



INTERNATIONAL FORMULA 18 CATAMARAN ASSOCIATION



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to World Council Members

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Dear fellow friends,

Please allow me to present to you a global scope of what I imagine for the future of our Class Association.

The world of sailing is currently facing trouble times, due to global crisis, and we do notice the numbers decreasing whatever country and whatever sailing discipline we consider. From that perspective, we are lucky enough, compared to some other classes, to see so numerous teams already registered to enter our next Worlds in Grosseto, and to keep on receiving bids from National Associations willing to host this pinnacle event, but we have all lived through these times before and we must be ready for the global financial upturn.

I would very much like for us to focus on the way to make club sailors happy, through fair and properly managed events, giving sailors value for their money, friendship and fun on the water being a true part of the Guiding Principles of the F18 Class, I am more than happy and proud to have created 20 years ago, together with Pierre-Charles.

I would like to spend more positive action in managing the Class in the near future, compared to the time we wasted during the last two years in dealing with issues appearing insignificant at the end, related to their initial objectives.

Technical issues

Now that the review of the rules is complete I would like to propose a new way of gathering technical input to the class in order to re-create a confident atmosphere between all stakeholders, sailors, builders, sailmakers or importers, ensuring the whole F18 Community anyone is not given any unfair advantage.

Actually, our Technical Committee is suffering from the very beginning of some kind of misconception by not gathering all registered sailmakers and builders, and whatever quality of the inputs provided, TC was immediately facing, right or wrong, a suspicion of partiality if not of conflict of interest. Also, there wasn't any constitutional agreement for the structure of the TC.

I would then suggest for us to adopt a new process, in order to guarantee the best information, and an equal access as well, to all manufacturers:

1. Any sailmaker or builder is entitled to submit any request or submission to the Chief Measurer;
2. This request or submission has then to be circulated to all registered stakeholders, who shall be given the right to comment within a reasonable time;
3. It is up to the Chief Measurer and to the Executive (ie. President, Secretary General and VPs) to look for any complimentary advice, either by ISAF and CRSC, either by recognised experts, as we did for paint following Andrew Gallagher recommendation.
4. Then a formal proposal to be submitted to WC for final approval.

Further, and for proper management, a permanent watch will be requested from all parties, in order to prevent any possible dispute far more in advance.

General management of the Class

We do need to broaden the core of the “decision center”, in order to guarantee a truly international management, giving more importance to the role dedicated to the Vice Presidents, and creating accordingly one new VP position for South America, which is considered as a full Continent by ISAF, as well a dedicated position for a lady representative, would we have no female VP, women being an important part of sport catamaran sailing in general, and of F18 and Olympic Multihull in particular.

The goal would be to create an active group, ensuring worldwide representation, as well efficient management, based on a one day per week mail watch, and on a monthly called Skype conference, club sailors information being provided through both our website and facebook pages.

We will allocate to these Executive members special responsibility on topics we have to deal with, we could fix in Grosseto: the Championship Rules, just about complete, Youth Policy, Coaching Policy, Technical Policy being the first missions to be put forward.

For this reason, and in order to conduct this task, I would suggest for you to support myself as your President, Don Findlay in the Secretary General position he is kindly offering to return, Pierre-Charles as Chief Measurer, being the best possible guardian, as co-originator of the formula, of the F18 Guiding Principles, and Eric Hainneville continuing as Treasurer.

It is up to our European, North American, Australasian and worldwide friends to nominate their own VPs, bearing in mind we would co-opt one VP for South America and, when needed, one women representative in the meantime we change the Constitution.

Same as for technical issues, any National Chair will be entitled to put forward any submission, based on the model we started to use:

- Proposal
- Current situation
- Reason for change

I am convinced there is a great future for F18, most of it being outside Europe. I need your support to go forward, for the best interest of the Class.

Thanking you in advance for that, with my very best regards,

Olivier BOVYN,
International F18 Catamaran Association President