Class World Championships for Olympic Classes

Limitations on World Championships for Olympic Classes

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

Proposal

The Olympic Class Contract shall limit the right of an Olympic Class to hold an open Class World Championships, or a Class World Championships for the gender that competes in the Class at the Olympic Sailing Competition, to once every 4 years at the ISAF Sailing World Championships.

ISAF shall promptly engage with the current Olympic Classes to seek agreement by May 2011 over the arrangements for the Sailing World Cup, and the changes in the role of the Classes under these arrangements.

An Olympic Class shall retain the right to organise Continental Championships, an Annual International Event that does not use “World” in its title or in the title of the winner, and annual age- or gender-limited World Championships (but not for the gender that sails in the Olympics).

Current Position

An Olympic Class may organise Class World Championships every year, except that in the year of the ISAF Sailing World Championships the Class World Championships shall be the ISAF Sailing World Championships.

Reasons (for full reasons, please see Olympic Commission report, 4.33 – 4.42)

The Commission believes that the promotion of elite sailing suffers currently through too many “world” labelled products, and recommends that the number of such events in elite Olympic sailing should be reduced.

The Commission recommends that, to maximise their impact, all pinnacle events for Olympic sailing should feature all Olympic sailing events.

The Commission also recommends that ISAF should introduce a more structured and optimised calendar for elite sailing, so that there is greater consistency from one year to the next.

In each of the 10 Olympic Events, the Commission recommends ISAF and the IOC should crown:

- an ISAF SWC champion annually
- an ISAF Sailing World Champion in year 2 of the Olympic cycle
- an Olympic Champion in year 4 of the Olympic cycle.
In addition, the Commission considers that the quality of Race and Event Management across some world championships is not as consistent as elite sailors have a right to expect, and sometimes is not of high enough quality either.

The Commission recommends that ISAF should take a much more active role in the management of ISAF events so they can be of a consistent high standard to meet the needs and expectations of MNAs and elite sailors, and deliver the profile that the sport desires (see Olympic Commission report 4.56 to 4.63).

Therefore the above proposal is based on ISAF having in place a structure by early 2011 to develop, promote and manage the ISAF Sailing World Cup and on ISAF promptly engaging with the Olympic Classes to seek agreement to these arrangements.