

### **ISAF Team Racing World Championships**

#### Inclusion of an Under 21 Competition

A submission from the Chairman of the Events Committee

#### Proposal:

The ISAF Team Racing World Championships includes an Under 21 competition and Under 21 medals. To be eligible for the Under 21 Competition, all team members shall be under the age of 21 years on 31st December of the year of the Championships and Under 21 teams are also eligible to win the "Open" competition

#### Current Position:

There is no Under 21 Team Racing Competition

#### Reason:

Team Racing has its roots in schools and college racing, and junior and youth classes. An Under 21 competition as part of the World Championships will strengthen this essential grass roots activity and give focus to competitors and coaches in these classes and establishments.

Team Racing is an excellent training environment for developing sailors who aspire to Olympic and other pinnacle events. An Under 21 competition as part of the World Championships will allow MNAs and their elite young sailors to take advantage of team racing as a training discipline, in particular in the period between Youth and Olympic racing.

The World Championships itself will improve. Currently MNAs can send two teams, but these teams are not differentiated, and the rules are that a country can only win one medal. This change will allow MNAs, if they so choose, to send one Open and one Under 21 team, and will enable both MNA teams to win a medal - one in each competition.

The 2005 World Championships Competitors Forum strongly endorsed the desire for an ISAF competition for younger team racers, and ISAF's Team Racing strategy now includes the integration of such a competition into the World Championships.

21 has been chosen as the age limit because:

- under 19 (ISAF Youth age) is believed to be too young for the optimal competition; sailors typically start team racing older than they start fleet racing, and many sailors may therefore miss the opportunity of participating if the age limit is Under 19. In addition, the focus of many Under 19s is on the ISAF Youth World Championships;

- under 21 is young enough to give top school teams a realistic chance of medalling; it allows sailors to compete while at the start of their university studies, but will typically exclude senior university and ex-university teams;
- the World Championships takes place every 2 years, so Under 21 ensures that every sailor has the chance to focus on one Team Racing World Championships after becoming too old for the ISAF Youth World Championships.