ISAF Committees

Changes to Committee Structure for 2017-2020 and Change of Committee Name

A submission from the Executive Committee

Purpose or Objective

To improve the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of conference and ISAF committees by adjusting the committee structure to match the needs of the sport today, and the role and priorities of ISAF.

This submission combines a number of inter-related proposals. They have been submitted separately to allow committees and Council to discuss and vote on them in groups or individually.

Proposal 1

The ISAF Committee structure from the start of 2017 should be:

Nominations of committee members from MNAs in 2016 should be for the committees and sub-committees in this structure.
Current Position

Reasons

1. The sport of sailing, and the world in which it operates, is continually developing. The current structure is largely unchanged since the mid-1990s and the Executive Committee believes it is the right time to review the ISAF committee structure and make changes where beneficial.

2. ISAF has approximately twice as many committees and commissions as the average Olympic IF. Supporting a large number of large committees is expensive for MNAs and ISAF, and currently the roles of some committees overlap, and conference debates can be repeated from one committee to the next.

3. However sailing is a complex sport, with equipment rules and regulations, diverse disciplines, classes, fields of play and ages of sailors. ISAF’s committees, sub-committees and commissions undertake necessary and important work. Many sailors worldwide become more “part of ISAF" through committee work for ISAF.

4. Conference attendance, and appointment to committees, provides smaller MNAs in particular with an opportunity to learn and engage with ISAF, and provides ISAF with the opportunity to consult, communicate, influence and assist.

5. The Executive Committee wishes to ensure Conference remains efficient, effective and practical over 7 days. It believes the limited changes proposed in this submission will make the annual conference more sustainable. The net effect is a reduction in the number of committees from 13 to 10, and the number of sub-committees from 13 to 11.

6. The time between most committee meetings is 12 months, and a committee responsible for delivery may need to establish working parties to make progress between meetings. These should be established in consultation with, and overseen by the Secretariat to ensure their processes are effective and conclusions open to debate by the committee.

7. This submission assists the rationalisation of ISAF committees, sub-committees, working parties and commissions:
8. A committee has responsibility for a major policy area.

9. A sub-committee has responsibility for recommendations and implementation of a subset of that major area.

10. A working party is a small group of experts appointed by a committee to progress a particular issue or activity. Working parties are either permanent (if the activity is continuing) or appointed to address a particular task or project. The work of a working party is managed by the Secretariat, and it reports to the committee or sub-committee that appointed it.

11. A commission is appointed to advise the Executive on a particular subject.

12. Reasons for the specific changes are given in the supporting submissions.

Proposal 2

1. Amend the name of the Disabled Sailing Committee (IFDS) to one of the following options:
   
   Option 1  Para and Adaptive Sailing Committee
   Option 2  Adaptive Sailing Committee
   Option 3  Para Sailing Committee
   Option 4  Para World Sailing Committee

2. Throughout the ISAF Regulations, amend all references to the Disabled Sailing Committee (IFDS) to the new name chosen above.

Reasons

1. The Executive Committee and Disabled Sailing Committee have been engaged in constructive discussions with the International Paralympic Committee concerning its recent decision about the involvement of sailing in the 2020 Paralympic Games. As part of those discussions, the IPC has raised a strong preference to move away from the term “disabled” towards the term “Para”.

2. In particular, the IPC has noted the terminology used by ISAF in its current committee and event structure and the Executive Committee has therefore undertaken to propose modernisation of the names used. This is done with the support of the Disabled Sailing Committee itself.