High Performance 2 Person Women’s Trial

A submission from the Danish Sailing Federation

Proposal

That the incomplete High Performance 2 Person Women’s Trial be completed by organising ‘Phase 2’ in 2010

Current Position

Following the Equipment Evaluation Trial in April 2007, the Equipment Committee agreed that further trials in stronger winds would allow the opportunity to refine and optimise the equipment presented in Hyeres.

Council noted the recommendation from the Equipment Committee that there was suitable equipment available for a Women’s High Performance 2 Person dinghy event. Since then, the ISAF Youth Worlds Championships has seen the addition of the Open 29er Class in addition to the girls 420, which was greeted with enthusiasm by sailors and event organisers.

It is evident that with the current system, there is no clear pathway that runs from youth to adult. On the men’s side the pathways are 420, 470, 29er, 49er, whereas on the women’s side it is 420, 470, 29er??

Council will be deciding the Events for 2016 Olympic Sailing Competition in November 2011 and the Equipment in November 2012.

Reason

It is evident that to encourage and retain women in our sport, ISAF needs to take a more proactive approach (as with women on committees).

High performance sailing for women is an option that should be available to ISAF for the Olympic Sailing Competition as it will both retain more female sailors in the sport, and will enhance the media appeal of the sport.

By asking ISAF to complete the Trial by 2010 (or at the latest early 2011), ISAF will then be able to proactively develop a high performance class for MNAs to support and invest in.

This is the process that has been used successfully recently for both the 49er and the RSX, and is therefore likely to result in the most appropriate high performance Equipment and Class structure for women’s high performance sailing.

This process, like that of the RSX and 49er provides the opportunity for ISAF to consider new, up to date, cutting edge boats as Olympic equipment in 2012.
Having that as an option will help ISAF achieve its Olympic ambitions.

This women’s HP equipment trial will provide ISAF with realistic choices for its vote on Olympic Events and Equipment for women at the appropriate times in the decision making cycle.

ISAF should announce the “phase 2” of the trials as soon as possible after the November meeting in order to give designers and manufacturers sufficient time to develop and prepare the equipment for the trials.