

Slalom Wind Limits

To: National Class Associations, Event Organisers and Manufacturers

Dear Funboarders,

During the last AGM of the IFCA in Sylt, May 2013, a new policy was proposed by some competitors. If adopted, this would change the Funboard slalom racing substantially.

It began with a discussion on how to make our sport more attractive to organizers, the media, our sponsors and spectators.

Current situation

The minimum wind Limit for our championship racing is 11 knots in suitable conditions. This makes racing very dependent upon the wind conditions and there is always a high risk that races must be abandoned or postponed.

Many countries and venues are unable, or unwilling, to organize slalom only events due to lack of consistently strong wind. Organizers cannot guarantee, to the sponsors or media, when races will be sailed; and this can be very difficult to explain to those who do not know our sport.

What do we want

We want to give our event organizers certainty that more races can be sailed, and sailed on schedule. This will make our sport more attractive to the media; they will send reporters and camera crews to report live about our events.

Increased media attention means that our sport is more attractive to potential sponsors. Better funding for events will also bring more competitors to our events.

We do not want to search for venues with just enough (7 knots) wind for organizing the IFCA Class Championships. We remain committed to our principles – we are the Funboard planing class with the motto “the more wind the better”.

The idea

By lowering the wind limit from 11 knots to 7 knots (as the PWA have done) more races can be sailed on schedule.

A number of important boards manufactures are developing slalom boards which are planning at 7 knots. Some of these boards will soon appear on the market. It is proposed that the IFCA rules should be changed:

	Current rule	New rule
Wind Limit	Min 11 knts	Min 7 knts
Number of sails	Max 4	Max 5 or 6 (to be discussed)
Number of boards	Max 2	Max 3
Board width	250 mm - 850 mm	250 mm - 900 mm

The 3 boards + 6 sails limitation rule was discussed many times at IFCA AGM's. The windsurfers proposing the change explained that most of the competitors bring more than 2 boards and 4 sails to the events and make a decision before registration ends.

The IFCA Executive Committee agreed that this is a possible evolution for the IFCA class because:

- most manufacturers support this idea and have a light wind slalom board ready
- Most organizers support this idea since this would ensure they have an increased chance of a valid event
- The current equipment (including retaining the maximum of 10 m2 sails) allows this step

A working party

We will form a "working party" to gather feedback from the IFCA National Members, competitors, event-organizers and slalom manufactures on these proposals.

If you are interested to be member of the working party, or just want to comment on this paper, please do not hesitate and reply to this email.

Time schedule

Time is in short supply! This issue requires a speedy decision, but only after a full consultation with stakeholders.

Manufacturers need notice to adapt to the new rules and be ready for the 2014 season.

The idea is to organize a postal vote on a proposal prepared by the Working Party by middle of September 2013.

Fair Winds,

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Vice-chair ISAF WSKC
ISAF-member: ISAF IMSC & EC, IJ, IRO & IM