

IECU Development Meeting

Date and time: July 8, 2005 18:00 h
Place NJK Club house, Helsinki, Finland

Minutes taken by Kathe Ramm-Schmidt

International Europe Class Union President Jan Abrahamsen opened the meeting by welcoming all participants and stating the importance of hearing what the sailors want.

Written comments to proposed development issues and new proposals had been received in advance from 4 countries: USA, Finland, Austria and Denmark (encl. 1-4).

1. Europe Class Olympic Status

The council has proposed that IECU applies for Olympic status within the ISAF timetable for selection of equipment to the 2012 Olympic Games in all categories possible. To be noted is that "Open" has been interpreted as "Open for development"

AUT and USA had in writing expressed their support for the IECU council proposal.

DEN had in advance given their support for application for a Open and a Women's class. DEN expressed their fear that if the Europe class would be a class for both women and men, women will loose their interest in the long run and the Europe class as a women's class will be killed. The reason for equal performance in the past is a result of the fact that women has been competing in an Olympic class. The best men change to other classes, when the best women has stayed due to the Olympic status.

Niki Nocke supported the opinion of DEN.

FIN was of the opinion that The Europe would have the best chance to apply for Olympic status as an open class since the open class now, really isn't an open class, in the respect that both women and men would be able to sail on equal conditions. If Open status cannot be acquired status as a women's class should be applied for.

BEL gave their support for the FIN point of view.

Paul Deporter suggested that we should wait and see how the development will go; there as still about 3 years left before a possibly application has to be made.

Niki Nocke: Lobbying has to be started at home in every member nation and cannot be the sole responsibility of the council. Statistics from other classes are needed!

BEL & NED: It's too late to wait for 3 years. Lobbying has to start now!

GBR: Open class is our chance! Energy should be put on building the class. What should we do to "build the class"?

Conclusion:

Since no one expressed opinions against applying for Olympic status, we will apply. We will wait and see in what categories to apply, time will show. WE have to start lobbying NOW.

**IECU EXECUTIVE SUBMISSION TO AGM.
IN PRINCIPLE WE WILL APPLY FOR NEW OLYMPIC STATUS.
DECISION ON WHAT EVENTS WILL BE APPLIED FOR WILL
BE TAKEN IN THE FUTURE.**

2. Europe Class World Ranking

IECU Council proposal:

- 1 national event
- 1 national/international (less than 4 nations represented) event
- Unlimited number on international events

AUT had expressed that it should be like before. The proposal seems like very difficult: How count the national event?

NED: Could the national event be exchanged to the national ranking-list?

FIN: Calculation period: is it a rolling list as the formerly ISAF-list or would the list be calculated at the end of every year? How decide what national event that should be counted? Junior events should not be counted. Suggestion:

FIN & DEN: Every nation nominates 1-2 national events to be counted.

Paul Deporter: To enter all regattas would give more names on the ranking list. Therefore all national regatta results should be sent in for the ranking list count. A rolling system would be very complicated to maintain. Therefore the ranking would be calculated on a one year basis and the year would always end with the worlds. After that a new ranking period will start.

BEL suggested an input form on the web site.

FIN: There is still a problem if the national events are graded according to the number of participating sailors and all nations do not have equal status in this respect.

Conclusion:

We will try a World Ranking List. PD will continue to develop the system and test it and will need results from national regattas as soon as possible! The new ranking system will start at the Worlds in China.

**IECU EXECUTIVE SUBMISSION TO AGM.
A NEW WORLD RANKING SYSTEM WILL BE TESTED FOR
THE 2005 – 2006 SEASON.
Exact rules will be handed separately to the members.**

3. Entry quotas for major events

IECU suggestion:

- New quota suggestion

- More weight on the OW as a qualifying regatta. 50% of the not qualified sailors, but at least 10 + 10, should have a right to participate in the Europeans or the Worlds.

Advance written comments:

DEN: No comments

AUT: OK

FIN: Suggests total quotas for men and women and a minimum of 25% of each sex. WC and EC should have the same quotas as JEM.

USA: No quotas at all!

Opinions about OW expressed at the meeting:

NED: There should be limitations to the OW, otherwise it will be a regional championship.

FIN: We need to keep the quality high for the EC & WC titles.

ITA: Too large quotas in the OW is not motivating to the national qualifying system and the national sailors. We need to fight with quality, not quantity.

DEN: We need a lot of participants to show that we are a big class, but small quotas will give more competition.

FIN: The system should allow the over all best sailors to sail in the WC. First we have to decide what the purpose of OW is before we decide on the

Qualifying system: Is OW:

- 1) a qualifying regatta
- 2) a practice for the organisers
- 3) a system to motivate the national sailors in the country where EC/WC is held

The following OW systems has been suggested:

- a) min 10, max 20
- b) 50%, but a max/nation (min. 10+10 in total)
- c) 30% of participating not qualified sailors
- d) leave it at 10+10
- e) max/nation in OW = national quota in the WC/EC

Conclusion:

We have many opinions. Maybe it is not a good idea to rise the quotas. IECU council will prepare 4 proposals for the AGM Agenda.

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1.- Leave it as it is now. 10 boys + 10 girls upgrade to Championship

2.- 30 % of participating not qualified sailors on Open Weekupgrade to Championship. Minimum 10 + 10. Max per Nation is National Quota in the Championship.

3.- 50 % of participating not qualified sailors on Open Weekupgrade to Championship. Minimum 10 + 10. Max per Nation is National Quota in the Championship.

4.- Same as points 2 or 3 but with NO max limit per Nation.

4. Hull tolerances

After a short discussion at the meeting and also taking into consideration the advance written comments it was concluded that since neither the old hull or the new hull is better than the other the old hulls should be grandfathered forever.

Conclusion:

All old hulls will be legal for ever except for at the WC, CC or RC after March 2008 as suggested by IECU council, but omitting b. (IV).

**IECU EXECUTIVE SUBMISSION TO AGM.
To delete Class Rule 3.2.9 (b).**

5. IECU Nations' Trophy

Paul Deporter illustrated the idea and the system planned. Following clarifications to the written proposal was given:

- the event will be held during or immediately after the Worlds.
- The national representatives present was in favour of using the Match Racing Rules for the Nations Trophy Cup.

Conclusion:

Paul Deporter received thanks for his preparatory work and it was decided that we will try the system in accordance with the original IECU proposal.

**IECU EXECUTIVE SUBMISSION TO AGM.
Run a IECU Nation's Trophy at the Worlds in Copenhagen
2006.**

6. IECU Best Sailor of the Year

IECU proposal is OK for everybody. The Rookie award was also considered OK.

**IECU EXECUTIVE SUBMISSION TO AGM.
It will be awarded after the Worlds 2006.**

7. Frequency of Major Championships

Earlier tradition has been to go outside Europe with the WC every 2. year, but since participation often has been decrease during these years the issue was brought to discussion by the IECU Council.

After discussion it was concluded that it would be wise to bring the WC outside Europe at least every 4 years, but as often as it is possible.

IECU EXECUTIVE SUBMISSION TO AGM.

IECU will do all efforts to bring the WC outside Europe at least every 4 years, but as often as it is possible.

8. Other issues

- The Notice of Race for the WC 2006 in Copenhagen was distributed. It was informed that the insurance requirements had been lowered to 0,5 milj. US dollars.
- BEL+NED is applying for the Worlds in 2007. The application was distributed to the participants in the meeting.
- FIN had in their written answer to the IECU proposals raised the question of changing the name of the Europe Dinghy to something less "regional" as an effort to get more support in other regions than Europe.

In fide

July 20, 2005

Kathe Ramm-Schmidt

Jan Abrahamsen, Chairman