

Match Racing Sub-committee

Regulation 27.2

A submission from the Events Committee

Purpose or Objective

To level the playing field and make the weight limit in open match racing fair and inclusive to people of all weight ranges.

Proposal

27.2.3 Grading of Events

Event grading will normally be based on the following criteria, but will take into account the overall event package. During the transition from the previous criteria a reasonable time shall be allowed for events to comply. Percentage calculations shall be rounded up to the nearest whole number.

(a) Grade 5 – Open, Women and Youth

Any match racing event using boats of the same design. When provided by the organizers each pair of boats shall be of equal performance. The notice of race shall be based on the current World Sailing standard. The sailing instructions shall be based on the current World Sailing standard. Matches shall be umpired.

~~The maximum average crew weight limit for open events is 87.5 kg.~~

The weight limit for open events may be either:

- (i) **a maximum average crew weight limit of 87.5kg; or**
- (ii) **a maximum total crew weight limit of 'Y' (where $Y = 87.5\text{kg} \times \text{the number of standard crew members for the boat (X)}$) and the organizing authority may permit the boat to be raced with X, X-1 or X+1 crew members.**

The weight limit for women's events may be either:

- (i) a maximum average crew weight limit of 68kg; or
- (ii) a maximum total crew weight limit of 'Y' (where $Y = 68\text{kg} \times \text{the number of standard crew members for the boat (X)}$) and the organizing authority may permit the boat to be raced with X, X-1 or X+1 crew members.

Current Position

As above.

Reasons

1. Match Racing is practiced in a wide variety of different sized boats that are best sailed by different sized sailors. Weight limits are necessary to ensure fair racing and provide clarity and consistency for the sailors while also allowing inclusion of both larger and smaller sailors.
 2. Match Racing is growing, and new mixed teams are emerging as well as new countries are joining match racing.
 3. To follow the same logic with the successful flexible weight limits introduced for women teams in 2014. This change would allow for a variety of sailors to compete on a level playing field and be inclusive to a larger number of sailors.
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