

Deferred Submission 062-03

CURRENT COUNCIL POSITION

Council Minutes, November 2003

Council agreed to defer submission 062-03 to the Events Committee for further consideration and a recommendation to Council at the Mid Year Meetings 2004.

RECOMMENDATIONS, NOVEMBER 2003

Recommendation from the reporting committee:

Events Committee

The Events Committee recommends to Council deferring this submission regarding the method of calculation of the ISAF rankings for further testing.

Opinions of the 'other committees':

Constitution Committee

The Constitution Committee did not consider this policy submission, but will draft the regulations once Council has established the policy.

Women's Sailing Committee

The Women's Sailing Committee did not feel they had the technical expertise in the method of calculation criteria to vote on the specific Submission.

However, the Women's Sailing Committee would welcome any changes to the world sailing rankings that will:

- (i) Reflect the geographical spread of athletes;
- (ii) Allow for the immediate retirement of athletes from the rankings, when they leave a class.

ORIGINAL SUBMISSION

REPORTING COMMITTEE – EVENTS
OTHER COMMITTEE – CONSTITUTION, WOMEN'S SAILING

Regulation 24

ISAF World Sailing Rankings

A submission from US Sailing

Proposal:

1. Amend Regulations 24.1.3 and 24.1.4 as follows:

24.1.3 Grade 1 Events

Foremost all-Olympic class events

Top level Continental Championships

Additional Criteria

- (a) A maximum of three Grade 1 events may be held per continent, plus when appropriate a grade 1 Continental Championship;

- (b) 15 or more competitors from 3 nations in each class (except for Women's Yngling events for 2003 where it should be 8 or more competitors from 3 nations);
- (c) ISAF compliant Notice of Race (NoR) to be used and distributed six (6) months before event;
- (d) International Jury to be appointed and the Chairman shall be an International Judge, not from the host country;
- (e) In order to be entered into the rankings at least three (3) races must be completed in the series;
- (f) A well equipped press office should be available for the international press;
- (g) TV coverage should be encouraged;
- (h) Bow numbers, if used, should reflect competitors' positions on the World Sailing Rankings - The Official ISAF Rankings for Olympic Classes.

24.1.4 Grade 2 Events

All-Olympic Class events

Continental Championships (other than those included as Grade 1)

International Olympic Class events

Additional Criteria

- (a) A maximum of five grade 2 events may be held per continent, plus when appropriate a grade 2 Continental Championship;
- (b) 15 or more competitors from at least 2 nations or 10 competitors from 3 nations (except for Women's Yngling events for 2003, where it should be 8 or more competitors from 3 nations);
- (c) ISAF compliant Notice of Race (NoR) to be used and distributed six (6) months before event;
- (d) Where an International Jury cannot be established, the Chairman of the Protest Committee shall be an International Judge.

2. Reference ISAF Web Document entitled Method of Calculation;

Year Weightings (YWF) are as follows:

Results in the current calendar year (last 12 months)

$Y=1.25$ 1.5

Results in the past calendar year (last 13 to 24 months)

$Y=1.0$

Quality Factor:

Quality Factor $Q = 1 + N/30$

N is the number of competitors who are eligible for ranking points in the regatta and who are in the top 30 of the **previous World Championship** ~~last published ranking list~~.

Q is never less than 1.0 or more than 1.5

For World **and Continental** Championship events **Q** is always 1.5

Add the **five** ~~seven~~ highest values of **P** over the last two years to determine the competitor's total ranking score.

3. The amended web document entitled Method of Calculation to be incorporated in the ISAF Regulations as 24.1.6.

Current Position:

See above

Reason:

The ISAF Ranking System currently works fairly well in ranking sailors from the same continent in the order that they reasonably deserve to be ranked relative to each other. It fails to rank non European sailors appropriately relative to European sailors. The current mathematical formula is Eurocentric and self-reinforcing. Specifically, in order to be ranked appropriately, a sailor effectively must sail both World Championships, and four other Grade 1 events in the current year which have a Q factor of 1.5. That would account for six of the seven scored events, and only the seventh event may realistically be a year old or a non Grade 1, $Q=1.5$ event. There are virtually no Grade 1 events outside of Europe with a Q factor of 1.5 (perhaps Miami OCR in Star). This is unlikely to change in spite of best efforts. Given that World Championships are likely to be held in Europe every other year, a European sailor may attain a relatively high ranking while only leaving Europe for one World Championship every other year. A non European sailor would realistically need to make five trips to Europe within every calendar year in order to compete in World Championships and Grade 1 events with $Q=1.5$ (Hyerer, Spa, Kiel, European Championships, and World Championships).

The revisions suggested above are essentially minor refinements designed to minimize the Eurocentric bias of the ISAF Ranking System while maintaining the positive features of the current system. Realistically, if these changes were implemented in their entirety, they are unlikely to make a major difference in the relative order of European sailors, but would provide a much more level playing field for non-European sailors.

Reducing the YWF for current year events from 1.5 to 1.25 would make it less mandatory to attend four events in Europe with Grade 1 and $Q=1.5$ every year.

Changing the definition of N in the Q formula to refer to the previous World Championships instead of the last ranking list would make the result less self-reinforcing, especially in those classes where a number of non-European sailors do well in the World Championships. It would also have the desirable effect of raising Q factors in non-European events.

Adding Continental Championships to the list of events where $Q=1.5$ automatically would boost the importance of non European Continental Championships.

Reducing the number of counted events from seven to five would permit a non European sailor to be ranked appropriately while attending two events in Europe other than their respective World Championships instead of the currently obligatory five annual events in Europe.

The remaining changes in Part B would have the effect of making all non European Continental Championships

Grade 1 with $Q=1.5$, while simultaneously forcing European organizers to delete one of the following; Hyeres, Spa, or Kiel from Grade 1 status in a given year if they were to maintain Grade 1 status for the European Championships. It is suggested that a rotation system could be set up so that Palma, Hyeres, Spa, and Kiel are each Grade 1 every other year. The changes to the text for Grade 2 Events are essentially housekeeping if all the Continental Championships become Grade 1, $Q=1.5$

The document entitled Method of Calculation should be incorporated into the ISAF Regulations as any other rule.

This submission may be amended, or adopted in part, or in its entirety.