



The Match Racing Committee met between 09:30 – 13:30 hours on Monday 9 November 2015 at the Kempinski Hotel, Haitang Bay, Sanya, China

Please refer to the ISAF website www.sailing.org for the details of the submissions on this agenda/referred to in these minutes.

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Present:

Liz Baylis (USA) – Chairman

Miguel Allen (POR) – Vice-Chairman

Stratis Andreadis (GRE)

Martin Kaye (HKG)

Yana Dobzhitskaya (RUS)

Russell Green (NZL)

Michael O'Connor (IRL)

Michael Röllich (FIN)

Adrienne Greenwood – ISAF Vice President (in part)

Jon Napier – ISAF Competitions Manager

Madeleine Dunn – ISAF Competitions & Race Officials Administrator

Apologies:

Walter Cavallucci (ITA)

Marc Bouet (FRA)

1. Opening of the Meeting

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

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

(a) Minutes

The Committee noted the minutes of the Match Racing Committee meeting of 3 November 2014 (circulated and approved after the meeting).

(b) Matters Arising

There were no matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

3. 2015 ISAF Women's Match Racing World Championship

The Committee received a final report from the ISAF Technical Delegate (Jon Napier).

There was a very positive report and the Technical Delegate thanked the organizing authority for a flawless event. The Chairman reported that the WIM Series was very happy with the event as well. She invited Søren Laugesen from the organizing authority to address the meeting and he thanked ISAF and the Committee for their assistance in delivering the event.

Adrienne Greenwood drew the Committee's attention to Match Racing Denmark's presentation to the MNA Forum on successful event management and the development programmes in Denmark.

4. 2015 ISAF Youth Match Racing World Championship

The Committee received a final report from the ISAF Technical Delegate (Craig Mitchell).

He reported on excellent management from the Polish organizing authority and good support from the local town. Overall, he said it was a good event and had received positive feedback on it.

The Competitions Manager noted that the event had been oversubscribed and the Chairman remarked that this was an importance consideration for the review of bids for 2017 to ensure the popularity continued. The Chairman noted also the lack of female representation.

Decision

The Committee notes the following recommendations from the ISAF Technical Delegate:

- 1 ISAF should review the format of the event, the number of entries and the number of boats required from organisers in order to ensure a workable format.**
- 2 ISAF should ensure that the on-water organisational team includes separate breakdown service and mark layers.**
- 3 ISAF should continue to appoint an ISAF Course Representative (an IRO experienced in match racing) who is not from the Host MNA.**
- 4 ISAF should review the concept of the event against the concept of the Nations Cup (i.e. ensure there is no duality of purpose for the top youth match racing sailors).**
- 5 Video footage, photography and written daily news should be available for each racing day.**
- 6 ISAF should review their branding strategy at their events and work out what they want delivered and how.**
- 7 The invite process needs to be reviewed and closer cooperation between ISAF and the OA needs to be achieved in order to ensure that the full complement of invites are confirmed in good time and any late withdrawals do not end up harming the competition.**

5. 2016 ISAF Women's Match Racing World Championship

The Committee received a progress report from the Competitions Manager.

He reported that no site visit was deemed necessary as a recent event ISAF event had taken place there. The event will be held in conjunction with the Blind Match Racing World Championship. The event dates will be during the Paralympic Sailing Competition as these were judged to be the least conflicted of the date periods available.

The Chairman reported that the organizing authority has a management committee in place now and there is an exciting synergy for both World Championships being run together. She underlined that this was a large opportunity for blind match racing and this was an exciting opportunity for both events.

6. 2016 ISAF Youth Match Racing World Championship

The Committee received a progress report from the Competitions Manager as the ISAF Technical Delegate.

He reported that the event has ten Elliott 6m available and the dates have been agreed for 14 – 18 June 2016. Two entries have been reserved for FRA teams. The details and costings are being reviewed at present, which should include accommodation and food for the teams.

The Committee advised that an entry deadline for end of January was too soon and mid-February would be preferable. The Technical Delegate confirmed that visa requirements were the same as for France.

The Chairman noted that keeping the cost down is an important factor, especially where the event was run outside of Europe. She highlighted the risk of a decrease in interest.

7. 2017 ISAF Match Racing Events

The Committee received a progress report from the Chairman on the bidding process for 2017 events. She explained that the Executive Committee had revised the process in order to increase transparency. Bids will be reviewed by a panel of 4 to 5 members and will make a final recommendation to the Executive Committee. The panels will prepare the review criteria before seeing the bids and will then assess the bids against these.

The Chairman indicated that a decision should be made in time for the February 2016 Executive Committee meeting.

8. ISAF Nations Cup

(a) 2015 Nations Cup - Working Party Report

The Committee received a report from the Chairman of the Working Party.

(b) Future of the ISAF Nations Cup

The Committee discussed the recommendations from the Working Party and invited Tatiana Ermakova from the 2015 Grand Final hosts to comment. She reported that it had been a successful Grand Final and the Asian teams had been very happy with the location of the event.

Mike O'Connor felt that there should be a longer lead up to the event with a 3-year cycle not a 2 year one. This would allow Year 1 to focus on emerging nations, Year 2 to look at regional development with a Grand Final in Year 3. Martin Kay commented that the event needs to focus on key national authorities and developing regional partnerships, with training anchored around events.

The Chairman noted that the event had been struggling with participation and asked what does ISAF want from the format of the event and what is its unique selling point to competitors. Mike O'Connor felt that the event increased participation in match racing and should be continued with more promotion from ISAF – particularly in the regions of Asia and Africa. He suggested that the event focus on youth match racing with possible prize money to encourage participation. The Chairman felt that the event needs to focus on emerging nations and development, rather than compete in the youth match racing area.

Decision

The Committee recommends to Council that the Nations Cup be continued for the next edition (2016 - 2018) and be reviewed after the 2018 Grand Final. This is in the light of:

- 1 The value of the Nations Cup as a development tool for bringing new participation into sailing as demonstrated by the success and participation of several emerging nations and regions**
- 2 The potential and value to build the ISAF Nations Cup brand with its 25 year history, strong media coverage, and uniqueness of focus on competition of nations**
- 3 The pathway to identify and train new teams for the higher level match racing and medal race formats**

9. World Match Racing Tour

The Committee received a report from the Executive Director and Tour Director of the World Match Racing Tour.

The Executive Director explained that the Tour had had a successful year in 2015 despite the loss of their main sponsor due to its insolvency. A new owner had been found for the Tour and a new format has been proposed with the Final to be held in Sweden in July for 2016. The 2016 season will be shorter due to this, with the first event being in Perth, AUS in March 2016.

Stratis Andreadis asked about the wind range of the new boats, which was confirmed as being 2 to 25 knots but dependent on the venue and sea state. The Tour Director confirmed to the Committee that the test rule package for match racing was being used with other possible amendments.

Yana Dobzhitskaya expressed concern about the format with only 3 days of racing, the use of fleet racing in the preliminary rounds and that not all teams would meet. The Tour Director confirmed there would be 4 days racing and referred to the Committee to previous Grade 1 formats which have seen not all teams meet. The use of this format will allow the size of each event to increase to 20 teams from the current 12.

Martin Kaye asked about new format, the proposed weighting of prize money for the winner of the Tour and whether a shorter 2016 season was realistic. The Executive Director confirmed that the new owners wished to proceed as soon as possible with the new format and this will be beneficial for the teams. The weighting of prize money towards the end of the season will provide added incentive and media interest in the final event.

In response to questions from Adrienne Greenwood, the Executive Director confirmed the Tour was looking at developing relationships with youth match racing events. He noted that with the change in boats being used, there are changes to the insurance and safety requirements for the events.

The Chairman thanked the Executive Director for his comments and asked members of the Committee with additional comments to concerns to pass them to members of the Advisory Committee.

10. Match Racing Gradings and Rankings

- (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.

- (b) ISAF Standard Guidelines for Grade 1 and 2 Events

The Committee discussed the current Guidelines. It was proposed that the Guideline should be amended to make clear that if the Guidelines cannot be followed, permission from ISAF should be sought in advance.

The Committee also reviewed the amendments to the prize money distribution tables.

Decision

Subject to consultation with the Race Officials Committee, the Guidelines will be amended in line with the drafts circulated to the Committee.

11. Race Officials

- (a) Event Appointments Working Party

The Committee received a report from the Competitions Manager the Event Appointment Working Party.

12. Submissions November 2015

Please refer to the 2015 Submissions Booklet for details of all submissions also available online at www.sailing.org/meetings

(a) Submissions for which the Match Racing Committee is the Reporting Committee:

- i) Submission 126-15 – ISAF Match Racing Grading Criteria – Grade 4 (Open and Women) – Regulation 27.2.3(b)

Recommendation to Council: Approve

For reasons given.

- ii) Submission 127-15 – ISAF Match Racing Grading Criteria – Grade 3 (Open and Women) – Regulation 27.2.3(c)

Recommendation to Council: Approve with following amendment

There shall be a minimum of eight skippers entered for the match racing.

If the event is a ~~for~~ principal national championships (27.2.3(c)(i)&(ii)): there shall be a minimum of six skippers of which a minimum of four skippers shall be from the host nation.

1. there shall be a minimum of 4 skippers from the host nation; and

2. the minimum number of skippers is four.

- iii) Submission 128-15 – ISAF Match Racing Grading Criteria – Grade 1 and 2 (Open and Women) – Regulation 27.2.3(d)

Recommendation to Council: Approve

- iv) Submission 129-15 – ISAF Match Racing Grading Criteria – Grade 1 and 2 (Open and Women) – Regulation 27.2.3(d)

Recommendation to Council: Approve

(b) Submissions for which the Match Racing Committee is an Other Committee:

- i) Submission 019-15 – ISAF Committees – Change to Committee Structure for 2017-2020

Opinion: Reject

Match racing is a discipline and not a class and not merely defined by the events that are run under the ISAF umbrella of events. The Match Racing Committee not only plans and promotes the ISAF events, but also promotes, coordinates and develops match racing worldwide.

The Events Committee agenda and terms of reference focus primarily on the Olympic pathway and Olympics and not broader or specialized aspects of the different disciplines. As a sub-committee, Match Racing would be footnote on the Events agenda. And the ability to meet at the Annual Conference is imperative to fulfilling the terms of reference.

The Match Racing Committee oversees four significant ISAF events – The World Match Racing Tour (WMRT) for the ISAF Match Racing World Championship, the ISAF Women's Match Racing World Championship, the ISAF Youth Match Racing World Championship, and the ISAF Nations Cup. Three annual events and one event on a 2-3 year cycle.

In addition, the breadth of the match racing community as a discipline represents a large number of sailors and events worldwide. In 2015 alone there were 330 graded match racing events on the ISAF Calendar with over 1500 skippers combined in the Open and Women's Ranking lists. There is no comparison to the Team Racing Sub-Committee overseeing one biennial championship with only 10 events on the 2015 ISAF calendar.

- ii) Submission 020-15 – ISAF Committees – Sub-committee Recommendations to Council

Opinion: Approve

- iii) Submission 023-15 – ISAF Committees – Match Racing Committee

Opinion: Reject

See comments on Submission 019-15

- iv) Submission 025-15 – ISAF Committees – Ranking Sub-committees

Opinion: Reject

See comments on Submission 019-15

- v) Submission 142-15 – ISAF Match Race Rankings – International Jury Requirement – Regulation 27.2.3

Opinion: Approve with the following amendment:

The decision is made jointly by the Chairman of Race Officials Committee, the Chairman of the International Judges Sub-committee, the Chairman of the Match Race Rankings Sub-committee and the Chief Executive Officer. ISAF may impose conditions on any authorization.

(c) Recommendations on any other submissions

- i) Submission 230-15 – Racing Rules of Sailing - Definition Mark-Room, Rules C2.2, C2.6, C2.7

Opinion: Approve

Prefer Alternative 2

- ii) Submission 231-15 – Racing Rules of Sailing – New Rule C2.4

Opinion: Approve

- iii) Submission 232-15 – Racing Rules of Sailing – New Rule C2.6

Opinion: Approve

- iv) Submission 233-15 – Racing Rules of Sailing – New Rule C2.12

Opinion: Approve with following amendment

C2.12 Rule 31 is changed to ‘While racing, ~~a boat shall not~~ **neither the crew nor any part of a boat’s hull shall** touch a starting mark before starting, a mark that begins, bounds or ends the leg of the course on which she is sailing, or a finishing mark after finishing. **In addition, while racing, a boat shall not touch a race committee vessel that is also a mark.**’

- v) Submission 234-15 – Racing Rules of Sailing – New Rule C2.14

Opinion: Approve

13. Reports from Working Groups

The Committee received reports from the Women’s Match Racing, Match Racing Rules, Sailor Development and Race Management and Organization Working Parties.

14. Annual Report

The Committee approved the Chairman’s report to be given at the ISAF Council meeting of 13 November 2015 on the activities of the Match Racing Committee since the meeting of Council in November 2014.

15. Any Other Business

There being no other business, the meeting was closed.