

IFDS Medical Committee – Jürgen Schwittai

Events

The IFDS International Classifiers have provided **classification** at several International Events:

1. Singapore, March 2008 - SKUD18
2. Hyeres, France, April 2008 – Sonar and 2.4mR
3. Cascais, Portugal, July 2008 – Multihull Championship, Challenger Trimaran
4. 2008 Paralympic Sailing Competition, Qingdao, China – One-Person, Two-Person and Three-Person Keelboats

Remarks on Classification in Hyeres at the Semaine Olympique Française: 7 sailors from three different countries were classified at that event. As the event organizers did not feel responsible for classification at that event and IFDS could not take over the costs, the classifiers' travel expenses were shared by the sailors/RNA's who were classified. This could be a model for future occasions.

2008 Paralympic Sailing Competition

The 2008 Paralympic Sailing Competition in Qingdao, for those who had the privilege to take part in, truly was a highlight in ones sailing life!

The facilities and the support for classification and the volunteers involved were excellent. Preparations in regards of classification for the Paralympics 2008 was a significant amount of work for the Medical Committee, the secretariat of IFDS and the TDs. Only with the great support of the staff of the IFDS secretariat and the TDs it was possible that the preparations including communication with IPC and BOCOG and classification in Sailing at the Paralympics became such a great success.

IPC's guidelines for the Classification at Paralympics 2008 stated that not more than 10% of the athletes should have to be classified at the Games.

Due to these guidelines the Medical Committee/Classification Subcommittee worked hard to provide as many occasions as possible for classification prior to the Games, including some individual solutions (e.g. one day trip from France to the UK or ad hoc classification at the test event in Qingdao in May). Therefore the number of sailors who had to be classified at the Paralympic Games was very low. IPC appreciated this result very much.

Classification Seminar

As IPC does not allow any other official activities during the Games a Classification Seminar was held in conjunction with the SKUD18 Qualification Event in Singapore during March 2008, to spread the knowledge of classification and to promote new classifiers.

IPC Classification Code

The IPC Classification Code was signed by IFDS before the Paralympic Games, as was done by each RNA as well.

It is the framework of all classification systems of all Sports within the IPC Family. It is meant to harmonize the systems throughout the sports, yet leaving enough room for the sports-specific parts of each classification system.

1. It was mandatory for each IPC Sport Federation, each IPC Member Country and major event organizers to sign this Code by the first day of the Paralympics 2008 and implement it by the first day of the Winter Games 2010.
2. The Code states that Classification is an integral part of Disabled Sports.

The Code deals with:

1. IPC Classification Strategy
2. Athlete Evaluation
3. Protest and Appeals
4. Classifier Training and Certification
5. Requires in future scientifically based evaluation of the classification systems.

IFDS Functional Classification System

The Medical Committee has restructured and re-edited the IFDS Functional Classification System in the light of the new IPC Classification Code. The draft and a summary of changes will be circulated together with this report.

The FCS 2009 is finished as a draft, except for Part D – Handbook - and the Appendices, which have to be worked over for the final version. The formatting and numbering of the document could be changed in the final version.

Data Base

The development of the Online Data base is finished, so it can be used as a working tool now. At every new event the data of the sailors including their pictures will be entered. This it will gradually grow and will include by the end of the quadrennium details of almost all active sailors.

Until we have sufficient experience in working with the Online Data Base, we will store the paper documents of the athletes at IFDS Secretariat.

There is no manpower available to enter the data of the existing classification files which are stored at the IFDS Secretariat.

ISAF Medical Commission

The IFDS Medical Committee are in contact with the ISAF Medical Committee, particularly with regards to anti doping, TUEs and Safety Issues.

ISAF Race Officials Committee

The IFDS Medical Committee are in contact with the ISAF Race Officials Committee. We are working towards the recognition of the International Classifiers as ISAF Race Officials in near future.

Medical and Classification Committee

Chairman of the Medical Committee

After the end of this term I will step back as Chairman of the Medical Committee. Dr Bernard DESTRUBE is being nominated as the new Chairman for the next Quadrennium, which has to be approved by the IFDS Executive Committee.

Chief International Classifier/Head of Classification

Dr Stephen WILSON (AUS) will step down as Head of Classification (former Chief International Classifier) at the end of this term. He will remain on the IFDS Medical Committee and be the IFDS representative at the ISAF Medical Commission. If approved by the IFDS Executive Committee, I will take the role of the Head of Classification for the next two years.

Travel Expense

For the future there has to be an agreement between the RNA's and IFDS, who is taking care of the travel expenses of IFDS Committee Members. It is not acceptable for Committee Members to go from one party to the other and 'beg' for money to be able to fulfill their duties for IFDS.

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