

## **Olympic Qualification Regattas**

### Continental Qualification Regattas

A submission from the Chairman of the Events Committee

#### **Purpose or Objective**

To confirm the Qualification Regattas for the 2016 Olympic Sailing Competition so that sailors, MNAs and other Organising Authorities can plan accordingly.

#### **Proposal**

The Continental Qualification Regatta shall be that continent's ISAF Sailing World Cup regatta with its starting date between 1st January 2015 and 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015. However when a continent's Sailing World Cup regatta starts between 1<sup>st</sup> January and 31<sup>st</sup> March, ISAF may choose to use the 2016 regatta instead.

Where a continent has more than one such regatta, ISAF shall decide which regatta, or which combination of regattas, shall be used to determine qualification. This may not be the same for all Olympic Events.

Where a continent does not have a Sailing World Cup regatta for a particular Event, ISAF shall choose another continent's Sailing World Cup regatta. The chosen regatta may not be the same for all Olympic Events.

#### **Current Position**

There has to date been no continental qualification in sailing. It is being introduced for the first time for 2016 at the request of the IOC. The Olympic Commission report recommended that Sailing World Cup regattas are sailing's Continental Olympic Qualification regattas.

#### **Reason**

1. The IOC "Qualification System Principles" include
    - the principle of universality shall be reflected in qualification systems through continental representation;
    - athletes / teams shall have more than one opportunity to qualify, however the qualification systems should not necessitate extensive and expensive travel requirements. Where possible continental events should be used;
    - in principle, existing IF approved events should be used for qualification;
    - the qualification period should cover a maximum of two years prior to the entry deadline.
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2. ISAF has decided that the ISAF Worlds, in the year 2 years before the Olympic Games, shall be the first qualification opportunity for all nations.
  3. ISAF should therefore use continental event(s) for the second qualification opportunity. These need to be existing ISAF-approved events.
  4. Using combined Olympic class regattas as qualification events is more cost-effective for MNAs, and will generate more media interest, than having separate class-by-class qualification events.
  5. The staging of European-based qualification events in the spring of 2012 conflicted with, and reduced the entries at, established ISAF Sailing World Cup events. It is preferable to use established events in the year before the Olympics as qualification events.
  6. The regattas that ISAF should use as continental qualification events are therefore the continental SWC regattas.
  7. If no such regatta exists (for an Olympic event for which the continent has places), then another continent's Sailing World Cup regatta that is attended by the continent's sailors should be used instead. The selection would be made by ISAF in consultation with the continent's MNAs.
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