

ISAF Sailing World Cup

Regulations 24.3.1 and 24.3.2

A submission from the Austrian Sailing Federation, Canadian Yachting Association, Royal Spanish Sailing Federation, Finnish Sailing and Boating Federation, Deutscher Segler-Verband, Hellenic Sailing Association, Italian Sailing Federation, Slovenian Sailing Federation, Serbian Sailing Association, US SAILING and International Access Class Association

Purpose or Objective

To amend Regulation 24.3.1 and 24.3.2 in order to allow for the inclusion of Paralympic events and equipment in all future ISAF World Cup Sailing Events

Proposal

24.3.1 Only the events and equipment included in the next Olympic Sailing Competition shall be included in the programme of ISAF Sailing World Cup Events. **Events and equipment included in the next Paralympic Sailing Competition may be also included in the programme of ISAF Sailing World Cup Events subject to ISAF's approval**

24.3.2 The format of the event shall be decided by ISAF and shall comply with the next Olympic **and Paralympic (if the relevant events and equipment are included in the programme of the ISAF Sailing World Cup)** Sailing Competition.

Current Position

As above.

Reasons - AUT, CAN, ESP, FIN, GER, GRE, ITA, SLO, SRB and USA

The inclusion of Paralympic sailing and equipment has occurred on an informal basis during the current quadrennium at the invitation of the host event organisers. Sailing has grown to the point where some ISAF Sailing World Cup events now include all the three Paralympic classes. The success of able bodied and disabled sailors in the ISAF Sailing World Cup is now apparent. We would like therefore to allow Paralympic Sailing to be kept in the ISAF Sailing World Cup.

20% of the global population is disabled. This group is under-represented in our sport because of past organisational and attitudinal barriers. The potential for full inclusion in sailing is much greater than in many other sports.

A wide range of equipment is now available which is challenging for people of all abilities, allowing:

- inclusion of sailors with a disability within mixed ability teams;
- equitable competition between sailors with a disability and their able-bodied peers

IFDS is governed by International Paralympic Committee and ISAF where they provide the

specialist athlete classification and boat adaptations. All sailors accept and compete under ISAF Racing Rules of Sailing.

The ISAF Sailing World Cup Grade 1 series now provides 7 events per year: 5 in Europe, 1 in Oceania and 1 in North America. This promotes both Olympic and Paralympic sailing in search of excellence.

Reasons - International Access Class Association

The International Access Class Association is seeking an amendment to ISAF Regulations 24.3.1 & 24.3.2 in order to formally include Paralympic events and equipment in the ISAF Sailing World Cup.

People with a disability represent about 20% of the global population (that is 20% of the potential audience and participants for our sport), but this group is under-represented in sport because of physical, organisational and attitudinal barriers.

The potential for full inclusion in sailing is much greater than in many other sports. There is a wide range of equipment suitable and challenging for people of all abilities, the capacity to include sailors with a disability within mixed ability teams, for sailors with a disability to compete equitably against their able-bodied peers, and to conduct disability specific competition with a minimum of modifications to the rules and procedures of the sport.

The Sailing World Cup is an ideal vehicle to promote Olympic jointly with Paralympic sailing. The series provides the highest standard of race and event management, enabling multiple athletes and teams from any nation to develop their competition skills and prepare for the peak events held each quadrennium.

Inclusion of athletes with a disability within the ISAF Sailing World Cup events:

- Presents opportunities for sailors with a disability and their able-bodied peers to share information about equipment and techniques.
- Establishes a common standard for event management, race management, officiating, coaching and athlete achievement for sailors of all abilities.
- Normalises the inclusion of athletes with a disability. Emerging and experienced sailors without a disability become accustomed to sharing the venues and race courses with sailors with a disability, have the opportunity to watch them perform, celebrate their achievements and commiserate for their failures and share the common bond – they are all sailors with high aspirations.
- Offers the capacity to include mixed ability or open events in the Paralympic classes, further highlighting the inclusive capacity of the sport.

While the parallel organisational structures of IFDS and ISAF may suggest that sailors with a disability participate in the sport separately, this is not the case. Sailors with a disability are sailors first and foremost. They are members of clubs, are affiliated with their Member National Authorities, sail under the Racing Rules of Sailing and compete against able bodied sailors in many 'open' events.

Formal inclusion of the Paralympic Classes within the high profile ISAF Sailing World Cup is a significant step toward the mainstream inclusion of athletes with a disability and sets an important example for the sport of sailing as a whole, and for other sports.

COUNCIL DECISION – NOVEMBER 2011

Council received Submission 109-11 from the Austrian Sailing Federation, Canadian Yachting Association, Royal Spanish Sailing Federation, Finnish Sailing and Boating Federation, Deutscher Segler-Verband, Hellenic Sailing Association, Italian Sailing Federation, Slovenian Sailing Federation, Serbian Sailing Association, US SAILING and International Access Class Association

Decision

On a proposal from Chris Atkins, seconded by Ross Robson, Council deferred submission 109-11 to May 2012 (2 reject, 0 abstain, 37 approve - 39 participated).

Recommendation From The Reporting Committee

Events Committee

Recommendation to Council: Approve

Opinion From The Other Committees

Constitution Committee

Opinion: No Recommendation

Subject to policy being determined by Council. Wording needs to be revised.

Executive Committee

Opinion: Reject

Unnecessary. ISAF does not have jurisdiction over IFDS events. The current regulation defines the ISAF World Cup only. With approval of ISAF and the Event Organisers, IFDS World Cup events could be run at the same time in conjunction with the ISAF World Cup events but under it's own banner. There is concern that the event organisers could overstretch themselves if they take on too many responsibilities at already very large events.
