

# ISAF Sailor Classification Code

## ISAF Regulation 22

Updated 13 May 2008

### **22. ISAF SAILOR CLASSIFICATION CODE**

#### *General*

The ISAF Sailor Classification Code exists as a service to provide Events and Classes with an international system of classification for sailors.

Events and Classes are not under any obligation to use a classification system but should they wish to do so the ISAF Code is the only system that shall be used.

Events organized for boats currently selected as equipment for an Olympic Sailing Competition shall not include any provision, whether in Class Rules, the Notice of Race or the Sailing Instructions preventing sailors from taking part, whatever their classification.

When the ISAF Sailor Classification Code is selected for an event it shall be stated in the Notice of Race unless already stated in the Class Rules.

The display of advertising on a boat or equipment beyond Category A in the Advertising Code set out in Regulation 20, even if *payment* is received for it, does not influence the sailor's classification in this Code.

Nothing in the provisions of this Code shall permit a sailor to take any action which is contrary to the purpose and spirit of the Code or which is a subterfuge for circumventing the Code. When a sailor is found by the Classification Authority to be in breach of this provision it may change his classification as appropriate and /or make a Report under RRS 69 of The Racing Rules of Sailing.

#### **22.1 Definitions of this Code**

##### Work includes:

employment, self-employment and any ad-hoc activity whether full time, part time or occasional and whether in person or through a partnership, limited company or any other organization and including any services for which there is payment or financial benefit directly or indirectly.

##### Pay and its derivatives means:

the receipt by a sailor of; or  
the acceptance by a sailor of an offer to him to give money, money's worth, remuneration, fees, grants, gratuities, any financial benefit whether arising directly or indirectly or compensation in any form whether received by him or an associate, but not including *Personal Expenses*.

##### Personal Expenses means:

a grant towards; or  
provision of; or

reimbursement of money not exceeding the amount of reasonable expense incurred for entry fees, travel, accommodation and meals in connection with and necessary for a specific event.

**Entrant means:**

as the context requires, the boat, the person or organization that enters the boat (RRS 75) and the person in charge (RRS 46).

**Racing means:**

Taking part in races organized in accordance with RRS 88

**The Classification Authority:**

is ISAF.

**The Classification Date is:**

the date when a classification or change of classification is requested, or, if later, the date when a classification is validly challenged by a protest or appeal.

**The Qualification Period to become a Group 1 competitor is:**

24 months before the *Classification Date*, during which the competitor has not been engaged in Group 3 activities; or

12 months before the *Classification Date*, during which the competitor has not been engaged in Group 2 activities.

**The Qualification Period to change from a Group 3 competitor to a Group 2 competitor is:**

12 months before the *Classification Date*, during which the competitor has not been engaged in Group 3 activities.

***The Crew Deadline is:***

the date stated in the Notice of Race by which time a complete crew list for each *entrant* shall be submitted.

***The Classification Protest Time Limit is:***

The time and date stated in the Notice of Race or Sailing Instructions after which a boat shall not protest a classification under Regulation 22.5.1.

**Competitor Classifications**

22.2 The classifications of competitors are to be determined as follows:

22.2.1 Group 1

- (a) Except as provided below, a Group 1 competitor is a competitor who has completed the *qualification period* and:
  - (i) takes part in racing only as a pastime, and whose *work* does not require knowledge or skill capable of contributing to the performance of a boat or boats in a race or series; and
  - (ii) has not been *paid* in connection with participation in racing.

- (b) However, a competitor who before his or her 24th birthday has engaged in Group 2 or Group 3 activities for no more than 100 days in the *Qualification Period* is a Group 1 competitor and a competitor who has not yet reached his 18th birthday is a Group 1 competitor.
- (c) A competitor, who is not a Group 3 competitor and any of whose work at any time in the 12 months before the Classification Date has been in a marine business or organization, is:
  - (i) a Group 1 competitor if the work does not utilize or require knowledge or skill capable of contributing to the performance of a boat or boats in a race or series, and is limited to being an investor, business adviser, manager, administrator or production worker, provided that he or she is not for any other reason a Group 2 or 3 competitor otherwise;
  - (ii) a Group 2 competitor.

#### 22.2.2 Group 2

A Group 2 competitor is a competitor who is not a Group 1 competitor and has not been a Group 3 competitor in the *Qualification Period*.

#### 22.2.3 Group 3

A Group 3 competitor is a competitor who, within the *Qualification Period*

- (a) has been *paid* for work that includes:
  - (i) competing in a race,
  - (ii) managing, training, practising, tuning, testing, maintaining or otherwise preparing a boat, its crew, sails or equipment for racing, and then competed on that boat, or in a team competition, in a boat of the same team; or
- (b) has been *paid* for allowing his or her name or likeness to be used in connection with his or her sailing performance, sail racing results or sailing reputation, for the advertising or promotion of any product or service; or
- (c) has publicly identified himself or herself as a Group 3 competitor or as professional racing sailor; or
- (d) has been *paid* for services in connection with the provision of a boat for *racing* and then competed on that boat, or in a team competition, in a boat of the same team, other than as a spectator.

### **Classification Procedures**

- 22.3.1 A Competitor may be required to be a member of his/her MNA to hold a valid ISAF Sailor Classification.
- 22.3.2 It is the responsibility of the competitor to declare his or her correct classification and to notify the *Classification Authority* immediately of any change of circumstances that may result in a change of classification. A competitor shall not hold more than one classification at the same time.
- 22.3.3 A competitor, having read this Code, shall declare his or her classification by completing a form approved by ISAF and submitting it to the *Classification Authority*.

- 22.3.4 There is no fee. The *Classification Authority* shall review each form (the initial review) and confirm or correct the competitor's classification within 28 days of receiving all necessary information. It may ask the competitor to supply further information, or may itself seek further information from any source.
- 22.3.5 A classification, once issued, shall remain in force for two years, unless the classification is previously changed, suspended or cancelled by the *Classification Authority*:
- (a) because the competitor has submitted a form indicating that his or her classification has changed; or
  - (b) because the *Classification Authority* believes it has good reason to do so; or
  - (c) as a result of an appeal requested by the competitor under Regulation 22.3.6.

However when a competitor would have been classified as Group 2 or 3 but for Regulation 22.2.1(b) the *Classification Authority* may issue a classification that shall only remain in force up to his 24<sup>th</sup> birthday.

- 22.3.6 When a competitor does not agree with a classification made by the Classification Authority (the initial review), the competitor may appeal to the Classification Authority using the process on the ISAF website or by such other method as shall be notified in the ISAF Yearbook.
- (a) Appeals shall be considered by three members of the Classification Authority (the Appeal Panel) who were not party to the initial review. No more than two shall be from the same country.
  - (b) The Appeal Panel will consider the Appeal and review the information in the Appeal, the initial review and any previous application and where necessary ask for more information from the competitor, from the original reviewers, or from any other source. It may uphold, change or reverse the initial decision, dismiss the appeal or declare it invalid.
  - (c) The Appeal Panel having made its decision after receiving all necessary information will inform the competitor of its decision in writing. A fee may be payable.
  - (d) The initial review shall be binding on the competitor until the decision of the Appeal Panel is published.
  - (e) Subject to the provisions of Regulation 51, the decision of the Appeal Panel shall be final.
- 22.3.7 The *Classification Authority* may decline to issue a classification or may suspend a current classification when the competitor has been penalized under RRS 69 for a classification matter. Such refusal or suspension shall not be longer than the period during which the competitor's eligibility is suspended under Rule 69.
- 22.3.8 ISAF will maintain and publish on a website a list of the classifications of competitors. The list will state the status or expiry date of the classification.
- 22.3.9 Information provided by the competitor or from any other source shall be kept confidential within the *Classification Authority* and the ISAF Secretariat and not disclosed to any other person except to an International Jury or Member National Authority which has been sent a

report by the *Classification Authority* concerning the competitor's classification or sent a report under RRS 69 and then only after notifying the competitor through the classification process.

- 22.3.10 When asked to do so by the Organizing Authority of an event to which this Code applies and which has appointed an International Jury, the *Classification Authority* may appoint a Classification Committee for the event and delegate to it the power to classify or change the classification of a competitor for that event only.

Details shall be included in the Notice of Race and the *Classification Authority's* written authorization shall be available for inspection at the event.

When a Classification Committee has been appointed a competitor may ask the *Classification Authority* for a review of a Classification Committee decision before the *Crew Deadline* for the event, after which the competitor may ask the International Jury for such a review. Regulations 22.5.4 and 22.5.5 shall apply.

### **Event Procedures**

- 22.4.1 The *entrant* shall give to the Organizing Authority, no later than the *Crew Deadline* in the Notice of Race, a Crew List stating the ISAF User ID and classification of each competitor. The Crew List may comprise more competitors than will take part in any one race, in which case the *entrant* shall also give the Organizing Authority, no later than the *Crew Deadline* in the Notice of Race, a Crew List for each race.
- 22.4.2 An *entrant* wishing to use a competitor not included in the initial Crew List shall submit to the Organizing Authority a revised Crew List no later than the *Crew Deadline* when no change to the crew is permitted after that time, otherwise as soon as possible.
- 22.4.3 The Organizing Authority will display the latest Crew Lists on the Official Notice Board as soon as possible after the *Crew Deadline*.
- 22.4.4 The Notice of Race, Sailing Instructions or Class Rules may alter these arrangements.

### **Protest Grounds and Procedure**

- 22.5.1 After the *Crew Deadline* a boat may be protested on the grounds that:
- (a) when classification for a competitor was applied for, information that should have led to a higher classification was not disclosed; or
  - (b) a competitor has, since being classified, engaged in activities incompatible with the classification
- and that the boat would break the Crew Limitations in the Notice of Race, Sailing Instructions or Class Rules were the classification to be corrected. The time limit for a boat to protest is the *Classification Protest Time Limit*, or, if later, 24 hours after the posting of a changed Crew List. The Sailing Instructions may state a different time limit.
- 22.5.2 When a protest is upheld, and
- (a) the boat has not yet raced in the event, the boat will not be penalized, but if
  - (b) the decision to uphold the protest is made after the boat has raced in the event, the boat shall be disqualified from all races already completed;

The boat shall not race with that competitor as crew, unless the Sailing Instructions permit a change of crew after the *Crew Deadline* and then only when the Protest Committee is satisfied that the boat meets the Crew Limitations.

- 22.5.3 The protestee is entitled, on request, to present evidence of a personal or private nature in the absence of the protestor, and the Protest Committee shall not record that evidence in the protest decision. When the Protest Committee, on hearing the evidence, is not satisfied that it is of a personal or private nature, it shall disregard the evidence unless it is offered again in the presence of the protestor. This changes RRS 63.3(a).
- 22.5.4 When the Protest Committee is in doubt as to the classification of a competitor, it may refer its facts found to the *Classification Authority* and shall be governed by the decision by the *Classification Authority* on those facts.
- 22.5.5 The Protest Committee shall report its decision to the *Classification Authority*.

**The ISAF Classification Code application form can be completed online at:  
[www.sailing.org/classification](http://www.sailing.org/classification)**

***For any queries, please contact ISAF by email at:  
[classification@isaf.co.uk](mailto:classification@isaf.co.uk)***