ISAF Women’s World Match Racing Championship

Allowing Crews of Mixed Nationalities – Regulation 24.5.3

A submission from the Chairman of the Match Racing Committee

Purpose or Objective

To eliminate the requirement that all crew members in the ISAF Women’s World Match Racing Championship be of the same nationality to conform with the practice in the ISAF Open World Match Racing Championship.

Proposal

24.5.3 Regulation 24.5 shall not apply to competitors participating in the ISAF Open Match World Racing Championship, the ISAF Women’s World Match Racing Championship and the ISAF Offshore Team World Championship.

Current Position

As above.

Reasons

Regulation 24.5 requires that all crew members of a competitor in an ISAF event be a national of the country which enters the competitor or which the competitor represents. Regulation 24.5.3 accepts the ISAF Open World Match Racing Championship from that requirement.

On the women's match racing circuit (not including the Olympic Classes Regattas) there is no requirement that a woman's team all be of the same nationality, and in the past, they often were of different nationalities. But when it came time for the ISAF Women's World Match Racing Championship, the teams that had raced together all year had to break up if they were of different nationalities and all the members of the team had to come from the same nationality for the Worlds. This was a definite disadvantage to the skipper of those teams.

The Women's World Match Racing Championships are not about nations, as is the case with the Olympics. They are about the best teams in the world, no matter what nations are involved on the team.

It is illogical to make a distinction between the ISAF Open World Match Racing Championship and the ISAF Women's World Match Racing Championship in terms of team composition.

With women's match racing coming out of the Olympics after this year, and with the prospect of renewed interest in the women's circuit, and the distinct possibility of a women's professional circuit being established, it is time to make this change and to eliminate a requirement which discriminates between the Open World Championship and the Women's World Championship.