

Conflict of Interest

Regulation 34

A submission from the Chairman of Race Officials Committee

Purpose or Objective

To introduce the “ISAF Race Officials Committee Guidelines for assessing a Conflict of Interest for Race Officials” into the Regulations.

Proposal

- 34.1 A conflict of interest exists when an ISAF Race Official has, or reasonably appears to have, a personal or financial interest which could affect the official’s ability to be impartial.
- 34.2 When an ISAF Race Official is ~~aware of a conflict of interest~~ **invited to serve at a regatta**, he/she shall **consult the guidelines for race officials for assessing a conflict of interest, issued by the Race Officials Committee, and act in accordance with these guidelines, which may be to** decline an the invitation ~~to serve at a regatta at which an International Jury is appointed.~~
- 34.3 When the ISAF Race Official has any doubt ~~whether or not there is a conflict of interest~~ **on the action to take**, ~~the ISAF Race Official~~ **he/she** shall promptly consult ISAF, prior to accepting the invitation, and be bound by its decision.
- 34.4 When, at an event, an ISAF Race Official becomes aware of a conflict of interest, ~~the official~~ **he/she** shall disclose the potential conflict to the International Jury which shall take appropriate action **in accordance with the guidelines for race officials for assessing a conflict of interest, issued by the Race Officials Committee.**

Current Position

As above.

Reasons

The current Regulation 34 handles conflict of interest as a simple yes or no. This is no longer in line with the way the sport is practiced on all levels. There are multi-event regattas where events are separate, regattas where volunteers may have links with parts of the organizing committee and regattas at lower levels that cannot be run without volunteers that have some conflict of interest. There are also officials who may have had a conflict of interest sometime in the past. Thus treating conflict of interest as simplistically as the current Regulation 34 suggest is no longer appropriate.

To improve this, Race Officials Committee has had a working party develop guidelines to help race officials assess a potential conflict of interest. They were also designed to improve consistency in a global culture. The guidelines were approved by Race Officials Committee in February this year.

The guidelines define what a conflict of interest is, how a race official can assess it and a range of required actions. The guidelines are available on the ISAF website.

The current version of the guidelines can be found on the ISAF website here:

<http://www.sailing.org/33947.php>

The corresponding Appendix D with examples of conflict of interest decisions can be found on the ISAF website here:

<http://www.sailing.org/33946.php>

This submission introduces the guidelines into Regulation 34 (Conflict of Interest) and defines how race officials should act.
