

Schedule A – Groups of National Authority

Group E

A submission from the Portuguese Sailing Federation

Purpose or Objective

Not provided.

Proposal

1. That the Executive Committee and Constitution Committee be directed to investigate the situation in Group E and Andorra's autonomy and independence in compliance of Regulation 1.13, and act under Article 15.1 (b).
2. That the situation regarding the member on Council (Article 40 (a)) appointed by Member National Authorities in Group E be reviewed in order to modify the current situation that Spain repeatedly has a majority vote together with Andorra, which is totally dependent of Spain, in a situation which always gives a minority vote to Portugal.

Current Position

Group E, Iberian Peninsula, is composed of three MNA's as set out in Schedule A of the Articles:

	Group	Nominating Authorities (ISAF Member National Authorities)	Numbers to be nominated by Council
E	Iberian Peninsula	Federação Portuguesa de Vela Federació Andorrana de Vela Real Federación Española de Vela	1

Reasons

1. Andorra is fully dependent of Spain (or other countries) to practice the sport of yachting, having no navigable waters inside their territory;
 2. Andorra sailors practice, training, and all competition at "national level" is known to be done in Spanish waters;
 3. Andorra do not even comply with the requirements to be an Associate Membership having no coastal waters nor any navigable waters in their territory, but still recognized as Full Member;
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4. Andorra (officially the Principality of Andorra) is historically and formally under protection of Spain and France. Is a sovereign landlocked microstate and bordered by this two countries. It is known as a principality as it is a monarchy headed by two Co-Princes – the Spanish/Roman Catholic Bishop of Urgell and the President of France;
 5. As a rule, being a landlocked microstate also creates political and economic handicaps;
 6. Andorra Sailing Federation, on defense of his own interests in Spain, is always forced to support Spain decisions inside Group E. Portugal has never the opportunity to implement his interests as it is always one vote against two;
 7. Despite all proposals from Portugal to have an “agreement of rotation” in Group E representative, this was never formally endorsed by Spain nor Andorra;
 8. During the last 15 years, Spain, with support of Andorra, has imposed a Group E Council Member. This was always against Portugal wishes;
 9. ISAF secretariat had, by regulations, no option than applying majority at the moment of recognition of the appointment of Group E representative, even with the strong objection of Portuguese Sailing Federation;
 10. Despite formally Portugal is part of Group E, it is not represented in the Council, as his representative is always imposed by another country (Spain) with the support of Andorra.
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