

Environmental and Sustainability Commission

New Regulation 8.8

A submission from the Chairman of the Match Racing Committee

Purpose or Objective

To establish a commission within ISAF to facilitate and proliferate the best and most rational application throughout every facet of the sport of the basic principal of sailing: “ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY: Participants are encouraged to minimize any adverse environmental impact of the sport of sailing.”

Proposal

Change Regulation

1. ~~8.8 Reserved for future use~~
2. Insert new Regulation 8.8:

8.8 Environmental and Sustainability Commission

Constituting the Commission

8.8.1 The Environmental and Sustainability Commission has been established to constantly investigate, develop, specify and spread innovations and best practices that allow sailors, race organizers, and stakeholders in the sport “to minimize any adverse environmental impact of the sport of sailing”. To actively proliferate sustainable practices within the sport of sailing.

8.8.2 Members of the Environmental and Sustainability Commission shall be decided as follows:

- (a) the Environmental and Sustainability Commission shall comprise of eight members, at least four members, must fit the following criteria:**
 - (b) one member with extensive and current experience in the organization of high impact sailing events;**
 - (c) one member from the sailing industry;**
 - (d) one current professional or Olympic sailor with a valid Group 3 classification;**
 - (e) one member with expertise in matters of sustainability.**
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Terms of Reference**8.8.2 The Commission shall report to the Executive Committee.****8.8.3 The Commission shall:**

- (a) **gather, update, and publish information about the environmental impact of sailing;**
- (b) **produce an ISAF sustainability classification system for regattas as well as for boats and equipment to be applied to all ISAF events and ISAF classes;**
- (c) **liaise with relevant ISAF committees in all matters affected by its work;**
- (d) **encourage Member National Authorities to create sustainability committees or other relevant bodies within their organizations and encourage these authorities to report and/or apply:**
 - (i) **best practices on sustainability that have shown promise at a national level to be shared with the commission;**
 - (ii) **actions that should be taken to improve the environmental impact of the sport of sailing;**
- (e) **represent the interest of ISAF, its member National Authorities and all users at relevant international or national institutions which concern sustainability.**

Current Position

None.

Reasons

1. Sustainability, defined, as “the ability to endure... how biological systems remain diverse and productive indefinitely” has become one of the greatest challenges of this century. The 127th session of the IOC adopted “Agenda 2020, 20+20 recommendations to shape the future of the Olympic Movement” in December 2014. The 4th and 5th recommendations out of 40 concerned sustainability.
(http://www.olympic.org/documents/olympic_agenda_2020/olympic_agenda_2020-20-20_recommendations-eng.pdf p.7)
 2. ISAF does not have a body that updates and investigates sustainable practices in sailing. ISAF published “Green Event Guide” and “Guidance for Training Centers on Good Environmental Practice” in January 2011
(<http://www.sailing.org/about/environment/index.php>).
 3. Although the literal “sailing” part of sailing has minimal impact on the environment, everything from traveling to a venue, organizing and running a regatta, have significant, at times severe, environmental impact. The extent and mitigation practices have not been investigated thoroughly giving ISAF the chance to become a leader in sustainability in sport.
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4. There are few solutions provided for reuse and disposal for the end-of-life of boats and equipment. Boats, sails, and equipment are re-sold till they are left to rot or thrown out as garbage. ISAF should facilitate debate and share solutions on intelligent re-use and recycling or boat and equipment.
 5. Water use and waste management are two areas that ISAF can provide solutions for, given a body within ISAF that provides all stakeholders applicable solutions for improving their environmental stewardship credentials
 6. A commission is proposed as "Commissions are specialized bodies created to advise on specific areas of professional or technical expertise" (ISAF Reg. 8.1) Investigating issues concerning sustainability and sailing requires an interdisciplinary approach combining the technical expertise of sailors, regatta organizers and stakeholders with scientific knowledge and studies on the environmental impact of human actions.
 7. ISAF being the world governing body for the sport of sailing is the only institution that can define problems and solutions for making a sport so diverse as sailing, more sustainable.
 8. ISAF can codify best practices and include them in minimum requirements for graded events, World Championships, and creating sustainability certifications that can deepen ISAF's involvement at the grass roots level of sailing.
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