Youth Events Sub - Committee Recommendations to Events Committee

This document is a summary of the Recommendations made at the Youth Events Sub-Committee meeting on 21 and 22 October 2020.

2020 Submissions

008-20  Training & Development Budget - Establish a base budget for World Sailing Training and Development Programs
Reporting Committee: Board
Other Committee: Development & Regions
Opinion: Approve

Comment

Training and development is the foundation of our sport in helping to drive participation in both recreational and competitive sailing.
It is essential that the Training and Development Department is sufficiently funded to deliver an appropriate suite of programs and services.
Whilst recognising that the ‘ideal budget’ is not always available, because of broader financial pressures, discretionary budgets such as training and development, should not be disproportionately cut.
There should be clear policy guidance established that ensures there is an appropriate balance of attention for this vital area of World Sailing’s activity.
The Committee therefore fully support the recommendation that the Training and Development budget is directly linked as a percentage of the overall World Sailing budget.

032-20  Regulation 25.2.1 - Approval of World Championships and other Events
Reporting Committee: Events
Other Committee: Classes, Constitution
Opinion: Approve

033-20  Regulation 24.5.3 - Equipment for the Kiteboarding event in the Youth World Championships
Reporting Committee: Events
Other Committee: Constitution, Equipment
Opinion: Approve

034-20  Youth Sailing World Championships - Equipment for Windsurfer Events
Reporting Committee: Events
Other Committee: Constitution, Equipment
Opinion: Deter

Comment

The intention for 2021 event is to use the Techno 293+ equipment. The Committee would like flexibility to be able to consider foiling equipment for July 2022 and recognize this decision should be made at least one year ahead.
We request that the Equipment Committee study all the available options for Youth foiling equipment for the July 2022 Youth World Championships

035-20  World Sailing Youth Games - Replacement for Postponed Youth Olympic Games
Reporting Committee: Events
Other Committee: Classes
Opinion: Reject

Comment
Youth Worlds is scheduled for 2022. An alternate event would be too close together with the Youth Worlds, require World Sailing resources and not have benefit of cost being covered by IOC. The Committee supports focus on regions having events that include youth sailors rather than another global event.

Other recommendations not based on submissions:

After listening to the Coaches Commission recommendation to consider options for the youth sailors with birthdates in 2002, the committee re-considered the recommendation made to the Events Committee meeting in June. The committee sympathizes with the Youth sailors born in 2002 who have missed out on the opportunity to compete in the Youth Worlds in 2020. Creating exceptions that would allow these sailors to compete in 2021 would add additional complexity to MNA selection processes and be unfair to the sailors born in 2003 and later.

Youth Worlds Strategy Research

The committee listened the highlights of the results from research amongst 25 MNA’s (of varying sizes with a broad geographical spread), which was designed to:

1) better understand the Junior and Youth landscape (from U12 – 23 years old), in terms of gender split, equipment used, fleet sizes, funding streams, etc
2) canvas opinion on specific aspects of the Youth Worlds (YW) such as the cost of entry, the ‘make-up’ of the championship, the possible impact of COVID on future entries, plus a top line understanding of the attitude to hosting the championship

The headline findings included the following results;

- MNA U12 active sailors ranged from the largest at 14,700 to the smallest with just 2. In the 15 – 18 age group this ranged from 5,600 – 7. Demonstrating the huge difference in the scale of activity
- The U12 age group had a mean average of 61% male sailors, and in the 15 – 18 age range this moved to 74%
- In the U12 age group, 9 nations have a ‘pathway’ and in the 15 – 18 age range this increased to 19 nations
- 19 out of 25 (76 % of participating MNA’s) feel that the Youth Worlds does fit in to their elite youth sailing programme
- 14 out of 25 (56 % of participating MNA’s) feel that the ‘one sailor / team’ approach does not detract from the YW
- 19 out of 25 (76 % of participating MNA’s) see the YW as part of an effective pathway for their elite youth sailors
- 81 % of MNA’s see the current YW entry fee of circa 1,000 – 1,100 euro’s as either very good value or good value (21 MNA answered)
- 65% of MNA’s would see a 1500 euro entry fee for the YW as either very good value, good value or average value (17 MNA answered)
- 70% of MNA’s felt that COVID could have an impact on entering the YW in the coming years, reasons included travel restrictions, need for an effective vaccine, status of the host country and reduced budgets

With regards to hosting the Youth Worlds, it should be noted that the research was orientated towards coaches and team leaders, who are more focussed on the Youth Pathway / development. The findings included;

- 8 MNA’s have looked at the possibility of hosting the YW
- 17 MNA’s have never looked at the bid manual
- Cost is seen as the overwhelming barrier to hosting the YW
- 11 MNA’s did not know what the cost of hosting might be and estimates of the hosting cost ranged from 500k Euro’s upwards
It was noted that there is strong interest in hosting the 2021 edition of the YW, and there are 11 MNA’s interested. There is significantly more data within the survey, and a high number of useful anecdotal comments.

After a good level of discussion amongst the committee, it was felt that the research is an important and useful step in the ongoing review and development of a strategy to deliver appropriate competition to youth sailors and ensure that the YW is seen as an important part of the pathway, whilst ensuring that we grow sailing across all MNA’s.

Next action points included:

- Further research to better understand the challenges for MNA’s considering hosting the YW focussed on the MNA contacts with responsibility in the area
- A collaborative and closer working relationship with the Development & Regions committee and the World Sailing Training and Development department

The current committee will continue to develop the strategy and seek to hand clear direction to the incoming committee.

Authenticated by email on 23.10.2020

Cory Sertl
Chairman