

FINDINGS OF THE INVESTIGATIVE PANEL APPOINTED UNDER REGULATION 32 IN RELATION TO ACTIONS BY AJIT DIAZ DURING THE ASIAN QUALIFIER EVENT IN MUSSANAH, OMAN FOR THE 2020 TOKYO OLYMPIC GAMES

Procedure

Following the appointment of the investigative panel in February 2022 by the chairman of the Race Officials Committee, the panel went through their following steps in order to perform their assignment:

1. Initial contact with the official in question and the party submitting the report in order to outline the process for them.
2. Define the the persons whose testimony should be obtained, including any additional names suggested by the official or the party submitting the report.
3. Formally contact each of these persons in order to obtain a written statement.
4. Give the official and the person submitting the report an opportunity to read the statements and respond with questions or comments.
5. Reach some findings based on the information available. Derive a conclusion and a recommendation to be forwarded to the chairman of the Race Officials Committee.

Findings

1. Ajit Diaz was originally appointed by World Sailing as 1 of 3 members of the Technical Committee for the Asian Qualifiers of the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, in the last minute he was made the chair of the committee. The other 2 persons acted only remotely and in ad-hoc manner.
2. Mr Diaz didn't expect the level of responsibility which came from being the chair of the Thechnical Committee at a multi-class event. At the time of the start of the event he didn't take a proactive stance to bridge the gap between his expected role and the higher-responsibility one which circumstances forced upon him, and which included assuming the responsibility of having the final word on technical matters for all classes at the event and establishing a functional liaison in an assertive way with the other committees.
3. Mr Diaz faced a challenging situation upon arrival since the whole organisation of the event was forced to perform under stress due to the impact of the pandemic. This was also true of all the other officials in the event.
4. Some contentious situations which arose during the event and in respect to which Mr Diaz had to take action as chair of the Technical Committee were:
 - Some sail numbers in the ILCA classes were not fully compliant with class rules.
 - He filed a protest against some 49er's due to possibly missing mask stoppers. The protest was ultimately ruled invalid by the jury.
 - Regarding the medal races, amendments needed to be published regarding the procedure of equipment inspection and the standard penalties for breaches of the equipment regulations.
5. Mr Diaz took action in respect of these issues to the best of his ability. Even though some differences arose at the time and the way in which Mr Diaz performed his role was questioned by other race officials, he performed his duties with the best intention in mind and did not act unfairly. The fairness or quality of the competition was not impacted by his actions.
6. The interaction of Mr Diaz with some of the other race officials at the event was perceived as reactive, defensive and territorial. This led to considerable friction between the individuals involved.

Conclusion

The conduct of Ajit Diaz during the event was not inadequate. His competence was not inadequate to a level clearly below that required for appointment as a World Sailing International Measurer.

Decision

1. The investigative panel recommends that no further action be taken by World Sailing regarding this matter.
2. While recognising his competence is fully satisfactory when performing as a member of a large Technical Committee or the chief technical officer for a single-class event, the investigative panel also recommends Ajit Diaz to work on further improving his level of competence in order to perform at the highest level of events, such as the one in question. In particular, the panel recommends that Mr Diaz work on his ability to work and communicate in an agile and proactive way with the whole team of race officials. We suggest that Mr Diaz seek out a mentor within the circle of experienced International Measurers to provide him with guidance for this process of personal development in order to attain a higher level of excellence.

Date of the Decision:

22nd October 2022

Panel Members

- Qu Chun
- Jurgen Cluytmans
- Francisco Jauregui

See attached: statements and comments from various parties