

Match Racing Sub-committee

Regulation 27.2

A submission from the Events Committee

Purpose or Objective

To change the definition of the Youth division in the Regulations from U23 to U25 and to clearly define what U25 means.

Proposal

27.2 World Sailing Match Race Rankings

27.2.1 Ranking Divisions

There shall be three divisions – Open, Women and Youth. The Women's Division is limited to events which specify that all crew members, including the skipper, shall be women. The Youth Division is limited to events which specify that all crew members, including the skipper, shall be under ~~23~~ **25** years old on 31 December of the year in which the event is held (**i.e. sailors shall be aged 24 or younger during the year the event is held**). All other events are Open. Points scored in Women's events shall count only towards the Women's ranking list. Points scored in Youth's events shall count only towards the Youth's ranking list. Points scored by an all women team and/or all youth team in an Open event shall count towards the Open list and the respective Women's list or Youth list, without any adjustment.

Current Position

As above.

Reasons

1. The existing requirement of U23 on 31.12.20xx means that sailors shall be aged 22 or younger during the year the event is held.
 2. Since its introduction in 2014 the Youth Match Racing Championship has grown as an open event in a range of keelboats around the world. Its development has been underpinned by Clubs and MNA's who have invested in Training Academies, Boats and Team funding support.
 3. Currently youth careers take longer to develop (university and post-grad training, changing jobs and careers, impact of Covid)
 4. World Sailing has just launched a NEW Ranking list for Youth Match Racing. This list needs to grow for existing sailors and current events. Sailors on this list will exit on reaching the age of 23 with current regulations. Therefore, an extension is needed.
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5. The opportunity is to open the window for Youth Match Racing by enhancing the window by 2 years from U23 to U25 for sailors entering Youth Match Racing.
 6. An enhanced window of 2 years will allow Clubs and Sailor's time to develop mixed teams, counter the delays of covid and have a greater impact on participation in World Sailing Women's Match Racing World Championship and World Sailing Open Match Racing World Championship and additional established and emerging high-performance sailing like the World Match Racing Tour and the Americas Cup.
 7. The definition of the age limit needs to further be clarified to avoid confusion. Some Organising Authorities write the current U23 definition as of "at the first day of the event". This is not according to the World Sailing definition in the regulations. Therefore, it is now clearly said in the submission that sailors need to be 24 or younger during the whole year the event is held.
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