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22 April 2003

General Secretary  
ISAF – RSD

Re: Radio Sailing and its Future Organisational Relationship with the International Sailing Federation

In response to your e-mail we would like to put forward the following views.

It appears from the limited information available that an “affiliated Member” has no more or less rights than an ICA. When ever rights are stipulated the two membership classes are grouped together with others.

We are and should remain a self-administrated international organisation and as such this would entitle us to remain as an “Affiliate Member”. If the word division is a problem then we should look for a word that is acceptable to them.

The definition of an “Affiliate Member” is surely sufficient to give Radio Sailing the necessary contact with ISAF that we need and must maintain. We should thus try and remain an “Affiliate Member” but change the name. This would be South Africa’s first choice however if under close scrutiny of the byelaws (which we have not done) it is beneficial to affiliate as the “Radio Sailing Class Association” rather than an “Affiliate Member” we would prefer this to individual Class Associations.

We do not believe that the direction of individual Class Associations is the correct way to be going and in general the same group of sailors is participating in all the classes. The IOM by nature of the fact that it is a relatively new class and as such possibly attracted new sailors it may be the exception. However even in this class there is still a high percentage of sailors sailing and contributing a service of some sought in more than one class at International and National level. We believe that going the individual ICA route will lead to the demise of some of the existing classes.

We don’t believe that ISAF – RSD is giving itself enough credit if it says that ISAF – RSD suffers from “the main problem being that it is very difficult for an organisation to efficiently promote and administer more than one class.” Contrary under the circumstances of limited finance and willing/available manpower ISAF – RSD has provided a sterling service to Radio Sailing over the years.

The words “Class Association” are the current buzz words in Radio Sailing and a survey conducted in South Africa recently amongst all our sailors proved this as the majority of those in favour of an NCA had no idea of what it was about. They believed for example that with an NCA they would be able to change the Class Rules as they saw fit. They would be able to but only through a submission to the ICA. No different to the present situation.