

IFDS Medical Committee Report, Bernard Destrube (FRA)

Following the AGM in Madrid, I took on the chair of the Medical Committee, after Jürgen Schwittai (GER) stepped down in order to chair the classification subcommittee. Our first challenge was to finish rewriting the FCS to bring it in line with both IPC regulations, but also as much as possible with ISAF Race Official requirements. Charlie Simpson (CAN) did an incredible amount of work on this document, but also several members of the Medical Committee and fellow classifiers. The new document addresses issues not previously included in the FCS, such as protests and appeals, training methods, as well as procedures for recertification of classifiers.

Once published, the FCS dictated **reaccreditation of International Classifiers**, with the nomination of three level one (Junior) International Classifiers, and six level 2 (Senior) International Classifiers. One previous international classifier was not reinstated. This new FCS does not have any impact on present classifications, except for the inclusion of dwarfs who may have been excluded previously.

Inclusion of IFDS events within the World Cup regattas has made for complicated negotiations on the presence or not of classifiers at the different events. Although an international classification panel for IFDS level 1 or level 2 regatta's requires four classifiers, we decided to send only two classifiers to each event and not handle any protests during the racing, but only register protests in order to be handled at a later event. This arrangement worked out well, with busy classification sessions at Palma, Hyeres, and Weymouth. One classifier was present for a short time at the Kiel regatta. We are confident that further negotiations will enable smoother organization of classification sessions during the following World Cup events. There has obviously been a lack of awareness of why and how classification is achieved, amongst the Race Officials and regatta organizers. We should certainly look to communicating better on the procedures of classification.

The committee has continued to work on perfection of our **athletes classification database**, which has been established on a comparatively small budget. It is presently operating for most of the criteria that we require, and we will continue to perfect as time goes by. This medical database is independent of the one being developed for adaptations and sailor forum.

Several **projects** are underway.

IPC is auditing all the Paralympic sport federations for compliance to their new sports and classification code, We are presently working on this audit with the hope that the work done upstream before publication of the FCS will be rewarded by compliance with the different criteria specified by IPC.

We continue to **work closely with ISAF Race Officials committee** in the hope that International Classifiers shall be included and recognized as ISAF Race Officials. There should be submission at this AGM to include a member of the IFDS Medical Committee to the Race Officials committee to further the discussions leading to this recognition.

We have also been faced with the problem concerning **management of antidoping regulations**. At present, IFDS has not taken on any responsibilities in management of these regulations, and in particular on the management of therapeutic use exemption applications. It is our position that all sailors are subject to ISAF regulations during the competitions, and that this covers the antidoping regulations overall. At present, ISAF does not share this view and we will be working on clarification of this issue in the short future. Steven Wilson, a member of the IFDS Medical Committee, is also an active member of the ISAF Medical Committee which we hope should be beneficial in the discussions.

New challenges for the coming year:

As you will certainly learn elsewhere during this AGM, a new approach to **inclusion of intellectually disabled athletes** into sailing competitions is being considered, and the Medical Committee intends to cooperate with interest on this project.

We are aware that **communication with national classifiers** and those having attended international classification seminars is totally inadequate. We suspect that in some countries, information sent in to the RNAs is not forwarded to the appropriate disabled sailing correspondents and to the classifiers in the country. We intend to improve this lack of communications to the best of our capacities.

Dr Bernard Destrubé
Chairman IFDS Medical Committee