

Guidance on Youth Age Ranges

Definition

A submission from the Chairman of the Development and Youth Committee

Purpose or Objective

Further to Submission 058-10 from the Royal Spanish Sailing Federation regarding the clarification and Equalisation of age for classes, the intent is to propose recommended youth age ranges, in order to facilitate MNAs task in building their Youth policies, and to provide young sailors with a clear pathway for their sport career, whatever activity they may prefer, and whatever equipment they may use.

It is then expected this will help to keep young sailors into the sailing family during their whole scholarship, from primary school to university.

Proposal

It is suggested to rely on 3 main age ranges to manage young sailors pathway :

- (a) Under 16 years old (may not have had their 16th Birthday on or before 31 December of the year in question)
- (b) Under 19 years old (may not have had their 19th Birthday on or before 31 December of the year in question)
- (c) Under 25 years old (may not have had their 25th Birthday on or before 31 December of the year in question)

Current Position

There is currently no clear guidance on Youth age limits, apart from those fixed for ISAF Youth Worlds or Youth Olympic Games.

The Royal Spanish Sailing Federation did put Submission 058-10 on the table regarding the clarification and Equalisation of age for classes, aiming to make the specified age of competitors in all Youth and Young Classes the same.

Reasons

1. Some Nations do have strict regulations on children protection, and it seems important to have a particular look and attention on children under16.
2. It is of the highest importance to give clear benchmarks to allow young sailors, families and coaches to anticipate their sailing future, according to their expected or evolving size, shape and skills.

3. To facilitate crossovers from one sailing activity or class to another (single handed to double handed, windsurfing to catamaran, dinghy sailing to match racing, etc...)
4. To draw attention on the 20-25 age range, and to invite MNAs and classes to build up dedicated programs, in order not to lose any young sailor in this age range after his dinghy, windsurf or catamaran career, not prepared or not willing to start an Olympic campaign, by giving him an alternative goal or playing field.
5. Permit MNAs to define clear criteria to rank their young sailors, and to built up youth elite squads aiming towards Olympic teams.