

INTERNATIONAL SAILING FEDERATION RADIO SAILING DIVISION



I S A F
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RRC Chairman Report to the ISAF - RSD General Assembly

The ISAF - RSD Racing Rules Committee between two General Assemblies was composed as follows; Zoran Grubisa (CRO), chairman, John Whitfield (AUS), vice-chairman, Luca Babini (ITA), Fulvio Becagli (ITA), Bernadette Delbart (FRA), Paul Chisholm (NZL), Klaus Schroder (GER), Peter Valentino (MLT). I would like to thank all the members for their work and spent time and Racing Rules Committee is always open for the new members with judging or umpiring experience nominated by their DM's who wants to help in work in our committee.

Appendix E

After RRS Appendix E was finally accepted by the ISAF as proposed by the RSD, RRC was looking for any improvement that could be made for the new edition of the Racing Rules of Sailing. The main problem raised up from the Appendix E published in RRS 2001 - 2004 where Sail Identification rule E6 was found to be not in accordance with old International Administrative class rules and new IOM class rules. RRC together with PC made a new rule E6 that was suggested to all DMs to be used in the Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions. New rule E6 was used on IOM European championship in Fleetwood and M World Championship in Porto Corsini. Other changes of Appendix E up to now planned for the RRS 2005 - 2008 are:

- E1.2 - Add "or sailing instructions".
- E3.1 - Add umpiring as now used by the Radio Sailing Umpiring system within the Sailing Instructions.
- E4.5(a) - better definition of launching and recovering within the last minute.
- E4.7(a) - better definition of "ballast" - need to be discussed with TC.
- E5.2 - Add "or words to that effect which shall include the word "protest" or its declensions and conjugations.
- E6 - Rewrite.

All the submissions will be presented soon to the DMs for their comments before making final submission to the ISAF RRC on the last year before rule changes.

Standard Sailing Instructions

Standard Sailing Instructions were revised several times, mostly after the experience of the RSD championship where some improvements were found. Standard Sailing Instructions are posted on the RSD website and currently includes two Appendices: Radio Sailing Umpiring System and change of rule E6 Sail Identification.

Standard Notice of Race

Standard Notice of Race was only revised with some minor changes and it is also available on the RSD website.

Racing Systems

After HRS was used on the IOM World Championship 2001 in Croatia, HMS was used for the first time on RSD event on IOM European Championship 2002 in United Kingdom. After that it was also used in Marblehead World Championship 2002 in Italy. This system was found better than HRS, especially when it was applied with umpiring what reduced the number of protest hearings and waiting between the heats. HMS was proposed by the GBR DM. Working group nominated by the PC, composed of John Cleave, David Coode and Zoran Grubisa reviewed proposed draft and last version of HMS was adopted by some changes requested by the working group. However, it looks that some wording of current HMS may be improved as RRC are receiving many questions from the DMs for the clarification of current text of HMS. This will include only rewriting current text without changing any of principles of the HMS.

Umpiring

After umpiring was successfully used for the first time on IOM World Championship 2002 in Croatia, it was used on the RSD events in 2002: IOM Europeans and Marblehead Worlds. Umpiring reduced the number of protest hearings for 50 % and made possible for HMS to be used without long waiting between the heats. During the RSD championships there were lots of discussions about umpiring among competitors. On the IOM Europeans in Fleetwood Umpire team offered de-briefing with open discussion with competitors after each racing days, that unfortunately was not well attended. On the other side there were lots of comments about position of umpires within or outside of control area, but all that problems raised up because of the nature of control area. A raised platform, bank or pier for the control area will help a lot to the competitors as well as umpires in judging distances, contacts and boat actions. Current Radio Sailing Umpiring System as used in Standard Sailing Instructions is combination of pre-active and re-active judging and the answer on the question: "Should we have only pro-active or re-active on the water judging?". Either solution will be incomplete. If we have only re-active judging with umpire's call only after competitor's protest it could be that large amount of contact or rule infringements will never be judged, while with pro-active judging only we can not expect that 4-5 umpires can see all the incidents on the fleet of 20 boats. Therefore, we have combination of these two principles that also includes normal protest hearing for the incident not seen by the umpires, and IOM Worlds in Croatia proved that this system can work good. However, umpiring put a request for enough experienced judges/umpires that can be solved with good planing in advice. Judges costs can also be reduced by the use of EUROSALF judges exchange programme in Europe.

Class championship rules

Class championship rules, formerly RSD championship Regulations were also revised. Nationality criteria is now included on the same basis that ISAF apply for its events. After RSD events in 2002 it was proposed to the PC that request for approval Race officer and judges or umpires form the RSD approved list shall be included in the Class championship rules. It was also proposed that number of entries on RSD events where HMS is used should be raised to 84 to allow 5 heats of 20 boats.

RSD events

International Regatta Officer's role in PC was transferred to the RRC in 2001. There were two RSD championships between two General Assemblies. Both IOM Europeans in GBR and M Worlds in ITA were well attended. Although there was lots of discussions about M Worlds, Race officer's report is still not received and any comment can not be given in this moment.

It is also significant problem that there are no many DMs wishing to host RSD championship and for the moment we have only IOM World Championship 2003 in Vancouver confirmed and RSD should try to find more organisers of RSD events in the future as it looks that accepting only candidate can not always guarantee quality of the championship.