

**The IFDS Sailors Forum was held in Port Charlotte, USA,  
14 January 2012**

The Sailors Forum was chaired by the Chair of the IFDS Sailors Advisory Council, Hannah Stodel and took place in Port Charlotte, USA at the venue of the IFDS Combined World Championships, 2012.

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**Present:**

LM – Linda Merkle, President

BD – Bernard Destrube, Vice-President

HS – Henry Sleutel, Vice-President

CT – Costas Tsantilis, Vice-President

JT – John Twomey, Vice-President

HS – Hannah Stodel, Chair, Sailors Advisory Council

BA – Betsy Alison, Chair, Coaches Commission

**Apologies**

WK – Wilfried Klein, Vice-President

TL – Teresa Lara, ISAF Vice President

EL – Emma Little, ISAF/IFDS Disabled Sailing Administrator

**1. Welcome**

Hannah Stodel opened the meeting welcoming the sailors.

Linda Merkle presented all the executive members and committee chairs present as well as Wilfried Klein, who was unable to attend.

The sailors were asked if they had concerns relating to:

Measurement;

Classification;

Communications;

EUROSAF;

World Cup participation;

ISAF/IFDS relationship;

Any other issues.

## 2. IFDS International Classification System

An athlete expressed concern over the current Classification System which in his opinion is unfair to severely disabled athletes in the Three-Person Keelboat, Sonar.

### Decision

**It was noted that this issue was being addressed by the IFDS Classification Committee.**

BD

## 3. ISAF/IFDS Relationship

Linda Merkle underlined the fact that all sailors are members of ISAF whether they have a disability or not. All racing conducted at international events is done so according to ISAF standards with ISAF officials. IFDS maintains a close relationship with ISAF and limits its role to promoting disabled sailing around the world.

## 4. ISAF Sailing World Cup

Linda Merkle explained the extensive efforts that have been made since the IFDS was made aware of the new ISAF Regulation 24.3.1, which is effective from 1 December 2012.

Great progress has been made to include the Paralympics series in the upcoming events and this should be decided by ISAF at the Mid-Year Meeting being held in Italy during May 2012.

## 5. EUROSAF

It was noted that following agreements between the EUROSAF event organizers and IFDS, the coming EUROSAF circuit should include Paralympics series in several of the events, such as Medemblik, Kiel, and others.

## 6. Communications

Athletes were invited to give comments about communication media such as the IFDS bulletin, Facebook, Twitter. IFDS intends to send out mid-month bulletin exclusively to sailors and coaches, whereas the present bulletin has a much wider audience.

## 7. Future IFDS Combined World Championships

The future IFDS Combined World Championships were noted as:

- (a) 2013, Kinsale, Ireland, August;
- (b) 2014, Nova Scotia, Canada, August;
- (c) 2015, IFDS has two proposals at present. One from Melbourne, Australia and the other from Brazil.

### Decision

**It was noted that sailors will be contacted and asked to let IFDS know what their opinions are on these two venues.**

**8. Any other Business**

There being no further comments or questions, Linda Merkle thanked the attendees for their attention and welcomed them to the gala dinner.

Hannah Stodel presented Gene Hinkel with a token of sailor's appreciation for his work.

There being no further business, the meeting closed.

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