World Championships

Match Racing

A submission from the Fédération Française de Voile

Purpose or Objective

To promote and develop the match racing worldwide and to make the Open World match racing more accessible and affordable in accordance with the format in most match racing event.

Proposal

For the sake of consistency, it would make sense for World Sailing to award a MRWC monohull title. This would revitalize the Match Racing discipline globally, by adding a major title that would give even more meaning and perspective to every Match Racing project. The Match Racing World Championship could be an event gathering the 10 best skippers available on the ranking list at a given date, as it was done before 2006.

Current Position

Historically, Match Racing has developed entirely in monohulls. The title of "Match Racing World Champion" (MRWC) for the Open category, awarded by World Sailing, is granted to the winner of the World Match Racing Tour, using for following supports:

- from 2006 to 2015: monohulls
- since 2016: multihulls (single support: the M32), on a closed circuit created for promotional purposes and financially inaccessible for the vast majority of crews. In 2018, the event that was to determine the MRWC was cancelled. The 2018-2019 title will finally be awarded on a multihull event held in Marstrand in July 2019.

Today, if we take a step back on the Match Racing discipline in the world, we find that:

- it is open, financially affordable, international (more than 30 nationalities involved) and dynamic (about 300 official events per year, spread all over the world)
- it is sailed 98% on monohulls, on various supports depending of the venue

The FFV, Eurosaf and World Sailing award each year titles that value this discipline:

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Reasons

It seems rather incongruous that the title of MRWC is awarded based on a championship sailed in multihulls, on a closed circuit created for promotional purposes, while the vast majority of Match Racing events in the world (including all other national / continental / global championships) are run in monohulls (98% of events), on various supports and are largely affordable from a financial perspective.

Not only Monohull and multihull Match Racing are significantly different (course, technics, tactics ...), but we note that both formats are largely compartmentalized:

- 1168 different helmsmen have sailed Match Racing in official competition for 2 years (ranking of March 2019), against ... 35 only on multihulls (M32).

- If we excluded the multihull results of the Open ranking list, only 3 multihull helmsmen would be in the top 50 of the ranking list today (namely Harry Price, Johnie Berntsson and Kim Kling) – while they are currently 15. In other words, 47 of the top 50 monohull Match Racers are NOT sailing on the multihull circuit.

To what extent can this multihull championship be representative for a MRWC title?

In addition, with the America’s Cup reverting back to monohulls, what is the point of giving such weight to the multihull practice?