

Merger of ISAF and IFDS

A submission from the IFDS Executive Committee

Purpose or Objective

For both ISAF and IFDS to agree in principle in November 2013:

1. the full merger of IFDS and ISAF in a manner that retains the distinctive brand, expertise and specialisms of IFDS, with the following objectives:
 - i. To create a single governing body for the MNAs and sailors that participate in the sport of sailing.
 - ii To unify the support and services provided by today's two governing bodies, so providing consistent high quality services and improved efficiency to MNAs and sailors.
 - iii. To preserve the identity of IFDS and skills, knowledge and activities of its specialist volunteers.
 - iv. To encourage more ISAF MNAs to look after the needs and interests of sailors with disabilities.
2. the processes that will enable the merger, including all the necessary structural and regulation changes, to be completed in November 2014.

Proposal

1. IFDS shall, at the conclusion of the November 2014 annual conferences, become a committee of ISAF, with budget and authority to enable it to continue the activities it undertakes today. This authority shall be defined in its Terms of Reference to be agreed in November 2014, and shall include:
 - responsibility for the Paralympic Sailing programme including Event and Equipment selection;
 - responsibility for IFDS World Championships;
 - IPC representation;
 - sailor classification for IFDS and Paralympic format sailing, including administration of the classification programme, classifier instruction and evaluation, and recommendation to ISAF Race Officials Committee on appointment of classifiers;
 - equipment aids and adaptations for IFDS and Paralympic format sailing.

IFDS Committee shall liaise, where appropriate, with other ISAF committees to ensure consistency across ISAF processes and activities.

2. For November 2014 to November 2016 the membership of the IFDS Committee shall include all current members of the IFDS Executive. Thereafter nomination and appointment of the IFDS Committee shall be in accordance with normal ISAF processes.
3. The IFDS committee may appoint Working Parties to undertake tasks currently undertaken by the specialist IFDS Committees. Some such tasks (e.g. Equipment Control & Measurement) shall instead be transferred to the appropriate ISAF Committee.
4. The Chairman of the IFDS Committee shall have a full voting seat on ISAF Council.
5. From November 2014, ISAF MNAs shall pay a single annual subscription to ISAF, rather than having to pay a separate and additional subscription to IFDS. ISAF subscriptions shall be revised in November 2014 to reflect this and to make other changes to the subscription structure.
6. Existing IFDS members who are not ISAF MNAs may become Associate Members of ISAF. As such, in addition to the normal rights of Associate Members, they will have the right to nominate delegates to the IFDS Committee.
7. The IFDS logo shall be retained. An IFDS development seminar will be included in the programme of the ISAF annual conference.
8. It is intended that racing for IFDS Paralympic fleets continues to be included within the ISAF Sailing World Cup.
9. ISAF shall be the authority on sailing rules and regulations, and the appointment of Race Officials to Paralympic and IFDS World Championship events.
10. IFDS shall also remain as a charitable trust, independent of ISAF in a similar way to the WYST, that will be available to receive donations and support the development activities of the IFDS committee. The legal structure of the independent trust is to be decided by IFDS before the full merger in 2014.
11. To assist the integration discussions, for the period of November 2013 to November 2014 the IFDS Executive shall be established as an ISAF Commission.

Current Position

IFDS and ISAF are separate and independent organisations.

IFDS is an Affiliate Member of ISAF.

Approximately 60% of IFDS country members are ISAF MNAs. Other country members include National Paralympic Committees and other Disabled Sport organisations.

Reasons

IFDS encourages integration at an MNA level. Likewise IPC encourages integration at an IF level. This proposal is consistent with these directions and will:

1. provide our shared MNAs and sailors with a single governing body covering the whole sport;

2. retain and therefore re-enforce the specialisms within IFDS;
3. improve external relationships by mirroring the integration that is in place elsewhere (in other sports, in OCOGs running the Olympic and Paralympic Games, and now at ASOIF);
4. provide a single, consistent interface between the sport and WADA;
5. provide consistent quality and interpretations in technical support to MNAs, sailors and Race Officials;
6. co-ordinate through ISAF EAWP consistency in race official appointments to all sailing regattas;
7. provide umbrella liability insurance for IFDS activities;
8. realise operational efficiencies within the single governing body, and for the MNAs and sailors who involve themselves in the affairs of the governing bodies;
9. provide MNAs with a single “manual of activities and best practices” covering all their activities, and a single global organisation to liaise with;
10. remove the current “authority dilemma” where a single set of sporting rules is being separately interpreted by two global organisations.