Racing Rules of Sailing

Rule N1

A submission from the Chairman of Race Officials Committee

Purpose or Objective

To provide the option of reducing the size of an international jury, for some events, from five to three members, while ensuring the fairness of the competition.

Proposal

N1.7 When approved by ISAF in accordance with established criteria, a national authority may for a particular event approve an international jury consisting of a chairman and members for a total of three. All three members shall be International Judges and from three different national authorities.

Renumber current rule N1.7 to N1.8.

Current Position

No current position.

Reasons

1. Fairness of a sailing competition is ensured through the processes of protests and redress requests and the appeal process. In events where the right of appeal is denied, an international jury takes sole responsibility for ensuring the fairness of a competition. The current rule composes an international jury with five members, having at least three international judges and members from at least three member national authorities.

2. This submission is to provide a limited option for the composition of an international jury, where the size is reduced to three members, while maintaining the high level of fairness for competitors.

3. The composition of the reduced international jury of three members maintains the core requirements of the international jury: three international judges with members from three member national authorities.

4. Each year, ISAF is receiving some requests from ISAF classes to waive the requirement to appoint an International Jury for their world championships (cf. Regulation 10.10). Decisions about such requests have been based on criteria such as few or no hearings at the previous championships, the quality of the proposed protest committee, independence of the member national authority of the organizing authority and whether the requirement has been waived previously. Other relevant criteria whether the event does not use if Appendix P for on-the-water penalties by the international jury for breaches of rule 42, or a system for direct judging
on the water. Unfortunately, waiving the requirement means that the jury becomes an ordinary protest committee with right of appeal. An international jury of three members might be feasible for such events as the jury of three members could fulfil their duties to hear protests and requests for redress and respond to questions about rules, while ensuring fairness of the competition when the right of appeal is denied.

5. It should be noted that, in accordance with rule N1.5, when an international jury of three members, has fewer than three members, because of illness or emergency, and no qualified replacement IJ is available it is not remain properly constituted. It becomes a protest committee whose decisions are subject to appeal under rule 70.5.