Policy for Improving Submissions to Council

Principles to be used to re-write the current Regulation 15 for Submissions

A submission from the Barbados Sailing Association, Belize Sailing Association, Chilean Sailing Federation, Croatian Sailing Federation, Czech Sailing Association, Federación de Vela de Puerto Rico, Federación Dominicana de Vela, Federación Mexicana de Vela, Hellenic Sailing Federation, Hungarian Sailing Federation, Jamaica Yachting Association, Slovak Sailing Union, Virgin Islands Sailing Association, and the International Lightning Class Association

Purpose or Objective

To establish, as a Policy Decision of Council, the key elements to guide World Sailing to re-write Regulation 15 (and related submissions) for an improved submissions Regulation that will make decisions more efficient, faster and with better input from all members.

Proposal

A new World Sailing Policy as per Regulation 68(a);

Policy for Improving Submissions to the Council

New Submissions Policy to be approved by Council, and then published and implemented by World Sailing

Submissions: The following principles shall be followed by World Sailing to re-draft the current Regulations so that this policy can be implemented as soon as possible in early 2021, with the approval of Council:

- There shall be council meetings at least two times per year with a target of three meetings a year where submissions can be debated and voted on. At least one of those meetings will be in person in conjunction with the Annual Meeting. The other meetings can be electronic meetings. (This will require a small change to Regulations 3.1.1, 3.1.2, 3.1.3, 3.3.7 and possibly others);
- A regulation shall be made to allow electronic meetings and voting for Council with the exception that the Council Meeting in conjunction with the AGM shall be in person unless Council decides otherwise;
- Submissions shall follow the current process (as revised below with the addition of a contact person). They can be sent in at any time and shall be dealt with by Council within six months or at the next Council meeting called to discuss the issue;
- Submissions in accordance with Regulation 15.1 may be submitted in the regular way, at any time. Submissions for the Council Meeting in conjunction with the AGM shall be submitted as per Regulation 15.6 (a) at the normal time;
- Submissions shall be posted in an easily accessible and searchable database on the World Sailing website when received and shall, within one week, have the reporting and interested committees noted. This will allow suggestions for improvement and informed debate on the content well in advance of the Council meeting;
- When a submission is submitted, it shall be transmitted to all relevant committees for discussion and possible amendment/refinement;
• The submitter shall note on the submission, a contact person, who is a subject matter expert who shall work with World Sailing committees to answer questions and work with relevant committees to ensure understanding of the proposal;
• The contact person and Chair of any relevant committee(s) (or their delegate(s)) shall initially discuss the proposal;
• The submitter may modify the proposal, and any other person delegated by a committee may propose modifications to the submission. This step is to ensure that the proposal gets broad recognition and debate, if required, before it is brought to Council for a vote;
• If, at any time up to one day before the Council vote, a Member wishes to submit a modified submission that deals with an already existing submission or very similar submission, they shall identify the submission and changes to the submitter’s version in a way to make comparison clear for the Council;
• These modified submissions shall also be posted as per submissions on the World Sailing website and may be moved and seconded as amendments to the original proposal or alternatively voted on as a separate submission before or after the original submission is dealt with. This one-day requirement may be waived by the Council Chair at his discretion.

Implementation:
This Policy shall come into force when approved by Council and appropriate redrafting of Regulation 15 and 3 etc. shall proceed as quickly as possible by staff in consultation with members and with the intent that Council vote on the modified regulations at or before the Mid-Year Council Meeting in 2021.

Current Position
Regulation 15 currently covers submissions but is very out-dated. This document codifies the changes that can make Regulation 15 better and in effect establish a “Submissions Portal” for Council and Members with little cost.

Reasons
1. The methods of communication have changed dramatically in the last few years and World Sailing should take advantage of them. It is much easier for people to collaborate to solve problems and communicate. Small groups (like committees and commissions) can work together on a very effective and fast basis via Zoom, Team or other such systems. Large groups (like Council & even General Meetings) can meet effectively and much more frequently at very low cost.

2. World Sailing needs to have a faster and more flexible way of making decisions.

3. The current system whereby submissions cannot be amended except in extremely minor ways is not good management. It stifles good ideas and adds significant time to decision making.

The current system of having only one opportunity to make administrative/regulation changes each year is unacceptable these days.