



The Match Racing Committee met at 09:30 – 13:30 hours on Monday 3 November 2014 at the Melia Palas Atenea Hotel, Palma, Mallorca, Spain

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Present:

Liz Baylis (USA) – Chairman
Miguel Allen (POR) – Vice-Chairman
Stratis Andreadis (GRE)
Marc Bouet (FRA)

Yana Dobzhitskaya (RUS)
Russell Green (NZL)
Michael O'Connor (IRL)
Michael Röllich (FIN)

Adrienne Greenwood – ISAF Vice-President
Jon Napier – ISAF Competitions Manager
Madeleine Dunn – ISAF Competitions & Race Officials Administrator

Apologies:

None received

Not present:

Walter Cavallucci (ITA)
Martin Kaye (HKG)

1. Opening of the Meeting

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed the Committee to Palma.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

(a) Minutes

The Committee noted the minutes of the Match Racing Committee meeting of 11 November 2013 (circulated and approved after that meeting).

(b) Minutes Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

3. 2014 ISAF Women's Match Racing World Championship

The Committee received the final report of the ISAF Technical Delegate.

The Committee noted the decision of the Executive Committee in September 2014 requesting that the relationship between the Championship and the Women's International Match Racing Series be reviewed in order to ensure the maximum benefit for both events is being obtained.

Decision

The report of the ISAF Technical Delegate is noted. WIMRA and ISAF will continue reviewing the position of both events and report back to the Committee.

4. 2014 ISAF Youth Match Racing World Championship

The Committee received the final report of the ISAF Technical Delegate. The Technical Delegate reported that the inaugural Championship had been a great success with 15 different Member National Authorities competing.

The Committee noted the Technical Delegate's recommendation that the success and size of the event be reviewed and further noted the Executive Committee's endorsement of this recommendation. The matter was discussed further under item 6 below.

Decision

The report of the ISAF Technical Delegate is noted.

5. 2015 ISAF Women's Match Racing World Championship

The Committee received a progress report from the ISAF Technical Delegate. A notice of race will be issued after the ISAF Annual Conference and the venue is already well tested after successfully hosting the 2013 ISAF Nations Cup Grand Final in August 2013.

Decision

The report of the ISAF Technical Delegate is noted.

6. 2015 ISAF Youth Match Racing World Championship

The Committee received a progress report from the ISAF Technical Delegate, including the outcome of a site visit made in July 2014 during the EUROSAF Open Match Racing Championship held at the venue. The Technical Delegate reported on the plan to race on the river in Świnoujście but with the option to race in the bay outside the town if conditions required. The Technical Delegate further reported on the provision of six TOM 28 boats and the need to review the format in light of the capacity this fleet offers. The Committee was informed the current intended dates are 15 – 19 September 2015 and a notice of race will be issued in the coming months.

The Committee discussed the format for the Championship and the intended number of teams. The Technical Delegate advised that ISAF should not set the format at 16 teams if only six boats were available. The Committee was not keen to restrict the number of teams, but recognised the problem of delivering an event with limited boat capacity. There was also concern that some teams are eliminated too soon during the competition, but this concern must be balanced against the World Championship status of the event. The Committee discussed the potential qualification system if the event was limited to 12 teams and how this could be undertaken. The Chairman noted there was not a specific youth match race ranking unlike the open or women's rankings.

Vice-President Greenwood commented that this was a positive challenge and ISAF may need to consider a potential ladder of events leading up to the Worlds. It was considered whether to designate a qualifier for a continent for future events. The Chairman of the Youth Match Racing Working Party felt this was a good idea and would make the event harder to qualify for and increase its standing and value by making it an event that teams have to work hard to attend. The Committee noted a qualifying series may mean extra budgetary requirements and has other issues to consider.

Summarising the Committee's views, the Chairman noted that a qualification system would be a positive step forward, but ISAF needs to consider the idea more carefully before implementing it.

Decision

The report of the ISAF Technical Delegate is noted. If the number of boats available is six, then the number of teams should not exceed 12. The Youth Match Racing Working Party will begin reviewing a possible qualification system.

7. ISAF Nations Cup

The Committee received a report from the Chairman of the Nations Cup Working Party on the proposals for the 2015 Nations Cup. He noted all the bids received were very strong but not many were received in each category. The Working Party noted the purpose of the Nations Cup was to identify nations not skippers and to encourage the development of match racing in Member National Authorities.

The Committee noted that the proposal for 2015 qualifiers will see the use of three new venues and three established venues. Qualifiers will start in February through to July. The Working Party recommends that the Grand Final be hosted in Vladivostok, RUS. The Committee noted that discussions have been held with the International Umpires Sub-committee concerning the possibility of umpire clinics at the qualifiers.

Decision

The Committee noted the report of the Working Party. The Committee recommends to Council that the 2015 Nations Cup Grand Final is awarded to Vladivostok, RUS (subject to a successful site visit and contract) and the Regional Finals to Buenos Aires (ARG), Zallaq (BRN), Howth (IRL), San Diego (USA), Tunis (TUN) and Brisbane (AUS).

8. World Match Racing Tour

- (a) To receive a report from the World Match Racing Tour on the 2014 season and plans for the 2015 season.

The Committee received a report from the Executive Director of the Alpari World Match Racing Tour. The Executive Director and the Tour Director briefed the Committee on the main highlights of the year, including the addition of two new events in Sopot (POL) and Lelystad (NED). The Committee was informed of the plans to increase the number of events next year in Australia, Europe and the USA and to increase the prize money available.

Decision

The Committee notes the report from the World Match Racing Tour.

- (b) To receive a report from the WMRT Advisory Committee.
No report was received.
- (c) To make any recommendations to Council.
The Committee had no recommendations to make.

9. Match Racing Gradings and Rankings

- (a) To receive a report from the Chairman of the Match Race Rankings Sub-committee.

The Committee received a report from the Chairman of the Match Race Rankings Sub-committee and a report from the ISAF Secretariat on gradings issued and adjusted during the year. The Committee noted the upgrades and downgrades authorised in the year and that no zero point scores had been applied to skippers.

The Committee discussed the overall trends in the gradings and number of events. Marc Bouet noted that the level of umpire fees was causing a problem with Grade 2

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events wanting to consider Grade 1 and asked if it was time for ISAF to consider changing this. The Chairman also asked if the event fee structure was now a barrier for the sport and if the lack of Grade 1 events was causing problems for umpires who cannot obtain the necessary events to keep their qualification. Russell Green suggested that a study be undertaken as there is no real incentive at the moment for an event to run at Grade 1 level. Vice President Greenwood supported a full review and said the Executive Committee would welcome collaboration across the committees on this issue.

Decision

The Committee supports a review of the grading system and fee structure by the Match Race Rankings Sub-committee in consultation with other affected committees.

- (b) To review and amend, if necessary, the ISAF Standard Guidelines for Grade 1 and 2 Events.

There were no amendments to make.

- (c) To make any recommendations to Council.

The Committee had no recommendations to make.

10. Race Officials

The Committee received a report from the Competitions Manager on behalf of the Event Appointments Working Party. The Competitions Manager reported on the close co-operation with the Tour with respect to the planning of umpire appointments throughout the year.

Decision

The Committee noted the report of the Event Appointments Working Party.

11. Submissions

- (a) To consider submissions for which the Match Racing Committee is the Reporting Committee:

- i) Submission 097-14 – Crew Weight Limit for Women's Match Racing – Regulation 27.2.3(a) and 27.2.3(d) from the Chairman of the Match Racing Committee

Recommendation to Council: Approve

- (b) To consider submissions for which the Match Racing Committee is an Other Committee:

- i) Submission 171-14 – Racing Rules of Sailing – Appendix C Match Racing Rules from the Chairman of the Match Racing Committee

Submission withdrawn

The Committee supports the fixing of rule 18.

- ii) Submission 172-14 – Racing Rules of Sailing – Appendix C Match Racing Rules, C2.9 from the Chairmen of the Match Racing Committee and Racing Rules Committee

Opinion: Approve

The Committee supports an urgent rule change.

- iii) Submission 173-14 – Racing Rules of Sailing – Appendix C Match Racing Rules, C2.14 from the Chairmen of the Match Racing Committee and Racing Rules Committee

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Opinion: Approve

The Committee supports an urgent rule change.

- iv) Submission 207-14 – Racing Rules of Sailing – Match Racing Call L10 and Team Racing Call L10 from the Chairman of the Racing Rules Committee

Opinion: Approve

- v) Submission 209-14 – Racing Rules of Sailing – Match Racing Call N9 from the Chairman of the Racing Rules Committee

Opinion: Approve

- (c) To make recommendations on any other submissions

12. Reports from Working Groups

- (a) To receive reports from the following working groups:

- i) Women's Match Racing Worlds

The Committee received a report from the Chairman.

- ii) Match Racing Rules

The Committee received a report from Marc Bouet.

- iii) Sailor Development

The Committee received a report from Stratis Andreadis.

- iv) Race Management and Organization

No report was received.

- v) Youth Development

The Committee received a report from Stratis Andreadis.

13. Any Other Business

The Committee received a report from the Chairman and Vicky Sheen (GBR) on the IFDS Blind Match Racing Championships held in Sheboygan, USA earlier in the year. Eight nations were represented at the event, which was sailed in Sonars over 4 days in a range of wind and weather conditions.

The Committee agreed to include this area in its work following the merger of IFDS and ISAF.

14. Closed Session

- (a) 2016 ISAF Youth Match Racing World Championship

The Committee considered bids from Middelfart (DEN) and Noumea, New Caledonia, (FRA).

Decision

The Committee recommends to Council that the 2016 ISAF Youth Match Racing World Championship is awarded to Noumea, New Caledonia, FRA (subject to successful site visit and contract).

- (b) 2016 ISAF Women's Match Racing World Championship

The Committee considered bids from Brittany (FRA), Lysekil (SWE), Sheboygan (USA) and Świnoujście (POL).

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Decision

The Committee recommends to Council that the 2016 ISAF Women's Match Racing World Championship is awarded to Sheboygan (USA) (subject to successful site visit and contract).

There being no further business the meeting was closed.