance with Regulation 22.3.5(b) the new classification may be backdated by the *Classification Authority* to the commencement of the event.

When as a result a boat may have broken a crew limitation rule, the *Classification Authority* shall report its decision in writing to the race committee which shall protest the boat. Any penalty shall be at the discretion of the protest committee.

**The ISAF Classification Code application form can be completed online at:
www.sailing.org/classification**

For any queries, please contact ISAF by email at: classification@isaf.co.uk