Making World Sailing More Relevant to Sailors

Reform of World Sailing Decision Making - Working Party creation and composition


Purpose or Objective

To ensure that a widespread and representative group of World Sailing stakeholders review and propose improvements to how World Sailing decision making is done utilizing the current Constitution and Regulations as a base.

Proposal

World Sailing shall immediately strike a working party to bring forward a review of the way World Sailing decision making is implemented so that:

- it shall be more inclusive of all sailors, including but not limited to Countries, Classes and Athletes to better reflect their contribution to the organization;
- actions and deliberations (including financial actions) of World Sailing are open and transparent to all sailors;
- the Working Party shall review the 2019/2020 work of the Governance Commission;
- the Working Party shall receive input from all stakeholders including but not limited to MNAs, Classes, Athletes and Sailors;
- The stakeholders shall receive frequent reports on the working party’s progress;
- The Working Party will utilize the current Constitution and Regulations as a base for their deliberations;

The working party shall:

- consist of 7 to 9 people;
- preferably be made up of persons who have been Council members however it shall not have existing Council members except two selected as follows, one appointed by the Board and one elected from the council by the council members who are not Board members;
- have five members selected, one each by the Classes, the Para World Sailing
Committee, the Athletes Commission, the Coaches Commission and the Women’s Forum:

- elect its own Chairperson;
- select up to two additional members who the working party feels can help them with their deliberations;
- be given access to all World Sailing documents and records they require, subject to the restrictions allowed by Article 93 of the Constitution;
- have the resources to assist them with their mandate as reasonably requested and have reasonable assistance which shall not be withheld by World Sailing Board or Staff except subject to the restrictions allowed by Article 68(c) of the constitution;
- report to Council and the Annual General Meeting its findings, conclusions and recommendations.

Current Position

The 2019/20 Governance Commission made proposals which were defeated at the Bermuda AGM. In order to capitalize on the work done last Quad and to build a more inclusive and effective World Sailing, any body that attempts to review governance needs to have more widespread input. This is to ensure that the good ideas are refined and the more difficult issues get explored more widely. Clear, critical thinking is imperative. As such, the review work should be taken up by a much more inclusive group with a broad mandate to focus on making major positive changes to structure, transparency and decision making of World Sailing building on the proven model of MNA and Stakeholder representation as developed over the last 100 plus years.

Reasons

1. The current operations of World Sailing are failing the majority of sailors worldwide as evidenced by the decline in sailing participation over the years in many countries.
2. The constant focus on Olympics rather than sailing as a sport is detrimental to the vast majority of sailors.
3. Every year World Sailing becomes less and less relevant to the sailing public.
4. In order to be truly the Sport Governing Body for Sailing it must properly review and rejuvenate itself.
5. As evidenced by the significant financial losses incurred over the last few years and turmoil in decision making at World Sailing it is obvious the stakeholders of World Sailing need to look hard at how we can improve itself.
6. The very expensive and top down effort done last year failed and needs to be replaced with a bottom up review by all the Stakeholders who are affected by World Sailing actions.