

World Championships

Youth & Junior World Championships

A submission from the Board

Purpose or Objective

Standardization of the age-criteria for Youth and Junior World Championships in Olympic Sailing disciplines

Proposal

Amend Regulation 25.2.5 (c) as follows:

25.2.5 The world championship right granted in Regulation 25.2.1 may be open, or may be restricted on the basis of gender or age. All World Sailing Classes may also award the following subsidiary World Championship titles:

- (a) one Women's World Champion title
- (b) one Youth **or Junior** World Champion title (which may be ~~on the basis of~~ **in each** gender), ~~where youth crews are so defined by the Class.~~
- (c) one further World Champion title on the basis of gender, age or discipline.

Competitors at Youth World Championships shall be under 19 years of age.
Competitors at Junior World Championships shall be under 23 years of age. To be eligible to compete, a competitor shall meet these age limits on 31 December of the year of the event.

Current Position

Regulation 25.2.5 controls the subsidiary World Championships for World Sailing Classes. 25.2.5 (c) describes the option to have "one further World Championship title on the basis of gender, age or discipline."

For Olympic Sailing disciplines, there is no consistency regarding the Youth- or Junior age-criteria. Some disciplines have an U21 criteria and some an U24 criteria.

Reasons

1. It is hard to explain why in some disciplines sailors can sail 3 years longer at the Junior level than in others. For the media it is hard to understand and follow.
 2. By choosing U23, World Sailing will be following the "Olympic cycle". The Youth Worlds have an age limit of U19, the Junior World Championships will then follow with U23, and then participation at the Olympic Games, on average, four years later.
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3. Different classes have age limits varying by 3 years (U21 through to U24).
4. Sailors who are sailing in disciplines that have an U24 criteria can make use of funding options, which are related to results at Junior Championships for three years longer than sailors who are sailing in disciplines that have an U21 criteria.