Grading Criteria for Grading of Events

Regulation 27.2.3(c)

A submission from the Chairman of the Match Racing Committee and the Race Officials Committee

Purpose or Objective - MRC
To allow centreboard and multihull boats to compete in Grade 1, 2 & 3 match racing events

Purpose or Objective - ROC
To allow Grade 3 match racing events to be sailed in multihulls.

Proposal
27.2.3 Grading of Events

c) Grade 3 - Open and Women
Satisfies the criteria for a Grade 4 event and:
The boats shall be keel boats and have a minimum 5.9 m LOA
There shall be a minimum of four boats available throughout the event, except when a boat that was available at the start of the event is subject to major breakdown or damage.
The boats shall be capable of carrying spinnakers.
Acceptable Race Committee practices.
Acceptable Race Committee and umpire boats.
The event shall be one of the following:

Either:
(i) The principal national championship - only one per nation per year
(ii) The principal youth national championship - one per nation per year
(iii) An international event with a minimum of 30% of the skippers of a different nationality than the host nation, or
(iv) an event, for countries whose Member National Authority is in Groups H to Q, where at least 30% of the skippers are either of a different nationality than that of the host nation, or are nationals of the host nation but have travelled more than 500 km from their ordinary place of residence to the event venue.

For national championships there shall be at least one International Umpire.
For international events there shall be at least two International Umpires.

For international events there shall be at least two International Umpires.
As above.

Reasons: MRC

The current ISAF regulations do not allow any match racing event higher than Grade 4 to be sailed in boats without keels. As most centreboard and multi-hull boats do not have a keel as defined by the Equipment Rules of Sailing, the only grades allowable for an event sailed in these boats is Grade 4 or 5. Highly competitive match racing events have been sailed in multihulls (Little America’s Cup) and they should be graded in accordance with the quality of the competition. In addition, some centreboard boats are very good for match racing and should, likewise, be graded according to the quality of the competition and not be restricted to keel boats.

Reasons: ROC

The purpose of this submission is to allow match racing events in multihulls to be given a Grade 3 if all other criteria are fulfilled. Currently, only match racing events in keelboats may be given a Grade 3 for ranking purposes.

There is an increasing number of match racing events sailed in multihulls, but currently they can only be graded as Grade 4 regardless of the level of the competitors and the other qualities of the event. In addition, there are several areas in the World where there is good potential for development of match racing and a significant number of multihulls available. Finally, the next America’s Cup will be sailed in multihulls, and therefore, it is logical to reflect that development in the grading criteria.