

ISAF NATIONS CUP 2015

Invitation for Bids

The ISAF Nations Cup, which was first introduced to the world in 1991, is based on a series of Regional Finals with the top crews meeting at a Grand Final. The aim of the event is to broaden the availability of match racing and provide international competition for national authorities and sailors at reasonable cost, whilst acting as an incentive for national match racing programmes.

Held seven times previously, the ISAF Nations Cup triggers a pyramid of events, with nations holding club and then national championships to select their teams to attend the Regional Finals, which in turn lead to the Grand Final, where nations are pitted against each other, creating a sound, viable and appealing series of events. It is **about Nations and not skippers** to determine the Open and Women's World Champion Nation in match racing.



Each Regional Final will have an Open and Women's Division, with entries limited to one entry from each of the nations within that region eligible to participate, thus promoting a continental event and ensuring that all nations have the opportunity to participate.

Regional Finals will be held over a maximum of four days, with one or more crews going through to the 2015 ISAF Nations Cup Grand Final. As in the past, the Regional Finals will offer the opportunity for ISAF Match Racing Clinics training on the water prior to the event.

The previous edition - ISAF Nations Cup 2013 was a successful event with competitors from more than 40 Nations all around the globe. The Regional Finals were organised in Vladivostok (RUS), Mar Del Plata (ARG), Bridgetown (BAR), Lelystad (NED) whilst Middelfart (DEN) and Match

Racing Denmark hosted the Grand Final.

Middelfart on the waters of the Fænøsund in Denmark saw some of the world's best match racers representing their home country in the battle for the Nations Cup trophies in the ISAF Grade 1 Grand Final. Juliana Senfft (BRA) and 22-year-old David Gilmour (AUS) battled heart stopping changes of control to take home the ISAF Nations Cup 2013 for Brazil and Australia. Some of the highlights were HRH Crown Prince Frederik and Jesper Bank in a celebrity match race at the Grand Final and Wataru Sakamoto (JPN) getting to the Semi Finals and the strong participation of Singapore and Brazil.

ISAF is now seeking bids from organisers around the world to host Regional Finals during 2014-15 and the Grand Final in 2015. The event organisers must have the full endorsement from their national federation (MNA).

For further information please read the attached document or contact Jon Napier at the ISAF Secretariat jon.napier@isaf.com or Michael O'Connor, Chair of the ISAF Nations Cup Working Party at moconnor11@gmail.com. **Bid deadline is 5 September 2014.**



Background to the ISAF Nations Cup

A primary objective is to attract new countries and new teams to this exciting discipline – in 1991 Ed Baird (USA) won the first ISAF Nation’s Cup.

Many great match racers today in the America’s Cup, the Alpari World Match Racing Tour and the 2012 Olympics have come up through this event. Examples include Mathieu Richard (FRA), Bertrand Pace (FRA), Anna Tunnicliffe (USA), Claire Leroy (FRA), Lucy Macgregor (GBR), Peter Holmberg (ISV), Eugeny Neugodnikov (RUS), Jesper Bank (DEN), Murray Jones (NZL), Damien Iehl (FRA), and Nicky Souter (AUS).

Past locations to host the Regional and Grand Finals have been in recent times:

	Grand Final	Regional Finals
2006	Cork, Ireland	FIN, POR, SLO, GBR, ISV, BRA, UAE, NZL
2009	Porto Alegre, Brazil	FRA, NZL, ITA, ARG, USA, IRL, IND
2011	Sheboygan, USA	RSA, QAT, AUT, POL, USA, AUS, BRA
2013	Middelfart, Denmark	RUS, BAR, NED, ARG

For more history <http://www.sailing.org/events/nationscup/about.php/>

Event Video (5 minutes) inc an interview with Russell Coutts - <http://youtu.be/PUkwjtSVL8E>

Livestream Coverage from Denmark 2013 - <http://www.nationscup2013.dk/news>



ISAF Training Clinics at Regional Finals