

## **World Sailing Special Events**

### Obligations and Consequences for Non-compliance

A submission from the Chairman of the World Sailing Classes Committee

#### Purpose or Objective

To ensure that Special Events comply with World Sailing Rules and Regulations and that sanctions will be imposed in case of non-compliance.

#### Proposal 1

That World Sailing shall terminate agreements with Special Events / Special Event Organizers as soon as reasonably possible if they are in persistent breach of World Sailing Rules and Regulations.

#### Proposal 2

That the key rights and obligations of Special Events are made available to Council and World Sailing members.

#### Current Position

There are no regulations or any kind of register that set out or list the rights and the obligations of Special Events.

#### Reasons

1. Special Events have been established by World Sailing to govern events not covered elsewhere in the Rules and Regulations and offer opportunities to showcase sailing outside of established MNA / club / class structures.
  2. The World Sailing Council has established a policy paper in November 2016 with guidance on rights and obligations of Special Events.  
[http://www.sailing.org/tools/documents/161206COMIN2016FINAL-\[21782\].pdf](http://www.sailing.org/tools/documents/161206COMIN2016FINAL-[21782].pdf)  
Appendix 1 – World Sailing Special Event Status
  3. Events are categorized in two categories: “major” and “standard”. “Major” Special Events include the Americas Cup, the Volvo Ocean Race and others.
  4. The “Major” special events use World Sailing Race Officials to ensure compliance with World Sailing Rules and Regulations.
  5. Some of the “standard” Special Events do not use any World Sailing Race Officials.
-

6. Some “standard” Special Events (namely the PWA – Professional Windsurfer Association and GKA – Global Kite Association) do not comply with World Sailing rules and regulations, i.e.
    - a. Events are not organized by an Organizing Authority as required by RRS 89.1
    - b. MNAs and/or clubs are not involved, or the special event organizer refuses cooperation with the MNA with reference to their “Special Event” status.
    - c. No Notice of Race or Sailing Instructions are published as required by RRS 89.2
    - d. Top Sailors are not allowed to participate in other events which are not managed by the particular Special Event organizer, breaking the European Competition Law.
    - e. Sailors are listed in the rankings with dual nationalities, or under nations which are not World Sailing MNAs
    - f. There is excessive use of World Titles – i.e. the Professional Windsurfing Association has grown from 2 World Titles (Men and Women) when established to at least 8 in 2018 (2x Slalom, 2x Freestyle, 2x Wave, 2x Foil, plus recently claimed 6 titles for Youth – Slalom, Wave, Freestyle – totalling 14 World Titles)
    - g. The majority of these titles overlap directly with World Title rights of World Sailing windsurfing classes
  7. At the mid-year meeting of 2016 the chairman of the then Windsurfing and Kiteboarding Committee was promised a review of the PWA contract, and a summary of the main terms, without outcome.
  8. It is especially necessary for World Sailing classes with activities in similar areas as the Special Events to know which rights, specifically which World Title rights, have been granted to special events.
  9. The World Sailing office has confirmed in writing that Special Events must comply with RRS 89.1 and 89.2
  10. The World Sailing office has been, over the past two years, regularly informed about the above breaches, without consequences.
  11. World Sailing Classes must comply with Regulations 10 and 25, and in case of non-compliance they have their class status reviewed and subsequently withdrawn while Special Events seem to face no consequences.
  12. It must be in the interest of MNAs and clubs to have control over events in their territory, especially if there is no other oversight by World Sailing Race Officials or the World Sailing office.
  13. World Sailing is currently not exercising its control and oversight as laid out in paragraph 15.1(b) of said policy paper:  
 “exercise consistently its control and oversight responsibilities towards events that are exceptionally permitted under the RRS and other various Regulations.”
  14. World Sailing Classes have been rejected permission by MNAs to hold their class world championships due to non-compliant actions of Special Events.
-