

Other Committee – Equipment, Constitution

Submission to Change the Grading Criteria for Equipment Graded Events (Reg 27)

Change to the Minimum Length of Boat required for a Grade 1 and 2 Open Event from 6.8M to 5.9

A Submission from the RS21 International Class Association

Purpose or Objective

The objective of this submission is to amend the minimum length that a sailboat is currently required to be in order to meet requirements for eligibility for use at 'Open' grade 1 and 2 open match racing events so that it is in line with the requirements as set out for the Women's discipline of the same grade of event.

Proposal

The table below are the changes to the grading criteria for graded events proposed in this submission:

Event Grade	2 - O	1 - O	2 - W	1 - W
Boats General	6.8m 5.9m	6.8m 5.9m	5.9	5.9

Current Position

As above.

Reasons

1. The amendment to current requirements as suggested in this submission would increase the number and variety of host venues for grade 1 or 2 events, especially in regions not currently hosting such events.
 2. Modern boat design and construction techniques have allowed for smaller boats to be created that can carry more weight than boats of a similar size designed and build previously. A modern boat of 5.9m in length could now have a proportionately bigger cockpit than that of an equivalent 7m sailboat of a more traditional design.
 3. Through innovations in design and construction techniques, it is now possible for 6x 5.9m keelboats like the RS21 to fit into 1 x 40ft sea freight container, a design solution that has a positive impact on overall event costs and on the carbon footprint traditionally associated with the equipment shipping side of running events.
 4. The alignment of the criteria for equipment for the Grade 1-2 events balances the Women and Open event related equipment requirements and standardises requirements that are currently at odds with one another.
 5. An alignment of requirements would reduce complexity of logistics and minimise costs associated with getting fleets to locations that are attractive to potential event sponsors but that do not have local fleets of boats suitable to use for the events.
 6. The reduction of the minimum requirement for Grade 1-2 Open events would result in venues having to invest less in equipment when smaller boats can be used, with money saved on equipment able to be invested in other areas of the event.
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7. Boats of 5.9m length are equally suited to sailed being by all male crews as they are by mixed and/or female crews.