Sailing World Cup

Give World Sailing scope to allow Multinational Teams on account of injury or other exceptional circumstance

A submission from the International 49er Class Association and International Nacra 17 Class Association

Purpose or Objective

To allow World Sailing flexibility with respect to Multi National entries in doublehanded Classes at the Sailing World Cup when faced with exceptional circumstances.

Proposal

To allow World Sailing make a judgement call to allow athletes from different nations to compete together in Sailing World Cup Events in doublehanded classes in exceptional circumstances.

Current Position

Sailing World Cup regattas currently require that both athletes in a doublehanded team to be from the same nation.

Reasons

1. Exceptional circumstances most often occur due to injury in close proximity to the start of a Sailing World Cup regatta. If a team member is injured, the healthy team member, with boat, equipment, and coach already in place, cannot sail unless they can find a replacement from their own nation. All of the cost, logistics etc. have been incurred and then they cannot sail. The entry place goes unfilled.

2. In exceptional circumstances, like a late injury, the remaining team member should be allowed to look for any suitable replacement, regardless of nationality, to participate in the regatta.

3. The current restrictions end up decreasing participation at World Cup events

4. Restrictions, like requiring both team members be from the same nation, often end up in appeals, drawing on World Sailing staff time and resources and shifting the focus of media to the situation rather than on the competition.

5. A team’s composition as multinational (in this case) would to nothing to alter their normal obligations to adhere to the Racing Rules of Sailing. It has been argued that nations use Sailing World Cup regattas to hold trials or other qualification procedures and so strict adherence to Olympic participation requirements should be required. It is also argued that teams of multinational composition might somehow disturb the competitiveness of these trials. Sailing has plenty of rules to ensure racing is conducted in a fair manner.