

**IFDS Coaches Commission, Betsy Alison**

This past year, there has been a lot of communication between international coaches at World Cup and World Championship events where many topics of common concern have been discussed. Much has revolved around increasing participation at international events, the affordability of attendance at multiple events for teams and what we can do as coaches to improve athlete experience there.

The most significant implementation by coaches this calendar year has been the consistent inclusion of informal "coaches regattas" prior to World Cup events. This entails the organizing of race training and practice racing led by the local coach of a particular fleet at that venue and supported by other national team coaches. This has enabled sailors to race more prior to the start of each world cup event to practice for the major event in a similar format to what they will see in formal competition. During 2011, these "coaches regattas" were held at Rolex Miami OCR, USA; Semaine Olympiques Française, Hyeres, USA; Sail For Gold, Weymouth, GBR prior to the IFDS World Championship. There is also a plan to have extended training and a coaches regatta in Port Charlotte, Florida, USA (host venue of 2012 IFDS Worlds) 7-15 January 2012 which follows the America's Regatta in St Petersburg, Florida on the 1-4 December 2011.

One common areas of concern is how to get more information by IFDS directly to coaches, as opposed to RNA officials. Sometimes there is a lack of communication or filter down of information by RNA representatives to the coaches and athletes. Also missing is an accurate way to find charter boats in the host venues of World Cup and World Championship events. Two other areas of concern are:

1. accurate listing and approval of adaptive equipment being used;
2. class rules violations that are not being penalized for. I believe that both of these concerns are in the process of being addressed.

Other than that, the Commission sits at the pleasure of the Executive Committee and is happy to address any concerns or issues presented.