

ISAF RACE OFFICIALS COMMITTEE

GUIDELINES TO 'PRINCIPAL EVENTS'



The regulations governing the appointment of race officials use the term 'principal event' to describe events that the ROC will consider to be acceptable to meet the experience criteria for appointment. There is no definition of 'principal event'. This is quite deliberate in order to give some flexibility to the ROC in appropriate circumstances. However, not having a definition also gives rise to difficulty when considering applications and this document is designed to overcome that difficulty without removing the flexibility.

No matter how hard we try to describe a principal event there will always be 'exceptions' and we should not have our hands tied too hard. However, we do owe clarity to our applicants and so this document should be open.

The flexibility is mostly required to help race officials from more isolated areas to become race officials. Officials from more isolated areas struggle to receive invitations to events, especially prior to becoming certified ISAF International Officials, but there are other reasons.

A principal event for the purposes of appointment of race officials is an event that gives the official a level of experience they can be expected to encounter when appointed as an International Race Official.

It is important that the whole portfolio of events is considered. For example, a 5 day dinghy national championship of a major class in a well developed country may attract up to 200 competitors and include Olympic level sailors, clearly a principal event, but if a portfolio only included national events (even if one was outside the Group) then that would be a concern. On the other hand, a portfolio that included the Olympics, a number of top World Championships and one 'make up event' should undoubtedly be acceptable.

Generally a principal event would be a minimum of 5 races, but perhaps we would count two events of lesser duration as one principal event if the standard of racing was high enough and this was the difference between meeting the criteria or not. Keelboat events tend to have less races than dinghy events, so again this should not be a hard and fast rule.

Certain events appear to be without doubt, principal events. Those listed in ISAF regulations as 'ISAF Events', 'Major Events' and 'Recognized Events', for instance. However, some of these and other events are experimenting with different forums for making decisions such as email, video conferencing, telephone conferencing. While we recognise the stature of these events, for the time being, we will only permit one event where the jury are not actually physically present to be in the portfolio. For other events it is much more difficult. For some time there have only been two Stars competitive in the UK. They could have a 'national championship' but it would not be a principal event. On the other hand, the Star nationals in the USA would undoubtedly qualify.

As match racing has a grading system that covers most events, it has been the practice to include a Grade 3 event but only within a portfolio including higher graded events. All national championships are Grade 3. At one time there was no doubt that the NZL nationals was a principal event (Coutts, Dickson, Brady, Barker, Appleton). Other nationals may be well under that standard.

With regard to International Race Officers, a role other than overall PRO may be considered to be a principal event. For, example an IRO appointed by ISAF to act in that capacity at the Olympic Games or to a major event, but not necessarily as the PRO. However, the number of events in the portfolio where the applicant was not the PRO will be limited to two.

It is clearly impossible to fully describe a 'principal event' so the table below may be helpful.

Examples of Principal Events follow:

<i>Fleet Racing Dinghies</i>	<i>Fleet Racing Keelboats</i>	<i>Match Racing</i>	<i>Team Racing</i>
Principal Events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Olympic Games • International Class Worlds & Continentals • Grade 1 & 2 Olympic Class events • National Championship with 50+ entrants and 5+ races (maybe less entries in some areas) • Will have protest committee independent of RC. 	Principal Events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volvo Ocean Race • International Class Worlds & Continentals • International Race Weeks • National Championship with 30+ entrants and 5+ races 	Principal Events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Championships • Americas Cup • Grade 1 & 2 	Principal Events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Championships • ISAF World Sailing Games 2006 • Hinman Trophy • Wilson Trophy • British Universities Championship • US Universities Championship
Marginal Events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 day national championship 	Marginal Events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	Marginal Events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade 3 	Marginal Events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •