ISAF Athletes’ Commission

Regulation 8.9

A submission from the Executive Committee

Purpose or Objective

1. To clarify that the ISAF Athletes’ Commission is made up of Olympians, and is established to provide the view of the Olympic sailor into ISAF decision making.

2. To reflect the commission’s election and membership rules, agreed by Council in May 2013, in the Regulations.

Proposal

Delete current Regulation 8.9 and insert:

Athletes’ Commission

8.9 The Athletes’ Commission

Constituting the Commission

8.9.1 The Athletes’ Commission is a non-political consultative body that offers advice and assistance to ISAF on matters and issues of relevance to Olympic sailors, and acts as a link between active Olympic sailors and ISAF.

8.9.2 Members of the Athletes’ Commission shall be decided as follows:

(a) the Athletes’ Commission shall comprise eight members; the term of membership shall be eight years;

(b) there shall be a maximum of one member from any Olympic sailing Event;

(c) four members shall retire, and four new members shall join, following elections to be held at each Olympic Games;

(d) only Olympians from the current or immediately previous Olympics shall be eligible to become members;

(e) three new members shall be elected by the sailors participating at each Olympic Sailing Competition. One further sailor shall then be appointed by the ISAF President to assist a good balance between regions, genders and Events;

(f) in the event of a resignation during a member’s first four years, a replacement member shall be elected at, or appointed after the next Olympics to serve a four year term;

(g) candidates for membership shall pledge to represent all Olympic sailors;
(h) members shall elect a Chairman and Vice-Chairman from among their members to serve in that role for four years at their first meeting following the Olympics;

(i) The ISAF President may, at the request of the ISAF Athletes Commission chairman, appoint as additional Honorary Members former Olympians whose expertise or experience will be of value to the ISAF Athletes Commission in the execution of its responsibilities.

Terms of Reference

8.9.3 The Athletes’ Commission shall be responsible to the Executive Committee.

8.9.4 The Athletes’ Commission shall:

(a) present the Olympic athletes’ points of view to the Executive Committee through recommendations and proposals;

(b) promote respect of the rights of athletes within the sport and draw up recommendations to that effect;

(c) promote high standards of sportsmanship and ethical performance when competing and participating;

(d) reflect the views of the Olympic athletes competing and participating at the highest level and establish relationships to promote feedback to the Executive Committee, and other Committees and Working Groups, on matters concerning Olympic athletes; and

(e) liaise with the Executive Committee on ISAF Events to help ISAF respond to the needs of the Olympic athletes.

Current Position

Regulation 8.9.

Reasons

There has been some confusion that the Athletes’ Commission at ISAF is there to represent the view of all sailors. However the Athletes’ Commission membership rules and Terms of Reference make it clear that it is established to present the views of Olympic sailors.

This role is consistent with the role of the IOC Athletes’ Commission, and Athletes’ Commissions within other Olympic sports. The views of the sailor are represented by each ISAF Council and committee member, and delegate to ISAF conferences.

Given regulation 8.2, it is appropriate to confirm within Regulation 8.9 that membership of the Commission is decided by current Olympic sailors rather than by Executive appointment, and to include the agreed election and membership rules within the Regulation.

Council also agreed in May 2013 that the Athletes’ Commission should be represented on, in addition to Council, the Events, Equipment and Race Officials committees, and on Working Groups considering Olympic sailing matters, and the change to 8.9.4(d) reflects this.