



# THE INTERNATIONAL MULTIHULL COUNCIL

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25<sup>th</sup> February 2008

Dear Sir

The recently founded International Multihull Council (IMC) is actively seeking member organisations to promote multihull sailing and racing worldwide. Your organisation is invited to join, along with other national and international multihull class associations and builders.

The decision of the International Sailing Federation (ISAF) to exclude any Multihull Event from the 2012 Olympic Games has shown that we cannot entirely rely on others to promote our interests, so need to establish our own organisation to do so. As there is no representation for Multihulls within ISAF, either formally through a Multihull Committee, or informally, through the interests of individual Councillors, national multihull associations from several leading ISAF Member National Authorities (MNA) have jointly founded the IMC.

The founder Members are the National Multihull Associations of Australia, Great Britain, Netherlands and United States and are represented on the Executive Committee by Paul Pascoe (AUS) as President, John Williams (USA) as Vice President, Nick Dewhirst (GBR) as Secretary General, Edwin Lodder (NED) as Treasurer and Rod Waterhouse (AUS).

As stated in the Constitution attached, "The purpose of the Council is to promote catamaran sailing and racing. To this end the Council will agree upon matters of common interest, present the views of the membership to third parties, provide representatives on national and international bodies, arrange sponsorship and lobby for changes in the interests of the membership. The Association intends to complement the activities of clubs, classes, national and international sailing and sporting authorities."

While our immediate priority is the inclusion of Multihulls at the 2012 Olympic Games in Great Britain (the Sailing Regatta) the breakdown of process and representation within ISAF has also highlighted the need for an integrated lifetime multihull strategy, which should begin at entry level, with youth education and training. The new generation of rota-moulded catamarans now makes this feasible.

Balance between inclusiveness and proportionality has been struck as simply as possible by establishing two levels of membership. Full Membership is open to qualifying National Multihull Class Associations and International Multihull Class Associations, as defined respectively by IMC and ISAF. Affiliate Membership is open to Manufacturers of Multihull Classes and other National or International Multihull Class Associations. Initially, the fee for Full Membership is US\$100 and Affiliate Membership is free.

To join, please reply to this email and provide the contact information that you want to have used in future. The IMC has produced the attached survey of national multihull participation, both to help identify our end-customers and determine the basis for Full Membership. If you have comments or additions to this survey, please also provide the relevant results in your

**President** Paul Pascoe **Vice-President** John E. Williams **Secretary General** Nick Dewhirst

reply. The IMC will soon be announcing the launch of a website, which will include an online membership application form and details on banking arrangements.

For your information, the timetable is as follows.

1. The Executive Committee of ISAF met on 15<sup>th</sup> February. On its agenda was a request from the Royal Yachting Association (RYA), the host nation, that ISAF reconsider the November 2007 ISAF Council vote on Olympic Events at its Mid-year Conference. Reportedly this was supported by Councillors from fifteen different countries. However the Executive decided that this was not urgent.
2. There is an eight-week deadline for any Submissions, which can be made by the Executive, MNA or International Class Associations. Thus others may make Submissions for reconsideration of the Events selection in their own suggested ways, even if the Executive does not. There is also a separate deadline of 15<sup>th</sup> March for inclusion on the shortlist of Equipment options for each Event.
3. ISAF Minutes are normally published only a month after its meetings. Thus it is possible that the decision of the Executive may not become officially public until the deadline is passed, unless ISAF sees some need for an earlier public statement.
4. If the issue is not debated at the Mid Year Conference, it will be determined finally at the Annual Conference in November. That is the latest time for ISAF to present its recommendations for Events and Equipment at the Sailing Regatta 2012 to the International Olympic Committee.
5. Thereafter the IMC will hold the Annual General Meeting because only then will it be known whether multihull sailing will be part of the Sailing Regatta, or whether alternative arrangements need to be considered.

In respect of the deadline for Submissions, IMC is calling on all suitable International Classes to put themselves forward as potential Olympic Equipment by 15<sup>th</sup> March. This is a necessary but not sufficient condition for selection. It is a costless option, which can be withdrawn at a later time by either the Association or by ISAF. The IMC encourages International Classes to do this in the best interests of our sport, so as to provide ISAF with the widest possible range of multihull options and therefore maximise the chances for any Multihull Event. While the Executive Committee of the IMC intends to abstain from invidious choices between Members, it is important that balanced guidance on suitability is provided, as it has become clear that ISAF has not established clear principles for its requirements.

It is the hope of the new Executive Committee that you will join us in promoting our exciting and widely-enjoyed sport at all levels. The founder Members have already seen how our effectiveness is much enhanced at national level if we speak with one voice for multihulls, rather than separate class or commercial interests. IMC hopes to do the same internationally and encourages the multihull community in other countries similarly to speak with a united voice to their MNA. National lobbying has now become urgent, as it appears that the initiative for reconsideration has now passed from the Executive to MNA.

Yours sincerely



Nick Dewhirst  
Secretary General