



International Sailing Federation

Race Officials Committee
Principal Event Guidance

1. General

- 1.1 The Regulations governing the appointment of ISAF Race Officials use the term 'principal event' to describe events that the Race Officials Committee will consider to be acceptable to meet the experience criteria for appointment.
- 1.2 Although there is no specific definition of a principal event, this document will assist first time applicants and applicants for renewal with a better understanding as to which of their events will be considered as principal events. Officials from more isolated areas around the globe struggle to receive invitations to events outside their Group or MNA, especially prior to becoming certified ISAF Race Officials. With this in mind, the Race Officials Committee looks at a broad scope of events to define the experience needed for first time appointment or renewal of our officials. The Committee will always consider exceptions when evaluating an application.
- 1.3 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 ISAF Race Official and at the same time there will be events which can allow the official to bring their high level of experience to all levels of racing.
- 1.4 Wind can play havoc with the ability of a race committee to complete all races planned although generally a principal event should have a minimum of five races. Each situation is evaluated on its own. Two events of lesser duration or two events which have a very large number of boats, but only one or two races could represent one principal event if the standard of racing was high enough.
- 1.5 Shown below are events that are considered as L2 and L3 that may be combined to be a principal event. Also those listed in the ISAF Regulations as 'ISAF Events', 'Major Events' and 'Recognized Events', would be principal events.

2. Judges

- 2.1 Some events are experimenting with different forums for making protest decisions such as email, video conferencing and telephone conferencing. Whilst the stature of these events are recognized, only one event where the jury members are not physically present may be included in an application as a principal event and that event shall have an international jury as well as video conferencing. All the other criteria must be met.
- 2.2 An umpired fleet racing event may be included in an application for renewal but only one event that is either a principal event or one composed of two L2s can be included.

3. Umpires

- 3.1 With regard to umpires, 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. Although all national championships are Grade 3, not all are not necessarily of a high competition level.

- 3.2 Umpired fleet racing events may be included in an application for renewal, but only up to four such events per application can be included.

4. Race Officers

- 4.1 With regard to race officers, a role other than overall principal race officer or race officer responsible for the management of the races on the water 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 principal race officer. However, the number of events in the portfolio where the applicant was not the principal race officer responsible for the management of the races on the water will be limited to two. It is clearly impossible to fully describe a 'principal event' but the table below may be helpful.

5. L2 and L3 Events

- 5.1 Applicants for renewal (judges, race officers, umpires) may include as a principal event one composed of two L2 events or three L3 events, but only one of each per application. ISAF officials are encouraged not only to seek high level events, but to also to provide their skills and knowledge at other, non-principal events, in the hope that their expertise will be of benefit to national judges and other less experienced officials. The inclusion of L2 and L3 events in an application should facilitate this.

Fleet Racing Dinghies	Fleet Racing Keelboats	Medal and Umpired Fleet Racing	Match Racing	Team Racing
Principal Events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Olympic Games • Paralympic Games • Youth Olympic Games • Grade 200 and 100 Olympic Classes events • ISAF Class Worlds and Continentals • National Championship with 50+ entrants (min. 3 days) • Umpired Fleet Racing (all races umpired min. 3 days) 	Principal Events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volvo Ocean Race • ISAF Class Worlds and Continentals • International Race Weeks (min. 4 days) • National Championships with 30+entrants (some flexibility depending on class) • A high level event which has an IRO and international jury on site • Umpired Fleet Racing (all races umpired min. 3 days) 	Principal Events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medal racing at Olympic Games • Medal racing at Grade 200 events (if 4 or more races were umpired at that event) • Umpired fleet racing events of at least 3 days 	Principal Events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Championships • America's Cup • Grade 1 & 2 • National Championships (with high level of competition) 	Principal Events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Championships • US National Team Racing Championship • US University Championship • British University National Championship • British Open Team Racing Championship
L2 Events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Day National Championship • A National Championship of less than 50 boats • Umpired Fleet Racing (Medal Races a full day) 	L2 Events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Events which have a large number of boats but only 1 or 2 races • 2 day national championship • International race weeks of fewer than 4 days • Umpired fleet racing (medal races full day). 	L2 Events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medal racing at Grade 200 events medal racing of fewer than 4 races per event • Umpired fleet racing events of least 3 days 	L2 Events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A national championship (with a lower degree of competition) • A Grade 3 (with a high level of competition) 	L2 Events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A feeder to a principal event • Other national championship

L3 Events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional event with large number of boats (more than 100) 	L3 Events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional event with large number of boats (more than 100) 		L3 Events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Grade 3 (with a lower level of competition) 	L3 Events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional university events Regional events with more than 8 teams
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