Making World Sailing More Relevant to Sailors

New Governance Working Party/Commission composition

A submission from the Virgin Islands Sailing Association and the International Lightning Class Association

Purpose or Objective

Ensure that a widespread and representative group of World Sailing Stakeholders review and propose improvements to the Governance recommendations recently proposed by the Governance Commission.

Proposal

World Sailing shall immediately strike a working party or commission to bring forward a reorganization for 2020 of World Sailing to make it so that

- it shall be more inclusive of all sailors, including but not limited to Countries and Classes, Athletes and shall better reflect their contribution to the organization
- actions and deliberations (including financial actions) of World Sailing are to be open and transparent to all sailors
- the commission shall work with or possibly replace the existing Governance Commission to receive input from and report frequently to all stakeholders including but not limited to MNA’s, Classes, Athletes, and sailors.

The working party shall

- consist of approximately 7 to 9 people
- It shall preferably be made up of persons who have been council members and it shall not have existing council members, save one appointed by the Executive and one elected from the council by the council members excluding the Executive members
- Have a member selected by the Classes, the Para World Sailing Committee, the Athletes Commission, the Coaches Commission, the Women’s Forum.
- Elect its own chair person
- Select up to two additional members who the working party feels can help them with their deliberations.
- be given access to all World Sailing documents and records they require as well as the cooperation of the World Sailing staff
- resources to assist them with their mandate as required. Reasonable assistance shall not be withheld by World Sailing Executive or Staff.
Current Position

The current Governance Commission has reported with a set of recommendations which have some good ideas but do not completely reflect the consensus of the Stakeholders. They have done creative thinking but their work needs to have more widespread input so that the good ideas mature and the more difficult issues get explored more widely and get clear critical thinking instead of being rushed into place. As such its work should pass on to a much more inclusive group (which can include part or all of the current Governance Commission with a broad a mandate to focus on making major positive changes to structure, transparency and governance of World Sailing.

Reasons

1. The current operations of World Sailing are failing the majority of sailors world-wide as evidenced by the decline in sailing participation over the years in many countries
2. The constant focus on Olympics rather than sailing as a sport which sucks virtually any focus on or assistance to the vast majority of sailors.
3. Every year World Sailing becomes less and less relevant to the sailing public.
4. In order to truly be the Sport Governing Body for Sailing it must properly review and rejuvenate itself.