

# **IC258 - Clarification of ILCA membership, qualification for ILCA championships and display of national sail letters at ILCA events**

**20th January 2009**

This email is intended to clarify the current situation with regards to sailor's membership with ILCA, qualification for ILCA championships and the display of national sail letters at ILCA events.

## **OVERVIEW:**

For ILCA championships, sailors must be

- members of the District where they usually sail as per the ILCA Constitution (with exception for valid reasons, see ILCA Constitution 10.3);
- members of the national maritime authority of the country where the District is located as per the ISAF Racing Rules of Sailing; and
- the national letters displayed on the sail must represent the country of the national maritime authority of the District through which the sailor qualified.

Please find listed below the individual rules relating to ILCA membership, Qualification and Display of National Sail Letters.

In order to clearly reflect these rules, the Notices of Race for the Laser Standard Seniors, Laser Masters and all Laser Radial World Championships 2009 have been amended (please see below for details of changes made).

Furthermore, we are revising the ILCA website so that country flag next to a sailor's name will be changed to represent the District where the sailor has qualified, not the sailor's nationality. This change will be completed by 28th February.

## **Membership & Qualification**

The ILCA By-Law 1, Part Two, Rule 9 states:

*No person is permitted to race a Laser in any Fleet, interFleet, District, or other sanctioned event unless at least one member of the crew is a current member of the International Laser Class Association (a member of a District Laser Association duly established in accordance with the Constitution is a member of the International Laser Class Association).*

This means no person is permitted to participate in any Laser regatta (e.g. local, national, international, qualification regatta, continental and world championships), if he is not a current member of the International Laser Class Association as a member of a Laser District/Fleet Association. 'Current' means that he has paid the District dues for the current membership year. There is no minimum time requirement for a sailor to be a member of a District before the event starts.

The ILCA constitution states:

*10.3. A member of the [International Laser Class] Association ipso facto belongs to the District in which he normally sails, even though such place may not be his permanent residence; but such member, for valid reason and with the approval of both District Chairmen, may select instead the District in which he has permanent residence.*

*10.4. A member of the [International Laser Class] Association may become a member only of the Fleet in his District where he normally sails for the purpose of qualification, where required, for sanctioned events; and any dispute shall be settled by decision of the District Association which decision shall be final.*

This means a Laser sailor cannot choose to be a member of any District/Fleet in the World. He must be a member of the District/Fleet where he normally sails, even though this place may not be his permanent residence. However, for valid reasons and with the approval of the two District chairmen he may select the District in which he has permanent residence . The national citizenship is no criteria for the District/Fleet membership. He can only qualify for higher level events through the qualification schemes/regattas of the one District/Fleet where he is a member.

Please note for the majority of ILCA Districts, the District boundaries are the same as the national boundaries. However, in North America and Australia, Districts are single states or an amalgamation of states, so that several Districts may be part of the same national maritime authority and Laser Class Association. In these cases, please substitute 'District/Fleet' with 'Region/Country'.

### **Display of National Sail Letters at ILCA events**

ISAF Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) 75 states:

*75.1. To enter a race, a boat shall comply with the requirements of the organizing authority of the race. She shall be entered by*

*(a) a member of a club or other organization affiliated to an ISAF member national authority,*

*(b) such a club or organization, or*

*(c) a member of an ISAF member national authority.*

*75.2. Competitors shall comply with ISAF Regulation 19, Eligibility Code.*

ISAF (RRS) Appendix G1.1 (b) states

*Every boat of an ISAF International Class or Recognized Class shall carry on her mainsail, and, as provided in rules G1.3(d) and G1.3(e) for letters and numbers only, on her spinnaker and sail at all international events, except when boats are provided to all competitors, national letters denoting her national authority from the table below. For the purpose of this rule, international events are ISAF events, world and continental championships, and events described as international events in their notices of race and sailing instructions.*

In the ISAF RRS 75.1 it is required that a boat can only be entered into a race by a member of a national maritime authority. In RRS Appendix G 1.1 it is required that for all international regattas the sail shall carry the national letters denoting that national maritime authority. RRS 75.2 and ISAF regulation 19 (eligibility code) require that the competitor be a member of a national maritime authority for higher level events (e.g. events with an international jury, World- and Continental Championships etc).

### **Notice of Race Changes**

In order to clearly reflect these rules, the Notices of Race for the Laser Standard Seniors, Laser Masters and all Laser Radial World Championships 2009 have been amended as follows:

#### **RULES:**

*Sails shall have the full sail number AND NATIONAL LETTERS in accordance with the Class Rules and RRS.*

changed to:

*Sails shall have the full sail number AND NATIONAL LETTERS in accordance with the Class Rules and RRS.*

*The national letters shall denote the National Authority of which the sailor is a member in accordance with*

*RRS 75.2 and with 2.1 Entry regulations below. This changes RRS Appendix G 1.1. .*

#### **ENTRY REGULATIONS**

*Only current fully paid members of the International Laser Class Association may enter the Championship.*

changed to:

*Only current fully paid members of the International Laser Class Association and of an ISAF National*

*Authority may enter the Championship. These memberships shall be with the Laser Fleet/District Association*

*and with the ISAF National Authority of the country, where the sailor normally sails.*

Should you or any of your sailors require any further information on this matter or require further explanation please do not hesitate to contact the ILCA office on +44 1326 315064 or email [office@laserinternational.org](mailto:office@laserinternational.org).

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International Laser Class Association

Office Tel: +44 (0)1326 315064

Office Fax: +44 (0)1326 318968

Website: <http://www.laserinternational.org>