Athletes’ Commission

Paralympic Representation

A submission from the Board on behalf of the Athletes’ Commission

Purpose or Objective

To extend representation on the Athlete’s Commission to Paralympic sailors.

Proposal

Amend Regulation 8.8 as follows

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 World Sailing on matters and issues of relevance to Olympic and Paralympic sailors, and acts as a link between active Olympic and Paralympic sailors and World Sailing.

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

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

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

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

(d) only Olympians from the current or immediately previous Olympic Sailing Competition shall be eligible to become members representing Olympic sailors;

(e) three new members shall be elected by the sailors participating at each Olympic Sailing Competition. One member shall be elected in accordance with Regulation 8.9.2(j) and one further sailor shall then be appointed by the President to assist a good balance between regions, genders and Events;

(f) in the event of a resignation, a replacement member shall be elected by the sailors from the previous Olympic or Paralympic Sailing Competition. However, if the resignation occurs in the 12 month period prior to the next Olympic or Paralympic Sailing Competition, a replacement member shall be elected by the sailors participating at that event instead;

(g) candidates for membership shall pledge to represent all Olympic and Paralympic 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 and Paralympics;

(i) The President may, at the request of the Chairman of the Commission, appoint as additional honorary members former Olympians or Paralympians whose expertise
or experience will be of value to the Commission in the execution of its responsibilities.

(j) One member shall be elected by and from the sailors who participated in the 2017 Para World Sailing Championships. That member will serve until the next scheduled elections to the Commission on the occasion of the 2020 Olympic Sailing Competition (Regulation 8.9.2(a) does not apply). At that time, one member will then join the Commission following an election at the Paralympic Sailing Competition. Only Paralympians from the current or immediately previous Paralympic Sailing Competition shall be eligible to become members representing Paralympic sailors.

(k) Until sailing is re-included in the Paralympic Games, any references in this Regulation to the “Paralympic Sailing Competition” shall mean the Para World Sailing Championships and references to “Paralympians” shall mean sailors who had competed in at least two Para World Sailing Championships.

Terms of Reference

8.9.3 The Athletes’ Commission shall be responsible to the Board.

8.9.4 The Athletes’ Commission shall:

(a) present the Olympic and Paralympic athletes’ points of view to the Board 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 and Paralympic athletes competing and participating at the highest level and establish relationships to promote feedback to the Board, and other committees and working groups, on matters concerning Olympic athletes; and

(e) liaise with the Board on World Sailing Events to help World Sailing respond to the needs of the Olympic and Paralympic athletes.

8.9.5 The Commission may appoint a full voting member to the Coaches Commission, Development & Regions Committee, Events Committee, Equipment Committee, Olympic Classes Sub-committee, Para World Sailing Committee, Race Officials Committee and Racing Rules Committee. The appointed member must be a member of the Athletes’ Commission and may be changed by the Commission from time to time. If the appointed member is the Chairman of the Commission, then he or she shall not have a vote.

Current Position

As above.

Reasons

The Athletes’ Commission considers that it is now appropriate for Paralympic sailors to be represented on the Commission. Many of the issues considered by the Commission affect both Olympic and Paralympic sailors alike.