

IFDS Events & Scheduling Commission

The main focus of the Events and Scheduling Commission is to handle inquiries from organizations wishing to bid for IFDS World Championships. As part of the process, interested organizations are provided with a bid document outlining the information they are required to provide if they decide they wish to bid to host an IFDS event.

At the present time the International Sailing Federation (IFDS) has authorized IFDS to organize five World Disabled Sailing Championships annually. The Single-Person, Two-Person and Three-Person events are held together in a Combined World Championship. These are sailed in the boats currently selected for the sailing events of the Paralympics, namely the 2.4mR One Design, the SKUD18 and the Sonar. In addition the IFDS organizes a Blind Sailing World Championship alternating between fleet racing and match racing.

In 2013 the Combined World Championships were held in Kinsale, Ireland with a fleet of 45 2.4mRs, 9 SKUD18s and 18 Sonars. The Blind Sailing World Championship was held in Japan with seven crews competing in each of the B1 and B3 classifications and five crews competing in the B2 classification.

A major activity this year has been to have sailing included as a sport of the 2014 Asian Para Games in Incheon, South Korea. This would help develop disabled sailing in the Asia region which is one of the priorities of the International Association of Disabled Sailing. At this point sailing is included in the schedule of events but it requires commitments from National Paralympic Committees to confirm they will be entering athletes in the sailing events.

In 2014 the IFDS Combined World Championships will be held at the Royal Nova Scotia Yacht Squadron, Halifax, Canada on 20-30 August 2014. This will be the first qualifying event for the 2016 Paralympic Sailing Competition in Rio, Brazil. The club is well organized and the event has been able to secure a major sponsor.

The 2014 IFDS Blind Sailing Match Racing will be held at Piers Park Community Sailing in Boston, USA 7-12 September 2014 using Sonars.

I would like to welcome Vicki Sheen who has recently been appointed to the Events and Scheduling Commission. Vicki has been a long-time volunteer in the area of Blind Sailing. In closing I would like to thank the members of the commission for their support during the past year and especially to the President of IFDS John Twomey and to our Disabled Sailing Administrator Emma Little.

Respectfully submitted

Peter Wood
Chair, IFDS Events & Scheduling Commission