



**IFDS Disabled Sailing World
2014 Blind Match Racing
Category 1 & 2 Open
Championship
SHEBOYGAN USA, September 7-14**



Technical Delegate's Report

The 2014 IFDS Plenco Blind Match Racing World Championships were held at Sheboygan Yacht Club, Sheboygan, Wisconsin USA from 9th to 14th September 2014.

The organizing authority was Sail Sheboygan in conjunction with the International Association for Disabled Sailing (IFDS).

Organizing Committee

The Organizing Committee was led by Rich Reichelsdorfer, Event Manager. The Principal Race Officer (PRO) Rich Reichelsdorfer, Roberto Armellini (IJ) and the Technical Delegate contributed to the development of the Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions.

Communications between the key parties: Rich Reichelsdorfer, Henry Sleutel (TD), Betsy Alison (Ass. TD), were held several times during the year after the side visit of the Assistant TD in April 2014. During the Homerus Int. Championship in La Spezia Italy in June 2014 Rich Reichelsdorfer and the TD reviewed the Technical Delegate Guideline, followed by the report of Betsy Alison.

Event Management

The Organizing Committee appointed a number of key volunteers to manage the various aspects of the event onshore and afloat, also with the help of Lions International for breakfasts and lunches. Other roles during the event were delegated to a variety of club members with high interest and appropriate skills.

Participation

Entries were received by the following 5 Nations: Australia, Canada, Great Britain, Italy and USA. A total of 6 teams athletes: with a total of 18 competitors.

Race Management

One course area was set up at Lake Michigan close to the harbor. On the course area the teams sailed a windward-leeward course finishing downwind with acoustic marks. Course Race Officer was Rich Reichelsdorfer NRO/USA. The Race Officer was assisted by teams of local race management volunteers, rescue and safety volunteers. The event enjoyed a high standard of race management expertise, at times in difficult conditions with unpredictable shifting breezes.

Race Officials, accommodation and meals

All Race Officials were accommodated to host families and hotels. Daily transport to the venue was done by the Race Officials in cars, supplied by the OA.

Meals. Daily breakfasts took place at the Venue Pavillon, organized by Lions International. Lunchboxes for Race Officials and competitors were also organized by Lions Internationals. With 2 days without social events the Race Officials paid the dinners themselves.

Classification

Classification was governed by the IFDS Classification System and Procedures 2013-2016.

A team of two International Classifiers constituted the Classification Committee, together with the ophthalmologist:

Jenny Molson IC/CAN

Bernard Destrube IC/FRA

Dr. Gwen Stern USA, ophthalmologist.

1 examination room was used during classification. All competitors were classified.

Dr. Gwen Stern was a perfect ophthalmologist. Dr. Stern created for the IFDS Classifiers a positive tribute for the Classification Manual.

Measurement

No measurement was held. Sheboygan YC contributed their Sonars. The Sonars were all equal and in perfect condition. The Sonars rotated daily.

Adaptions Committee

No Adaptions Committee was needed.

Venue & Facilities

Overall the venue set up was well from an accessibility perspective. Showers and toilets in the Sheboygan YC building, A pavilion was used for the daily breakfasts, after sail discussions and debrief

Safety

During racing Sheboygan teams were on the water. This Championship was the first Championship without Observers on board. Each starting team had a RIB with driver. Around Foxtrot was hoisted, the coaches were transferred to the RIB. During racing the RIB's were close by their teams for eventually quick assistance.

Transport

Daily transport from an to the venue was organized by the OA.

Schedule

3 Round Robins were setup:

Wednesday 10th September: No Racing. In the morning fog and midday the wind and current outside the Eastern breakwater created waves of approx. 2-3 meters.

Between 11 and 12 September, due to weather conditions 1 Round Robin was done.

Saturday 13th September the PRO, TD and Chief Umpire changed the format, This day was used for the half finals.

Sunday 14th September under perfect conditions the Semi-Finals and Finals took place.

Results

A total of 35 matches were sailed. The first three winners per Category were:

Category 1:

1. Team Australia: Kylie Fort, Ryan Honschooten, Erin Mc.Glew
2. Team Italy 1: Luigi Bertanza, Alberto Prudenzeno, Enrico Sosio
3. Team Canada: David Brown, Grant Robinson, Brian Arthur

Category 2:

1. Team GBR: Vicki Sheen, Lucy Hodges, Liam Cattermole
2. Team Italy 2: Danilo Malerba, Elisabetta Bardella, Alessandro Malipiero
3. Team USA: Kris Scheppe, Scott Ford, Jim Kerr

Regatta Office

The Regatta Office was situated at the Sheboygan YC. Equipment included computers, printer and copier. Wi-Fi Internet was available.

International Jury and Umpires

Two boats were provided by the organizers and were used each racing day.

The International Jury and Umpires members were:

Tom Rinda IU/IJ USA Chairman
John Pratt IU USA
Roberto Armellin IJ ITA
Cliff Black NU/IJ USA
Elliot Levy IJ VEN
Hans Graf NU USA

The following Umpire information on the water was given to the competitors:

Collision Course
Overlap
Clear Zone

This information was very positive to avoid collisions.

Social Program

10-09 Opening Ceremony and Dinner at Sheboygan YC
10-14 September VIP Hospitality Area at Blue Harbor Resort
11-09 Sailors Dinner and Wine Pairing at the Blind Horse
14-09 Closing Ceremonies and Event Dinner at Sheboygan YC

Media

TV coverage by Wisconsin Television, presented by Deb Wolniak.

Appreciation

On behalf of IFDS I would like to express our sincere thanks to all those who devoted so much time and effort to make the IFDS 2014 Blind Match Racing World Championship a success.

Henry Sleutel
IFDS Technical Delegate