

DRAFT Submission "P"

A submission from the IFDS Medical Committee

Purpose:

To facilitate and promote participation of new sailors and teams at International Events sanctioned by IFDS.

Proposal:

To create P (Provisional) Status for Classification of Sailors that have never attended an event where International Classification was offered.

P status can be offered to an athlete by the Head of Classification, on recommendation and on the basis of information from a single International Classifier who has examined an athlete or has obtained sufficient information by other means to enable reliable estimation of the sailor's Class.

P Class allows the sailor to attend an international event, racing in the class he has been initially assigned by the Head of Classification. Normal Classification procedure at the Event will either confirm the initial Class, and R or C status will then be awarded, or a different Class will be awarded with R or C Status.

If the new Class makes the sailor or team ineligible to compete, the sailor retains his P Class until the end of the Event.

Current Position:

All sailors attending an Event must have a valid Classification allowing them or their team to compete.

Reason:

1. Sailors presenting to an Event for Classification cannot be sure that they are eligible to compete with their boat, and can travel great distances at considerable cost without the certainty of racing.
2. This risk is a deterrent to new sailors attending an Event for the first time.
3. IFDS, in its efforts to increase participation, must open channels that facilitate first participation at events, and eliminate the barriers preventing participation.
4. At present, Classifiers travel the world to provide guidance on athletes' classifications, but cannot ensure that a sailor will be confirmed in the Class given, enabling the sailor to compete at an Event.
5. P status will eliminate this barrier, enabling sailors and teams to travel to their first IFDS Event with the assurance that they will be permitted to sail at the Event.