ISAF Sailing World Cup

New Regulation 17.3 – ISAF Sailing World Cup

A submission from the Executive Committee based on the recommendation of the Olympic Commission

Proposal

Insert new Regulation 17.3

ISAF Sailing World Cup

17.3 Regulation 17.3 applies from December 2012.

17.3.1 The Name of the Championships shall be the ISAF Sailing World Cup (the World Cup). If there is a title sponsor, the title sponsor name may be inserted in the World Cup title, as approved by the ISAF Executive Committee.

17.3.2 The World Cup shall be held annually.

17.3.3 Only Events and Equipment included in the next Olympic Sailing Competition shall be included in the World Cup programme.

17.3.4 The World Cup shall comprise a series of regattas around the world, followed by a World Cup Final. The regattas shall not start before December 15th (of the previous year) and shall conclude on or before 10th July, except that the Final shall take place in the period between September 10th and October 15th. Athletes shall qualify for the Final based on performance in the series. The winner of the Final in each Olympic Event shall be crowned ISAF Sailing World Cup Champion for that Event.

17.3.5 The World Cup venues shall be decided by ISAF and, excluding the Final, there shall be a maximum of one venue on each IOC or ISAF continent. Individual World Cup regattas shall be named the ISAF Sailing World Cup (including title sponsor if appropriate) followed by the venue name.

17.3.6 Each World Cup regatta shall include competition for every Olympic Event. However Events that were originally selected for the Olympic Sailing Competition before 2016, and for which there is little participation on a continent, are not required to be included in a World Cup regatta on that continent, subject to the approval of the ISAF Executive. Demonstration events showing possible future Olympic Events or Equipment may also be included with the approval of the ISAF Executive.

17.3.7 Each continental World Cup regatta in the third year of an Olympic cycle shall be a Continental Qualifier for the Olympic Sailing Competition.
17.3.8 The format of the racing at each World Cup regatta shall be decided by ISAF. It shall closely resemble the Olympic format, except that the number of entries per Event may be different, and ISAF may trial potential changes to the Olympic format at World Cup regattas.

17.3.9 The number of entries per Event at the Finals, and the qualification system for the Finals, shall be decided by ISAF.

(Note: ISAF Sailing World Cup should also be added to the list of events to which ISAF appoints Judges, Umpires and Measurers: regulations 18.12.8, 18.12.13).

Current Position

None.

Reasons (for full reasons, please refer to Olympic Commission report, 4.17 – 4.32)

The Olympic Commission recommends that the success of sailing at the Olympics, and the value of sailing to the IOC, is more dependent on what takes place in the 206 weeks between Olympic Games than what takes place at the Olympics.

The ISAF Sailing World Cup is ISAF’s annual combined Olympic Event global series of regattas. It success is therefore vital to the global promotion of both:

- a consistent, high quality, global ISAF branding for events, and
- elite sailors and elite sailing throughout the four years between the Olympics.

The ISAF regulations are currently silent on the Sailing World Cup. The Olympic Commission recommends that this is remedied by Council in November 2010 in sufficient detail to enable the Executive and Secretariat to move ahead with the new SWC at an effective speed, and to deliver a consistent, high quality series of regattas.

The May 2010 Olympic Commission report recommended the key objectives for the SWC:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>4.18</th>
<th>The key objectives of the Sailing World Cup should be to:</th>
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<tr>
<td>4.18.1</td>
<td>Promote and popularise Olympic sailing outside the Olympic Games using the best sailors in the world through consistent events delivering live presentation, television production and distribution, tracking, website output and media services</td>
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<td>4.18.2</td>
<td>Provide pathways for athletes and MNAs towards the Olympic Games, offering a series of high quality events around the world that are consistent and well managed</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.18.3</td>
<td>Lead the strengthening of the sport in the Olympic Games by ensuring that the introduction of new initiatives is well managed and consistently implemented</td>
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<td>4.18.4</td>
<td>Attract greater commercial support for all stakeholders including athletes, organisers, MNAs and ISAF</td>
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The Olympic Commission has simplified its original recommendation on the number of SWC events, and now recommends that the number of SWC events should be just one per continent as this would bring four major advantages:

- the new global SWC will be easier to implement, and the venue selection process easier;
- a single SWC event per region will give better stature to the region’s supporting non-SWC events, and enable the combined events to become a local “mini-SWC” to promote Olympic racing in the region (objective 4.18.2);
- the smaller number of SWC events will increase the number of leading sailors attending each SWC event;
- every SWC event can in year 3 of the Olympic cycle act as the Continental Qualifier, and this will raise the profile of the SWC, increase the value and appeal of hosting SWC regattas, and maximise the number of nations taking part in the Olympic sailing qualification events, a key IOC measure of success.

**Other Supporting Recommendations on Sailing World Cup format & qualification, & ISAF Rankings**

- The venues for the SWC continental events, and the SWC Final, should be selected initially for 4 years (2013-2016) based on bids received by ISAF in 2011. They should be bid for and operated against the SWC Event Contract.

- Venues for the SWC series regattas should be encouraged to bid at the time of year (between mid-December and mid-July) that provides the best conditions for competitive sailing. While the Commission’s report suggests continental windows, it is understood that a single time window suitable for all venues across the whole of Asia or the Americas in particular is not realistic [see OC report, paragraph 4.47].

- It is recommended that the winner and the first sailor from the host continent (can be the same) in each fleet, should qualify to the SWC Final. In addition the top 20 from the ISAF Rankings should qualify for the Final. Each fleet size at the Final should be a minimum of 25.

- Each continent’s SWC event should support a series of local graded events in the continent’s “soft window” [see OC report, paragraphs 4.43-4.45]. These could be class events, or multi-class events, and could include the Class’ Continental Championships or Annual International Event. The gaps between such events should be minimised to enable visiting sailors and race officials to remain on the continent between events.

- The ISAF Rankings should seek a balance between encouraging the world’s top sailors to attend the SWC events, and building participation at the supporting graded events. It is recommended that the Rankings should therefore cover a rolling 12 months, and count five events with a maximum of three SWC events. This would encourage top sailors to attend SWC events in at least 3 continents. The SWC Final should also be added (as a 6th event) to sailors’ Ranking scores for the purposes of the end-of-year ISAF Rankings only.

- It is preferred that all SWC events include all 10 Olympic Events. However it is appreciated that, depending on ISAF’s choice of Olympic Events, there may be some continents where there is no participation in an Olympic Event, and the SWC would deliver greater value if it were restricted just to events with local competition. Regulation 17.3.5 provides an exception...
for when there is no suitable bid from any venue on a continent for a full 10-event regatta.

- In addition the Commission believes that the growth of sailing in Africa might be best served by a gradual scaling up of that continent’s SWC event. The primary goal for Africa should be to ensure that Africa’s first continental Olympic Qualifier takes place in 2015, is a success, and promotes the growth of accessible Olympic sailing and elite participation across the continent. The ISAF Executive should therefore have the flexibility to liaise with Africa’s MNAs and continental organisations over the initial format and development of Africa’s SWC event.

- The IOC views America as a single continent whereas ISAF views it as two continents. The proposed regulation retains ISAF’s flexibility to adopt either model. In the event that ISAF decides to have two American SWC events, the Commission recommends that both are Continental Olympic Qualifiers, and that the American MNAs decide the division of MNAs and qualification quotas between the two ISAF continents.

- It should be a local decision on whether to introduce a qualification system for an SWC event, but if introduced it must use ISAF Rankings and local graded events in accordance with ISAF guidelines (to be developed). The Commission envisages that qualification will become more common, in particular in popular Events and continents, and would support a system in which the previous year’s SWC Finals qualifiers receive entry priority in return for an early commitment to attend.

- ISAF should also define requirements for graded events. It is recommended that ISAF SWC events, the ISAF Sailing World Championships, and the Olympic Regatta should be “200-point” events. 100-point events should be major supporting events in each continent’s soft window. 50-point events outside these windows should also be classified to enable local sailors to achieve an ISAF Ranking.

*If this submission is adopted, any revisions to the Rankings and Event Gradings regulations will be the subject of submission in May or November 2011.*