

IFDS Technical Committee Report, Colin Johanson (AUS)

Dear IFDS Members:

The Technical Committee has mainly been involved in the process of revising the Race Management Manual (RMM) to simplify and clarify the documents and integrate better with the new RRS 2009–2012.

Technical Committee report on Race Management Manual 2009 rewrite.

A Working Party comprising: Hugh Elliot (USA), Henry Sleutel (NED) and Mickey Ayalon (ISR), have been using their knowledge and skills on the revisions and deserve recognition for their hard work. Drafts have been bouncing around the world via e-mail, with version control and the various suggestions and rewrites causing nightmares, but the tasks are reaching conclusion now.

The IFDS Race Management Manual consists of the following parts:

Part 1 – Rules of Race Management: *'Rules'* as defined in the current issue of the Racing Rules of Sailing.

Part 2 - Guidelines for the Organizing Authority/Host Organization: Issues to be agreed between IFDS and the Host Organization and memorialized in a formal contract.

Part 3 - Suggestions and Recommendations for Conduct of the Event: Guidelines for effective conduct of IFDS sanctioned events.

Part 4 - Appendices: Definitions and information relating to classification, measurement, assistive devices, doping and sample documents.

The objectives of the IFDS Race Management Manual are to provide a standard set of rules for racing that add our specific needs to the RRS 2009-2012 to take into account the specific situations encountered in running events for sailors with disabilities. This version should be easier to read, less open to interpretation, and applicable to future championships by Event Management Committees.

We have been ruthless in consigning old inappropriate Part 1 items to Parts 2 and 3 of the RMM, since Part 1 ranks as *'rules'* as defined by the RRS. The Committee has done its best to make sure that all of the guidelines and suggestions have been moved to Parts 2 and 3 as appropriate and that everything that remains is really a rule. Rules already covered by the RRS 2009 – 2012, that may possibly confuse or conflict (under interpretation) have also been deleted. Part 1 is now finished and approved by the IFDS Executive Committee, Part 2 & 3 are reaching the end of draft process. It has been a major and complex rewrite to make the RMM a much more easily understood and applied guide without contradictions.

Once the final versions of the various Parts are approved, they will be published on the IFDS Website. We hope that this long process of such a major rewrite has not inconvenienced people too much but it had to be done to the best possible level. These are, of course not set in stone, but are “living” documents so future tweaks, changes and updates will still occur, as needs arise. These changes will then be published.

Many thanks to everyone who has contributed with feedback on the drafts. We look forward to your comments when the new RMM Parts are released.

New Website

The Technical Committee will be involved in the development of the new IFDS Website to provide information of legal adaptations to yachts.

Acceptable Adaptations

There is considerable overlap with the Classes Committee and also the Classifiers and Technical Delegates. Safety and reliability are major issues as is compliance with Class Rules. Technical Committee representative are members of the Adaptations Committee at a World Championship. Other members are the Technical Delegate and a Measurer.

Creating a list of approved adaptations would be time consuming and hard work. Writing definitive rules would too restrictive to free thought, need to be very Class specific, hard work, and would open the door for the notorious 'gang of loophole hunters'. The Technical Committee and Class Committee should collaborate to post rejected Adaptive Aids on the new IFDS website. This would prevent re-inventors of illegal modification to save sailors time, effort and money.

Seating modifications in One or Two person boats will also be a potential issue that needs to be dealt with at National levels to avoid problems and protests at International events. The Technical Committee will need to seek input from manufacturers, Class Associations and of course sailors, so as to determine how we need to control these issues before protests of unfairly modified seats become an issue at Worlds events.

The Technical Committee look forward to development of Disabled Sailing and the variety of equipment used. Many innovative designs are being planned, developed or refined to improve our sport and the performance capabilities of or sailors. Keep it up as new designs attract new and greater variety of sailors and this can only be good for the sport.

IFDS Technical Committee Members

Colin Johanson (AUS), Chairman,
Micy Aylon (ISR)
Keith Burhans (USA)
Hugh Elliot (USA)
Gene Hinkel (USA)
Antero Karjalainen (FIN)
Henry Sleutel (NED)
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