

### **Format 2008 Olympic Sailing Competition**

No discard

A submission from the Danish Sailing Association

#### **Proposal:**

The Danish Sailing Association submits:

- That there will be no drop race at the Olympic Regatta
- That the same principle is adopted at all ISAF graded events for the Olympic Classes

The change should be implemented in as many graded events already from 2006, which will give the sailors sufficient time to get used to the change in the competition format before the Olympic Regatta 2008.

#### **Current Position:**

All Olympic Events/Classes perform fleet racing with the possibility of 1 or 2 drop races. This does often result in, that one or more of the Gold Medal winners are found before the last race, where they do not have to sail and stay on shore.

This has happened both at the ISAF World Championship in Cadiz 2003 as well as the Olympics in 2004 – 3 classes in the Olympics 2004!

If Sailing wish to be an attractive sport towards media and spectators, this is a completely unacceptable situation, which has to be changed. It is impossible to make the public - viewers, readers and spectators – understand, that the medal winner are not competing in the final race at major events, championships and the Olympics, which is a anticlimax for everybody.

#### **Reason:**

Sailing has to adjust to the modern sports world, where the Olympic competition has to be action packed, easily accessible and simple to follow and understand as a TV-viewer and/or spectator.

The Sailors including potential medal winners must be on the water in the last race at the last day in order to secure the excitement until the end of the competition, not least out of consideration for the TV-media, press in general as well as spectators, in order to make true highlights available at the end of the Regatta.

This can be achieved by relatively simple means, among those to exclude the drop race(s).

Historically it has been sensible that you could drop a race, if you had gear failure resulting in a DNF or DNC. In today's modern sailing world with media attention, gear failure for a competitor must be regarded as a "business risk".

Redress will still be an option according to Racing Rules and Sailing Instructions, unless otherwise decided.

The effect of having no drop race will also result in that competitors will try to reduce the risk of DNF or DSQ in several other areas:

- Gear failure
- OCS/BFD as a result of a premature start
- DSQ as a result of a Rule 42 situation
- DSQ as a result of conflicting situations with other boats according to RRS