World Sailing Governance

Postpone Governance Review

A submission from the Hungarian Sailing Federation, Russian Yachting Federation and Virgin Islands Sailing Association

Purpose or Objective

To give the new bodies elected in 2020 the opportunity to reflect

Proposal

To send any governance decision off to at least 2020 Nov.

Current Position

The Board and its latest “Governance Commission” urge premature decisions on the topic

Reasons

1. In a pre-election year it is not customary to make decisions on constitution or regulation changes,

2. The new regulations would reduce the democratic functioning, leads to further concentration of power as a 140-member General Assembly is not suitable for substantive discussion,

3. The steps taken to institute “corporate governance” so far had already caused serious financial difficulties (A Board not allowed to speak openly or vote freely. No proper monthly financial balance sheet sent to all MNA-s and published on the WS website. Not any idea of the approval process for many expenditures above BP 100K.) The democratic institutions and transparency in particular in the financial field that had been won earlier would be further curtailed,

4. Managerial policies, decisions and actions that have already changed the governance of World Sailing from bottom up control constituted to be of service to the sport of competitive Sailing - to a top down control with its major focus on a commercial corporate strategy of global marketing and sponsorship – resulted already in wrong decisions, outrage in the boat parks and the present disappointing financial situation,

5. The outcome of the governance survey is not yet known, nor its acceptance by those that have studied it which gives a good reason for further consideration,
6. Governance Commission Proposal is very large and complex. It has had limited input from involved sailors and MNAs through directed outcome surveys (i.e. get rid of the Council), meetings based on single readings of abbreviated presentations, and personal communications. The proposal may have useful ideas but it first must be studied and the consequences reviewed by a larger panel of sailors with much broader experience in leadership than the commission possesses. It must be reviewed more formally by all MNA-s.