

IC241 - World Laser Masters Championship Ranking and Allocation

21 July 2008

The previous IC238 explained that all future World Laser Masters Championships will be allocated championships (restricted entry). The purpose of this change, which was agreed at the World Council meeting in Australia in February 2008, was firstly one of competence and safety. Previous World Laser Masters Championships had no method of ensuring the capabilities of the sailors attending. The ILCA entry system, which asks sailors to register their interest, allows each country to review the sailors wanting to compete and verify their level of sailing experience. Each country Laser class officer has the ability to, and must, refuse a sailor's application if the sailor refuses to become a member of the Laser class association or who does not have the necessary sailing skills as described in the Notice of Race - "A competitor must be of good health and a competent sailor capable of racing a Laser in open water in 25 knot winds".

Secondly the system of issuing a number of places to each country allows a more controlled and balanced entry process than "first come, first served".

It should be noted that the entry limit for the 2009 World Laser Masters Championship is 350 which is similar to recent World Laser Masters Championships in which almost all sailors who wished to attend have been able to. As with previous World Laser Masters championships ILCA will still attempt to find venues in the future that are able to hold championships with a high entry limit, whilst allowing for a variety of differing venues.

Please find attached a table showing the initial allocated places for each country at the 2009 World Laser Masters Championship. For greater detail on the allocation of places and the calculation of extra places please refer to the previous IC215 which can also be found at: <http://events.laserinternational.org/en/info/ic215>

The World Masters Championship comprises of titles and is run in the following eleven categories:

(aged 35-44) Apprentice Laser Standard
(aged 35-44) Apprentice Laser Radial
(aged 35-44) Apprentice Laser Radial Women

(aged 45-54) Master Laser Standard
(aged 45-54) Master Laser Radial
(aged 45-54) Master Laser Radial Women

(aged 55+) Grand Master Laser Standard
(aged 55-64) Grand Master Laser Radial
(aged 55-64) Grand Master Laser Radial Women

(aged 65+) Great Grand Master Laser Radial
(aged 65+) Great Grand Master Laser Radial Women

Each Country must carefully consider how they will create one ranking list, incorporating all of the Masters categories. ILCA will issue the initial allocated places and any extra

places to this list in order. It is the responsibilities of each Country to decide the rules and procedures of how to rank their sailors, this becomes particularly important when there are more sailors interested than there are places available, for example your country has 8 places and there are 19 sailors in total interested from all Masters categories.

Below are two examples of how this can be achieved:

1. The first sailor from each category is ranked at the top of the list – with the priority being given the categories with the most entrants. This is then followed by the second sailor from each category followed by the third from each category and so on. This system does give preference to categories with a lower number of sailors.
2. An alternative is to apply a weighting system to each of the Masters categories based on the number of people competing within the category. Using each sailor's finishing position within his category with the weighting factor applied to produce a combined list. Attached to this circular is an example of this system developed in New Zealand (documents starting NZLA).

Even if a country has enough places to fulfil all applications it shall refuse the application of any sailor who, it believes, is not capable of meeting the minimum sailing ability as defined in the Notice of Race (A competitor must be of good health and a competent sailor capable of racing a Laser in open water in 25 knot wind.). This provision follows the principles in Racing Rule 76 'Exclusion of Boats and Competitors'.

A country is not expected to approve applications on grounds of competency.

As can be seen this is a complex subject that will be close to many members hearts and requires serious consideration by all countries. If you would like to talk through any aspects of this message or to discuss in greater detail on any of the ideas detailed above please contact the ILCA office by email, office@laserinternational.org or telephone +44 (0) 1326 315064