

Equipment Committee Minutes



The Equipment Committee met at 09:30 – 18:00 hours on Thursday 7 May 2015 at the NH Zuid Hotel, Amsterdam.

1. Opening of the Meeting	1	9. Organisation of the Equipment Committee	4
2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting	1	10. On-Going Work of the Equipment Committee	4
3. Review of ISAF Class Associations	1	11. Reports & Opinions of Equipment Committee Sub-committees	4
4. Youth Multihull Event Equipment Evaluation	3	12. Reports & Opinions of Committees with Cross Representation	5
5. Evolution of Olympic Equipment	3	13. Any other Business	5
6. Olympic Sailing Competition	3		
7. ISAF Sailing World Cup Equipment Inspection	4		
8. Equipment Rules of Sailing	4		

<i>Present:</i>	
Kim Andersen (Chairman)	Jeff Martin (Alternate for David Brookes)
Dina Kowalyszyn (Vice Chairman)	Jan Dejmo (Equipment Control SC Rep)
George Andreadis (ISAF Vice President)	Patrick Lindqvist
Barry Johnson	Cédric Fraboulet
Bruno de Wannemaeker (Windsurfing & Kiteboarding Rep)	George Fundak
Dick Batt	
<i>Apologies:</i>	<i>Not Present:</i>
Dick Rose (Racing Rules Rep)	Will Apold (Special Regulations SC Rep)
David Brookes (ISAF Classes Rep)	
Iulia Fulicea	
Bill Abbott (Class Rules SC Rep)	
Stan Honey (Oceanic & Offshore Rep)	
Leocadio Sanchez Soto	
Yann Rocherieux (Athletes Commission Rep)	
<i>Also Present:</i>	
Jason Smithwick (ISAF Head of Technical & Offshore)	Rob Taylor (ISAF Technical Co-ordinator)

1. Opening of the Meeting

Kim Andersen opened by welcoming all committee members and observers to the meeting and reminded committee members of their requirement to declare any conflict of interest when discussing any of the agenda items.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the Equipment Committee meeting of 5 November 2014 were noted and approved. There were no matters arising that were not already covered in the agenda.

3. Review of ISAF Class Associations

(a) Platu 25 Class

The committee were updated on the status of the Platu 25 Class with regards their compliance with the regulations, specifically the lack of a signed agreement and building specification. These items had still not been received by the Secretariat Staff prior to the meeting.

Kim Andersen reminded the committee of the decision of Council from the November meeting which was to remove ISAF Class status from the Platu 25 class if all the requirements of the regulations had not been met.

George Andreadis strongly suggested that ISAF give this Class more time to satisfy the

Equipment Committee Minutes (cont.)

requirements. It was agreed to give the Class until the end of the meeting to provide all the necessary documentation.

At the end of the meeting this topic was revisited and the committee updated on the provision of documents. It was noted that an agreement had been signed by two of the three parties, and that the agreement was not fully complete with a number of comments and questions still to be addressed. There was also no building specification provided. George Andreadis again requested the committee to allow the Platu 25 Class more time to get the agreement finalised, noting that the builder was based in Singapore and the time difference prevented them from signing and sending the agreement back before the close of the meeting. Patrick Lindqvist commented that the class were too late in fulfilling their requirements and that they had had ample time to comply with the regulations.

On a proposal from Patrick Lindqvist, seconded by Dina Kowalyshyn and a vote of 9 in favour and 1 abstention, it was agreed to remove ISAF Class status from the Platu 25 Class in accordance with the Council recommendation from November, and ask them to reapply at the November meeting if they wished to continue as an ISAF Class.

(b) ISAF Class Status Review Working Party

Dick Batt, the Chairman of the Working Party, gave a verbal report on the review of ISAF Class status. It was reported that the working party had completed its work on identifying areas where classes are failing to meet the regulation requirements to maintain ISAF Class status and the rights to hold World Championships and that the matter of policy governing world championships now lay with the Events Committee.

Kim Andersen thanked Dick for his work and recommended the working party be disbanded and the work in this area moved on to the Events Committee to follow up. This was unanimously agreed by the committee.

(c) ISAF Class World Championships

Jason Smithwick gave an update on the paper relating to Class World Championships for the Funboard and Laser classes.

Bruno de Wannemaeker raised the question of why the PWA are granted more World Championships as an ISAF Special Event than the IFCA are permitted as an ISAF Class

(d) ISAF Class Status & Regulation Compliance

The committee noted the discussion paper on class compliance with the regulations.

Jeff Martin noted the paper had some valid points and appreciated the work undertaken by the Secretariat Staff; however raised the point from the ISAF Classes perspective that Classes have always had the right to appeal to Council and that there were many complex issues within ISAF Class status such as contracts with builders and copyright holders. He stated that withdrawing status without due process was not always a simple procedure.

Dina Kowalyshyn recommended that a policy for the Secretariat Staff to move forward with administering the ISAF Classes and upholding the ISAF regulations was preferable to making a formal submission to change the regulations in November. This was agreed by the committee.

Dick Batt commented that ISAF owed it to the classes that do comply with the requirements to enforce the regulations and take whatever sanctions are necessary to maintain fairness for all.

Kim Andersen was supportive of the paper in general but suggested this paper was discussed further with the Executive Committee, developed and brought back to the table at the November meeting with the necessary amendments to take this forward.

(e) ISAF Class Administration

The discussion on ISAF Class Administration was included with item (d), with the addition

Equipment Committee Minutes (cont.)

of some general discussion on a 'no pay, no play' requirement for ISAF Classes to carry plaques on boats and make this mandatory in class rules. Work is ongoing but not all classes currently have this in place. Bill Abbott had raised this as an issue in the November 2014 meeting and stated that this was in place for all new classes applying for status, but older existing classes are more difficult to implement.

4. Youth Multihull Event Equipment Evaluation

Dina Kowalyshyn reviewed the criteria for the Youth Multihull and reminded the committee that the working party recommendation was the Nacra 15, a decision that was supported by Council.

Gunnar Larsen from Nacra Sailing was invited to the table to give an update on the Nacra 15. It is Nacra's intention to have the first production boats available from 1 November 2015. There was no change to the proposed pricing of the boat, with an introductory rate of €10,450 ex VAT for the first 75 boats ordered by MNAs and €11,750 ex VAT thereafter. It was noted there were already enquiries from 32 dealers in 17 countries around the world and 46 boats on a 'pre-order' list. It was expected that boats would be built at a rate of 4-5 per week once the production run was established, with further moulds available to further increase production if necessary.

The committee were informed that there had been two prototype boats built that had been testing over the winter. As a result of this testing there were some minor modifications to the original design which included moving some of the hull volume forward to make the boat easier to sail downwind in heavier winds. Other minor modifications such as a slightly flatter mainsail and gennaker block positioning contributed to a refinement of the original design rather than a wholesale change to what was presented in November 2014.

5. Evolution of Olympic Equipment

The committee discussed the Evolution of Olympic Equipment and it was noted that as we move closer to the Olympic Sailing Competition the evolution of Olympic equipment should reduce so the athletes can prepare. The response from Olympic Classes was that there was in general little evolution or changes planned prior to 2016.

Dina Kowalyshyn suggested that future developments within the Olympic Classes should focus on performance, longevity and equipment control. These points were discussed by the committee who were in agreement that these were key areas of interest to the Equipment Committee.

On a proposal from Barry Johnson, seconded by Cédric Fraboulet, the Committee requested that the Secretariat Staff write to all Olympic Classes requesting information on any proposed equipment evolution or development plans up to the 2020 Olympic Sailing Competition.

6. Olympic Sailing Competition

(a) National Flag Gennakers

The committee received an update on National Flag gennakers for the 49er, 49erFX, Nacra 17 and 470 classes from the Secretariat Staff. Letters to MNAs outlining the costs and order details will be sent out in due course.

(b) On-Board Cameras

The committee were informed of the forthcoming meeting between the Secretariat Staff and Olympic Broadcast Services (OBS) regarding the on-board cameras and mounting brackets is due to take place during the ISAF Sailing World Cup event in Weymouth & Portland. An update including any OBS proposals will be presented to the committee at the Annual Conference in November.

The Olympic Classes were once again encouraged to engage with the Secretariat Staff regarding the best possible mounting positions for the on-board cameras to ensure the issues

Equipment Committee Minutes (cont.)

experienced on some classes at London 2012 were not revisited.

(c) Supplied Equipment

The committee were presented with a paper outlining the timeframe for build, shipping and distribution of the supplied equipment for the Olympic Sailing Competition. Details of when the boats would be branded with the Look of the Games would be confirmed once the Rio 2016 organisers had appointed a branding company.

It was again requested that the allocation of equipment be done in an open and transparent manner. This was unanimously accepted by the committee and requested the Secretariat Staff ensure this happens.

7. ISAF Sailing World Cup Equipment Inspection

Rob Taylor gave a report on the equipment inspection at the ISAF Sailing World Cup event in Hyeres, noting that although there were logistical difficulties implementing the 'day zero' concept, the Sailing World Cup would run more smoothly as a result.

Barry Johnson updated the committee on the equipment inspection that had been undertaken at the Sailing World Cup event in Miami which had been successfully undertaken despite the wide spread of venues and the limited number of volunteers available.

8. Equipment Rules of Sailing

The committee received a verbal report from the Chairman of the Equipment Control Sub-committee regarding the ISAF Equipment Rules of Sailing Working Party. It was noted there was a planned meeting of the ERS Working Party on 5,6,7 June at the ISAF Office in Southampton from which it was hoped a number of submissions would be made for the November meeting.

9. Organisation of the Equipment Committee

Kim Andersen and Dina Kowalyshyn presented a paper prepared in response to a number of questions asked by the Executive Committee regarding committee structure. Chris Atkins gave some background information to the committee on the restructuring relating to the make-up and cross-representation within the committee.

Kim Andersen went into greater detail on a number of points raised in the answer to the Executive Committee and presented a document showing the proposed revised structure of the Equipment Committee, Sub-committees and Working Parties.

Jeff Martin expressed the view of the ISAF Classes, in particular with regards the number of Class representatives on committees, disputing the comments made in the report that it was possible to load a committee with representatives from a single ISAF Class.

Dina Kowalyshyn emphasised the point that the document presented to the committee was for discussion and further development, and that further ideas would be included before presenting the concepts again at the November meeting.

10. On-Going Work of the Equipment Committee

Kim Andersen introduced the items that were discussed during the closed session at the end of the previous meeting of the Equipment Committee as topics for further consideration and on-going work of the committee.

11. Reports & Opinions of Equipment Committee Sub-committees

(a) Equipment Control Sub-committee

The committee received a verbal report from Jan Dejmo, the Chairman of the Equipment Control Sub-committee that most items had been covered elsewhere in discussions at the meeting. Other items the Sub-committee are working on include the Guide to Equipment

Equipment Committee Minutes (cont.)

Control; this will be a manual to help MNAs at national level, the Standard Class Rules working party and the development and maintenance the ISAF In-House Certification system.

(b) Class Rules Sub-committee

The Chairman of the Class Rules Sub-committee, Bill Abbott was not present at the meeting and no report was received.

12. Reports & Opinions of Committees with Cross Representation

(a) Special Regulations Sub-committee

The Chairman of the Special Regulations Sub-committee, Will Apold was not present at the meeting and no report was received.

(b) Oceanic & Offshore Committee

The Oceanic & Offshore Committee representative, Stan Honey was not present at the meeting and no report was received.

13. Any other Business

Following the lengthy discussion on the Platu 25 Class status earlier in the meeting, Kim Andersen recommended to the Committee that decisions on class status were not deferred to the mid-year meetings as this has a significant impact on the forthcoming season and event planning for the class under review. It was felt that any matter relating to ISAF Class status should be dealt with and finalised at Annual Conference in November.

Dick Batt raised an issue he had encountered with OK Class Measurement and asked if there should be some automatic sanctions in place for builders who produce equipment not in compliance with the relevant class rules. Kim Andersen noted that any fault found with a measurer should be followed up with their MNA who should pursue the matter further and take any action as necessary. This raised the question of who should report the problems; the MNA, the Class Association, the event Organising Authority or an ISAF Race Official? Dick Batt would look into this matter further and report back at the Annual Conference in November.

George Fundak raised concerns from a number of sailors and coaches about the quality of the build of the 49er Class and the differences between boats of the same one-design. Barry Johnson informed the committee of the report to ISAF following the ISAF Sailing World Cup Final in Abu Dhabi which detailed the measurement checks that were made and highlighted that the differences between manufacturers was minimal. It was noted that following a meeting of the 49er Class builders, Class Executive and the ISAF Technical Department in November the building specification had been tightened up regarding some elements of the production and that this would be much tighter controlled in the future.

Gunnar Larsen Olympic builder perspective which highlighted 'boat park chat' as a key part of the problems with manufacturer controlled equipment. Sailors and coaches discussing aspects of the boats in the boat park created rumour and innuendo that were made largely without the proper facts. This was quite hard to counter as a manufacturer as they would spend a lot of time trying to solve problems that were only based on hearsay. Gunnar also outlined the process of ordering boats from Nacra and that there was no possibility for teams to select 'special' hulls as all hull numbers were allocated and detailed on the invoices before the sailors collected their equipment or before it was delivered.

Kim Andersen thanks the committee members and the Secretariat Staff for their ongoing work. There being no further business the meeting finished at 17:15.