



# **ISAF Race Officials Committee** **Guidelines to “Principal Events”**

The regulations governing the appointment of race officials use the term 'principal event' to describe events that the ROC will consider to be acceptable to meet the experience criteria for appointment.

Although there is no specific definition of a principal event, this document will assist first time applicants and applicants for renewal with a better understanding as to which of their events will be considered as principal events. Officials from the more isolated areas around the globe struggle to receive invitations to events outside their Group or MNA, especially prior to becoming certified ISAF International Officials. With this in mind ISAF's ROC looks at a broad scope of events to define the experience needed for first time appointment or renewal of our officials. Each committee will always consider exceptions when evaluating an application.

There are other reasons: A principal event for the purposes of appointment of race officials is an event that gives the official a level of experience they can be expected to encounter when appointed as an International Race Official and at the same time there will be events which can allow the official to bring their high level of experience to all levels of racing.

Wind can play havoc with the ability of the Race Committee to complete all races planned although generally a principal event should have a minimum of 5 races. Each situation is evaluated on its own. Two events of lesser duration or two events which have a very large number of boats, but only 1 or 2 races could represent one principal event if the standard of racing was high enough. Shown below are events that are considered as L2 and L3 that may be combined to be a principal event. Also those listed in the ISAF regulations as 'ISAF Events', 'Major Events' and 'Recognized Events', would be principal events.

Some events are experimenting with different forums for making protest decisions such as email, video conferencing and telephone conferencing. Whilst the stature of these events are recognized, only one event where the jury members are not physically present may be included in an application as a principal event and that event shall have an international jury as well as video conferencing. All the other criteria must be met.

With regard to Umpires, match racing has a grading system that covers most events, it has been the practice to include a Grade 3 event but only within a portfolio including higher graded events. Although all national championships are Grade 3, not all are not necessarily of a high competition level.

An Umpired Fleet Racing event may be included in an application for renewal in judge or umpire disciplines but only one (1) event that is either a principal event or one composed of two L2s can be included.

With regard to International Race Officers, a role other than overall PRO or RO responsible for the management of the races on the water may be considered to be a principal event. For, example an IRO appointed by ISAF to act in that capacity at the Olympic Games or to a major event, but not necessarily as the PRO. However, the number of events in the portfolio where the applicant was not the PRO responsible for the management of the races on the water will be limited to two. It is clearly impossible to fully describe a 'principal event' but the table below may be helpful.

An applicant for renewal (judges, race officers, umpires) may include as a principal event , one composed of **two L2** events or **three L3** events, but only one of each per application.

ISAF officials are encouraged not only to seek high level events, but to also to provide their skills and knowledge at other, non principal events, in the hope that their expertise will be of benefit to national judges and other less experienced officials. The inclusion of L2 and L3 events in an application should facilitate this.

<b>Fleet Racing Dinghies</b>	<b>Fleet Racing Keelboats</b>	<b>Match Racing</b>	<b>Team Racing</b>
<p><b>Principal Event</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Olympic Games</li> <li>• International Class Worlds and Continentals</li> <li>• Grade 200 and 100 Olympic Classes events</li> <li>• National Championship with 50+ entrants (min. 3 days)</li> <li>• Paralympic Games</li> <li>• Youth Olympic Games</li> <li>• Umpired Fleet Racing (all races umpired min. 3 days)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Principal Event</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volvo Ocean Race</li> <li>• International Class Worlds and Continentals</li> <li>• International Race Weeks (min. 4 days)</li> <li>• National Championships with 30+entrants (some flexibility depending on class)</li> <li>• A high level event which has an IRO and international jury on site</li> <li>• Umpired Fleet Racing (all races umpired min. 3 days)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Principal Event</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• World Championships</li> <li>• America's Cup</li> <li>• Grade 1 &amp; 2</li> <li>• National Championships (with high level of competition)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Principal Event</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• World Championships</li> <li>• US National Team Race Championship</li> <li>• US University Championships</li> <li>• British University National Championships</li> <li>• British Open Team Racing Championship</li> </ul>
<p><b>L2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 Day National Championship</li> <li>• A National Championship of less than 50 boats</li> <li>• Umpired Fleet Racing (Medal Races a full day)</li> </ul>	<p><b>L2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Events which have a large number of boats but only 1 or 2 races</li> <li>• A 2 day National Championship</li> <li>• International Race week of less than 4 days</li> <li>• Umpired Fleet Racing (Medal Races a full day)</li> </ul>	<p><b>L2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A national championship (with a lower degree of competition)</li> <li>• A grade 3 (with a high level of competition)</li> </ul>	<p><b>L2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A feeder to a principal event</li> <li>• Other national Championships</li> </ul>
<p><b>L3</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional event with large number of boats (more than 100)</li> </ul>	<p><b>L3</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional event with a large number of boats (more than 100)</li> </ul>	<p><b>L3</b></p> <p>A grade 3 (with a lower level of competition)</p>	<p><b>L3</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional university events</li> <li>• Regional events with more than 8 teams</li> </ul>