

22 October 2019

To: World Sailing Member National Authorities

cc World Sailing Class Associations & Rating Systems
Council
Committee Chairs

Dear Members,

Response to Proposed Deferral of Governance Reforms

The World Sailing Board would like to set out its response to the submissions proposing deferral of the governance reforms. The Board does not support deferral for a number of reasons.

- 1 Moving the decision to 2020 will mean moving to the year of the elections. This will not only mean the topic could become an election issue, but it may not receive the necessary focus due to the elections. Also, if the changes to the Board are to take effect for the 2020 election, they would need to be done earlier in 2020 (to allow for the nomination process), otherwise if approved at the 2020 AGM they could not be effective for the Board until the 2024 elections. This would mean continuation of the current Council and governance structure, which would prevent the new structure from being implemented given the change in responsibilities of the Board, Olympic Council, Participation & Development Council and the other bodies in it.
- 2 If the reform is deferred to an Extraordinary General Meeting earlier in 2020 (e.g. March to May 2020) this will only give a short period of extra time for consultation as the December / January period is not suitable for consultation due to the Christmas and vacation period and the final documentation would need to be sent out a month before the EGM.
- 3 The reality is that with wholesale reform it will never be 100% acceptable to everyone, even with more time to consult and adjust.
- 4 If there are specific parts which are not agreed, these can be amended separately at future AGMs. It is much easier to amend a part once the whole structure is approved, but the reform will not be workable, nor achieve the objectives of the reform, if the parts are implemented separately over a period of time.
- 5 If the governance reforms are deferred, the topic of governance will continue to be on the agenda. People will become tired of the subject as it is taking up time that could otherwise be spent on matters related to the sport.
- 6 If the decision is deferred until the 2020 AGM or later, there may be a completely different Board and Council in place who may not wish to pursue the reform, which would leave World Sailing without any significant changes to its governance.
- 7 There has already been considerable time, effort and expense spent on the reform including significant consultation. Deferring will increase the financial and resource commitment required by World Sailing.

Presidents of Honour:
HM King Constantine
HM King Harald of Norway

Directors:
Kim Andersen
Jan Dawson
Torben Grael
Gary Jobson
Quanhai Li
W Scott Perry
Yann Rocherieux
Ana Sanchez
Nadine Stegenwalner

- 8 There has been a history of attempting to defer difficult decisions in World Sailing and for decisions to take a long time to be made. Ironically, one of the objectives of the reform is to improve the timeliness and efficiency of decision making.
- 9 Finally, Members have allocated time and money to participate in the AGM on the understanding that the decision will be made at this meeting. This has been stated and known since the beginning of the Governance Reform project. Deferring it, will incur further time and cost to the Members, some of whom may not be able to attend an EGM in 2020.

For these reasons, the Board will urge the membership at the Annual General Meeting to accept the proposals and allow World Sailing to move onto the next chapter of its governance.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Kim Andersen', with a stylized, looped structure and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Kim Andersen
President

On behalf of the World Sailing Board