

## **New Rule – Racing Areas Classification for Olympic Classes**

A submission from the Real Federacion Española de Vela

### **Proposal:**

ISAF Should establish a catalogue of the racing areas in order to classify them in the following categories:

#### Category 1

Racing areas suitable to hold the Olympic Regatta and World Championships.

#### Category 2

Racing Areas suitable to hold Continental Championships and International Regattas.

These categories shall be related to the Grades given by ISAF to the Championships and the regattas.

### **Current Position:**

No Current position, new rule

### **Reason:**

Olympic Sailing has got into an important process of professionalization.

Resources allocated nowadays by Governments and Sponsors to the development of Olympic programmes in sailing are on a level with many other Olympic sports.

Training the competitors included in these programmes involves a long period of effort and work.

Getting resources to maintain these programmes depends directly on the results achieved by the competitors in the events.

These results must therefore reflect the exact quality of the competitors and all those factors which can influence or have effect on them must be reduced as far as possible.

Competitors who have taken part in different World and Continental Championships in the last years, have been complaining about some of the racing areas where these events have been held. These complaints refer basically to geographic or climatic characteristics, as factors which alter the sports results.

Among the geographic factors we find:

1. Racing areas which are not big enough to include lay lines;
2. Racing areas placed in sites whose orography and dimension make it difficult to set a course far enough from its influence;
3. Racing areas which, due to their dimensions, make it impossible to set courses with the appropriate lengths;

4. Racing areas with shallow water, where the mast of a capsized boat is longer than the water depth.

Among the geographic factors we find:

5. Racing areas where the weather statistics show wind speed under 6 knots on the dates for the event;
6. Racing areas where the weather statistics show erratic wind direction on the dates of an event;
7. Racing areas where the weather statistics show, on the dates of the event current over 1 knot with winds under 6 knots;

All these factors mentioned above are directly related to the work of the race committees, who many times have to face important difficulties to:

8. Set proper starting and finishing lines;
9. set courses and maintain their shape.