

ISAF SAILOR CLASSIFICATION COMMISSION

A report from the Chairman, Tom Rinda

2013 was an interesting year for the Classification Commission. In the theme of accessibility, both in ease of use as well as understanding the process from the point of view of those unfamiliar with the system, we identified the need for a programmers meeting to have all parties using the ISAF Database get together to harmonize each usage requirement in the operation of this important resource.

A meeting was held in early June, 2013 and attendance was comprised of the Secretariat Staff, including Technical and Marketing representatives, as well as the Chairman of the Classification Commission, The ITTC Commission, Representatives from SOTIC, our web hosts and internet database storage providers and three representatives from prominent Regatta registration systems including the RORC, AAM Cowes Week and USA based Yacht Scoring, who do the Melges Classes, Farr 40's and many USA and Caribbean Events.

The most significant outcome of this meeting to date was to identify two major issues with the current system. One was the continuing manufacture of duplicate records and subsequently the second was the need to merge and /or purge the system from these existing duplicates. We identified over 80,000 valid records but a total of almost 140,000 records currently exist in the database. So it is an urgent project to eliminate these Database Duplicates and their continued propagation. Stage one is in place at this time, and we can close the duplication process but remains to be fully implemented. Stage two, merging the Database is our next priority item.

Other items on this agenda included a method of obtaining Regatta Registration and results information from the various Dinghy and Offshore Regatta events for the Olympic and ISAF Classes worldwide. The system promoted by the ITTC Commission as the best method currently being developed by them is the XRR-XML reporting system being rolled out this fall at the various ISAF World Cup events.

Regatta attendance in 2013 by Classification representatives for ISAF Class World Championship events was made by the Commission interviewers at the Melges 24 Europeans, 24 and 32 Worlds. Dragon Worlds, Swan Gold Cup and Maxi Series at YCCS as well as the ORC Worlds, the Soto 40 Worlds and Etchells Worlds. Crew Classification was also employed for other ISAF Class events such as the Farr 40 Class, and also J 105 and J 109 Classes and the NYCC Invitational Cup.

Some reported Classification anomalies were encountered as a result of this practice this year which resulted in reports being made to ISAF from the ORC Worlds and to the NED MNA from the Swan Worlds events. These reports were

being administered under the new ISAF Disciplinary Regulation procedures and at least one of them is now in the hand of a Disciplinary Panel.

The continuing need for more reliable tracking of sailor participation in sailing events were presented in detail to the Commission members at our annual meeting this past October. We also discussed the current elimination of the Group2 Category and considered the viability of reintroducing this Classification Status.

One major issue which remains to be accomplished is to induce registration by the Group 3 sailors who are not currently classified by ISAF. The reason for this concern is that while we would like to have their participation, it is evident they are not seeing any benefit from participating in the registration process. We have proposed several concepts to Admin which should motivate many Group 3 Sailors to register with the ISAF Sailor ID and Classification system if they are adopted. These ideas include an ISAF Sailor ID Card program which will incorporate electronic registration components and accompanying ease of registration which could be useful at many events. Another idea would encompass a standard weight program designed to eliminate repeated weigh-ins at every event that are preceded by fasting, dehydration and unhealthy weight loss practices and often result in last minute crew changes.

We have also worked with the Technical department on behalf of two new ISAF Classes, namely the J 111 and Swan 60 Classes. Our hope is to test the XML Regatta Reporting system at their 2014 World Championship Events and enforce Classification for these classes which use the system to determine their World Champion rather than identify a Corinthian Trophy component of their Worlds.

Commission balance and coverage was enhanced by the addition of two new members and we welcome the additional insight and input from them in geographic regions where we have historically been under informed. It is important to keep the changing face of sailing in mind and in that theme; it will be a foremost consideration when making any future Commission Appointments.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Rinda
Classification Commission Chairman