

Other Committees - Executive

Proposal Regarding International 18ft Skiff

A submission from the Swiss Sailing Federation

Current Position

The spectacular 18 Ft Skiff Sailing is probably one of the best-known type of sail racing world-wide. The 18ft Skiff has been racing since 1892 and held a World Championship every year from 1937 until prevented from doing so by ISAF in about 1990, as this class has never been recognised by IYRU or ISAF.

At present, there is no International Class Association in place.

There are two organization bodies in Australia, the "18 Footers League" (commercially managed by Tony Reynolds) and the "Australian 18 Ft. Skiff Class Association" (President: Emmett Lazich, emmett@hutch.com.au). The "League" has restricted access to races for members only (boats belong to the "League"), whereas the "Association" is open for everybody, including "League" members/boats.

In order to provide for a structured skiff sailing in Europe, the active 18 Ft. Skiff Sailors have founded the "European 18 Ft. Skiff Class Association" (Secretary General: Martin Blum, martin.blum@gmx.de) last year (Constitution, Class Rules, actual status attached). In order to get organized on a global level, the European Association contacted the two Australian bodies. Only the "Australian 18 Ft. Skiff Class Association" responded positively, as they share the spirit and constitutional rules (democratic, sailor-oriented) of the Europeans. Further negotiations are under way to found an International 18 Ft. Skiff Association.

Proposal

The Swiss Sailing Federation submits that the "International 18ft. Skiff Association" be designated an "ISAF Classic Yacht Class", fulfilling all requirements of Regulation 10A1 (to be documented).

Reason

Currently the class has over 70 yachts registered worldwide racing in Switzerland, Germany, England, France, Italy, USA and Australia. There are a number of boat builders active in this market (e.g. McConaghy, Bethwaite in Australia, Ovington in the UK, etc).

In the 2001 International Championship held in Sydney Harbour in January, there were 28 competitors including 11 from Switzerland, USA, Italy and the UK. The approved 2001 calendar comprises also the Carnac Week, the UK Grand Prix, the Skiff Pro Tour and the Bertazza Race. All events enjoy high spectator reception including TV coverage.

The Australian and European Associations are determined to found the International Association by January 1st, 2002, at the very latest, in order to make sure that the skiff high performance sailing is done within a proper structure, safeguarding the interest of the sailors.

The class will provide a documentation in support showing to meet the requirements of Regulation 10A.1.1

(This documentation will be included as supporting papers on the agenda of the Sailing and Executive Committees)

[Enclosures:

- *Constitution*
- *Class Rules*
- *Status of the Class]*

