Report from Match Racing Rules Working Party

The new working party was appointed quite late, after all work on updating the Match Racing Call Book to 2017 rules. The old Rapid Response Match Racing Call Group and the old Match Racing Rules Working Party are now combined into one administrative working party with internal split into tasks. The new working party consists of:

Marianne Middelthon (NOR) as chair
Alan Baser (GBR)
Marc Bouet (FRA)
Craig Mitchell (GBR)
Gary Manuel (AUS)
Flavio Naveira (ARG)
Dave Perry (USA)
Sofia Truchanowich (POL)

Marianne, Alan, Dave, Flavio and Sofia are looking after RRMR Calls, whereas Marianne, Alan, Marc, Craig, Gary and Dave are looking after the Call Book, submissions before and after the Conference and potential rules issues that surface during the year. It was felt that with one group creating new calls, there should be at least some ‘fresh blood’ looking at those when they are up for approval. At the same time, it was felt valuable to have some overlap between the working groups. As needed, there will be communication within the complete group.

Preparations for the Conference in 2017 was easy, with no submissions for rules changes and only one submission for a new call –based on current RRMR Call 2017.001.

Currently there are 5 rapid response calls published and there are 2 in progress. The current ones are:

RMRC 2017.001 (Submission 165-17) – New rules at windward marks
RMRC 2017.003 - When sailing backwards.
RMRC 2017.004 - Sailing within mark-room - or not.
RMRC 2017.005 - Incidents at the finishing line.

The calls in progress both address windward mark scenarios involving RRS C2.9 (rule 18.3).

The rules applications are clear to the group, however there are different views with regard to procedural questions (what penalties to apply in new scenarios at windward marks). It is felt that procedural questions are best dealt with in IUSC (ROC) and they were both consulted before the publishing of RMRC 2017.002. Meetings about this are planned for Mexico, and hopefully this will result in a better working situation for the groups.

October 2017
Marianne Middelthon
Chair Match Racing Rules Working Party