

Reporting Committee – Events

Other Committee – Constitution, ISAF Classes

Olympic Regatta, Selection of Equipment ISAF Regulation 16.1.1

A submission from the Chairman of the Events Committee

PROPOSAL:

Delete ISAF Regulation 16.1.1 and replace as follows:

“ 16.1.1 Council shall make the following decisions on Olympic Equipment (classes) and Events:

(a) at the November meeting of Council seven years before the Olympic Regatta, decide the Olympic Equipment & Events selection criteria

(b) at the November meeting of Council five years before the Olympic Regatta, decide the Events. Council will decide the list of possible Events at the prior mid-year meeting

(c) at the November meeting of Council four years before the Olympic Regatta, decide the Equipment. Council will decide the list of possible Equipment at the prior mid-year meeting. “

16.1.2 Submissions for Equipment for the Olympic Regatta shall be made in accordance with Regulation 1, except that no submission will be accepted after March 15th in the year of the decision on Equipment. Supporting information required under regulation 1.5.1 shall be specified by ISAF and shall include information to enable Council to evaluate how well the Equipment meets the Olympic Equipment selection criteria.

16.1.3 Decisions made under 16.1.1(b) may only be subsequently overturned with a vote in favour of two-thirds of all Council members entitled to vote. Decisions made under 16.1.1 (a) and (c) may not be subsequently overturned.

~~*“ The final decision on the equipment (classes) for the next Olympic Regatta shall be made at the ordinary meeting of the Council following the last Olympic Regatta. “*~~

CURRENT POSITION:

See above.

REASON:

The proposed new system preserves the advantages of the current system, but eliminates the disadvantages.

The advantages that are preserved are:

- No Equipment can be de-selected until after the previous Olympics.
- Equipment decisions are made as late as possible, allowing them to take into account recent events and changes of opinion and popularity.
- Equipment is chosen at the one meeting, rather than having every November meeting potentially dominated by discussion on Olympic Equipment selection.

The drawbacks that are eliminated are:

- The lack of agreed Olympic Equipment & Events selection criteria and process can lead to point-in-time decisions driven by national preferences, rather than decisions debated and made on the basis of the criteria.
- There is no clear definition of “Event”. This leads to confusion, and hinders any attempt at developing an Olympic Events Strategy.
- The lack of a decision on Events means that on occasions members of Council are debating unexpected options, and therefore without having conducted appropriate prior research. For instance in November 2000 Council debated and chose the Yngling as the Women's Fleet Racing Keelboat. Earlier committee decisions had recommended, and therefore many MNAs and Classes making submissions may have assumed, that the Women's Keelboat discipline would be Match Racing.
- Technical issues with new Equipment options are often not fully explored until after the Equipment has been selected. A well-defined and staged process, combined with the earlier date for Equipment submissions, will enable the technical and other merits of the various options to be evaluated in advance of any final decision.
- The current system is seen by sailors and commentators to be too political. Decisions can be seen by some to be based on pre-conceptions and self-interest, rather than on reasoned argument and in the best interests of the sport. The new system will be seen to be more open and logical.

Note

To assist Council's deliberations, Events Committee shall implement the following processes:

- agree at its mid-year meeting following the Olympics a report on how well the Equipment and Events sailed met the selection criteria;
- agree purpose of any Equipment Trials, and appoint a Trials Working Party, at its November meeting seven years before the Olympic Regatta;
- agree Notice of Equipment Trials, and publish Evaluation Criteria, at its mid-year meeting seven years before the Olympic Regatta;
- decide on any new Events for inclusion in the list of possible Events at its November meeting six years before the Olympic Regatta;
- run Equipment Trials when necessary, and help successful trialists to develop an organisation and class rules that are rigorous enough for Olympic competition;
- appoint an Events Review Working Party to review and publish a factual report on the Events alternatives. This report will be circulated with the Council papers for its meeting that decides Events;
- appoint an Equipment Review Working Party to produce Equipment evaluation criteria, and review and publish a factual report on the Equipment alternatives. This report will be circulated with the Council papers for its meeting that decides Equipment.

In addition, the Events Committee will make recommendations to Council on decisions listed in Regulation 16.1.1.