ISAF Sailing World Championships

Regulation 17.2 changes to 17.2.1, 17.2.5, 17.2.6

A submission from the from the Chairman of the Events Committee

Proposal 1:

17.2 The Name of the Championship shall be the ISAF Sailing World Championships (the Championships). If there is a title sponsor, the title sponsor name may be inserted in the Championships title, as approved by the ISAF Executive Committee.

17.2.1 The Championships shall be held once every four years, namely in the year two years prior to the Olympic Games.

17.2.2 Only the events and equipment included in the next Olympic Sailing Competition shall be included in the programme of the Championships.

17.2.3 The Championships shall be the Class World Championships of the equipment as stated in 17.2.2.

17.2.4 The format of the event shall be decided by ISAF.

17.2.5 The start date for the Championships shall be in August, except that, if the start date of the Olympic Sailing Competition is in September, the start date for the Championships may also be in September but no later than the Olympic start date. The Executive may change this date when there is good reason.

17.2.5 The Championships shall take place within the following timeframe, with the exception that it shall not clash with the dates of the Olympic Test Event:

(a) In the Northern hemisphere, the dates of the Championships shall start in the second full week of September and shall finish 14 days later including measurement.

(b) In the Southern hemisphere, the dates of the Championships shall start in the second full week of February and shall finish 14 days later including measurement.

These dates may be changed by the Executive when necessary.

Current Position

As above.

Reason

1. Staging the ISAF Sailing World Championships in year 2 of an Olympic Schedule spreads evenly in time the two premier titles for Olympic Event sailors: the Olympic Games, and the ISAF World Championships.

2. Scheduling the Championships for the same time of the year as the Olympic Games (and Olympic Test Event) means that sailors can plan to be at their peak the same time each year.

3. Staging the Championships in year 2 also avoids any clash with the Olympic Test Event (OTE). ISAF encourages Olympic Organizers to hold an additional “pre-OTE” test event in
year 2 to test local race management in advance of the formal OTE, and for this reason a fixed “earliest start date” is specified so Olympic Organizers can plan for such an event with confidence.

4. The IOC has recently stipulated that “Athletes / teams shall have more than one opportunity to qualify, however the qualification systems should not necessitate extensive and expensive travel requirements. Where possible Continental Events should be used”.

5. The Chairman of the Olympic Commission advised Council in November 2009 that the Commission was likely to recommend that the best structure for sailing to meet this stipulation is to have a single Global Qualification Event for all Olympic Events in year 2, and then Continental Olympic Qualification Events in year 3. This submission is consistent with that recommendation.

6. Giving a full year for the scheduling of Continental Olympic Qualification Events gives the flexibility to host these in all parts of the World, and avoids the first half of the Olympic year becoming excessively congested.

7. It is believed that the earlier a country qualifies for the Olympic Games, the earlier the MNA and NOC can plan for Olympic participation, and therefore the less likely it is that the NOC declines to take its place. Scheduling the qualifiers in years 2 and 3 is therefore believed to be optimal for sailing.

8. Scheduling the Continental qualifiers before the Global qualifier would mean that the leading nations focus on qualifying at the Continental events, leaving the emerging nations to qualify at the Global event and therefore negating the intention of the IOC. The Global qualifier is therefore preferred for year 2, and this submission allows the ISAF Sailing World Championships to act as the Global Qualifier.

Proposal 2:
Delete Regulation 17.2.6 and replace/insert as follows:

17.2.6 The decision process and timelines for the Host Member National Authority for the Championships are:

The decision process and timelines for the selection of venue and contract award for the Championships are:

(a) Bids should be received from an ISAF Member National Authority by 1 September, 4 years before the year of the Championships.

(b) The venue shall be decided by ISAF at the November Meeting 4 years before the Championships.

(c) The contract between ISAF and the Organizers shall be signed not less than 3 years before the Championships.

The Notice of Race shall be approved by ISAF not less than 1 year before the event.

The Qualification System shall be determined by ISAF not less than 2 years before the Championships.

(a) Preliminary bids shall be received by ISAF from an ISAF Member National Authority by 1st November, 5 years before the Championships.

(b) Final bids shall be received by 1st March, 4 years before the Championships.

(c) The venue shall be decided by ISAF in May, 4 years before the Championships.
(d) The contract between ISAF and the Organizers shall be signed not less than 3 years before the Championships

(e) The Qualification System shall be determined by ISAF not less than 2 years before the Championships.

(f) The Notice of Race shall be approved by ISAF not less than 1 year before the event.

However, for the Championships in 2014, the above schedule shall be amended so that preliminary bids are received by 15th October 2010, final bids are received by December 1st December 2010, and the Executive Committee shall decide the venue in February 2011.

Current Position
As above.

Reason
1. Feedback from the organisers of Perth 2011 and others is that the current schedule is too short between selection of venue and the event itself.

2. Awarding the contract before the previous event will enable the chosen venue's representatives to attend that event and receive privileged access to its organisation.

3. The introduction of a preliminary bid stage will enable ISAF to review outline bids and budgets, and feed back questions to ensure that final bids are complete. This will improve the overall quality of the bids, and the Championships itself.

4. The exceptional arrangements for 2014 cater for the three year gap between 2011 and 2014 Championships in the event that Part 1 of this submission is agreed.