

## **IFDS Vision, Values, Aims & Strategies**

IFDS has been authorized by ISAF, the World Governing Body for Sailing, to be responsible for Disabled Sailing Worldwide. Working in partnership with ISAF and affiliated to IPC, IFDS promotes all types and levels of sailing for people with all types and degrees of disability.

### **1. Vision**

To establish sailing as the premium sport for people with disabilities, world-wide.

### **2. Values**

- (a) Equity
- (b) Excellence
- (c) Empowerment

***for sailors with disabilities***

### **3. Aims**

- (a) Equity
  - (i) To raise awareness of the needs, abilities and aspirations of sailors with disabilities
  - (ii) To promote inclusion not distinction
  - (iii) To develop and implement a Functional Classification System
- (b) Excellence
  - (i) To ensure that people with disabilities have access to a high standard of training, equipment and sailing opportunities
  - (ii) To maintain, publish and monitor a calendar of international events
  - (iii) To devise and implement world standards in Race Management
- (c) Empowerment
  - (i) To promote and maximize the empowerment of people with disabilities through sailing (i.e. greater independence, freedom, interaction with nature, physical activity, educational opportunities and self esteem)
  - (ii) To provide potential sailors and facilitators with sufficient information to ensure safe and satisfying participation
  - (iii) To implement greater sailor involvement in the management and governance of the sport

#### 4. Strategies

(a) Communication:

Increase participation by exchanging information, advice and opinions through:

- (i) **Website** - Modify the structure and content to provide more intuitive access to information (users' needs driven rather than IFDS/ISAF message driven and apply the three clicks principle) and re-activate the ifds.org link.
- (ii) **E-Bulletin** - Increase the circulation and feedback by collecting contact details and comments at every opportunity. See *IFDS Mailing List* below.
- (iii) **Online and Event Forums** - Publish topics and moderate discussion.
- (iv) **Meeting Agendas, Minutes, Reports and Submissions** – Publish earlier and circulate widely.
- (v) **IFDS Mailing List** – (through ISAF Sailor Registration), develop an easier system of registration of interested people/organisations.
- (vi) **Education and Promotion** – (See below)

(b) Co-operation:

- (i) **Work in partnership with related International Organizations** including:
  - International Sailing Federation and their MNA's
  - International Paralympic Committee and their NPC's
  - Special Olympics & INAS-FID
  - Blind Sailing International
  - Sailability World

To explore and build upon areas of common interest - see *Inclusion/Links* below

- (ii) **Use existing Regional Networks** including:
  - EUROSAF
  - Asian Paralympic Committee
  - Pan American Paralympic Committee

To promote Sailing for athletes with disabilities

- (iii) **Encourage National Sailing Authorities** to include people with disabilities and disability awareness into all aspects of their activities through:
  - Information exchange
  - Club membership, training schemes, regional & national regattas and sport governance
  - Links with their national disabled sports organisations (for disability awareness training and help to identify potential sailors)
  - Nomination of suitable people to train as National Classifiers
  - Nomination of suitable people to IFDS Committees

- Standard training and certification schemes, with suitable amendments and endorsements for people with disabilities
- (iv) **Establish Links** through:
- Reciprocal links between websites
  - Nomination of IFDS representatives or observers to work with/in related organizations (e.g. ISAF Race Officers, Equipment, Women's, Youth & Development and Events Committees and IPC Sports Council and General Assemblies)
  - Invitation for representatives, link persons or observers from other organizations to work with/in IFDS
- (c) Information, Promotion and Education:
- (i) **Database** - Develop and maintain a database of good examples of strategies, equipment, adaptations and sailing opportunities
  - (ii) **Sailing Manual** - Provide information to equip sailors and facilitators to start sailing programmes for people with disabilities
  - (iii) **YES-Programme** - Promote and build upon a series of regional conferences and follow-up activities to encourage and equip countries new to sailing for people with disabilities
  - (iv) **Presentations** - Prepared for related organizations and potential sponsors
  - (v) **Seminars** - Arranged on all aspects including classifier training
  - (vi) **Disability Awareness Training Modules** – Developed
  - (vii) **Progression for beginner, intermediate and elite levels** - create a recognition programme and process for achievement
  - (viii) **Regional and International Events** – See Co-operation above
- (d) Involvement:
- (i) **Encourage greater sailor involvement** in the management and governance of the sport through:
    - Sailors' Advisory Council, On-line and Event Forums
    - Improved timing and wider circulation of Meeting Agendas, Reports and Minutes
    - Representation on IFDS Committees
  - (ii) **Encourage wider involvement** through:
    - Clear roles and responsibilities for the IFDS committees
    - Improved communication with IFDS RNA's and ISAF MNA's
    - Other interested professionals offering specific expertise in the sport, sport management, rules, equipment etc.
- (e) Standards:
- (i) **IFDS Race Management Manual** - develop and implement
  - (ii) **IFDS Functional Classification System** - develop and implement

- (iii) **IFDS Certification System** - devise and publish certification of facilities, coaches, race officers, classifiers, judges and boat builders etc.
- (iv) **Race Results** – Design, maintain & publish a uniform format for race results from events on the IFDS Calendar, including full names of all sailors, their nationality and their FCS classification.

(f) Finance:

Seek greater financial stability and independence for IFDS to allow growth of new initiatives through:

- (i) Identifying, quantifying and prioritizing projects which deliver the aims of IFDS
- (ii) Seeking sponsorship or grants to fund these projects by developing a target list of potential supporters
- (iii) Defining the benefits and recognition opportunities for sponsors

(g) Governance/Structure

- (i) **Increase the number of people involved** in the day-to-day work of IFDS from:
  - One half-time paid secretary
  - A small team of professional people volunteering their time, enthusiasm and skillsto enhance the work of the:
  - Executive Committee
  - Medical, Technical and Development Committees
  - Events, Equipment Evaluation, and Rules & Regulations Committees
  - Sailors' and Coaches' Advisory Councils
  - International Classifiers and International Technical Advisors
- (ii) **Publish vacancies on IFDS Committees** to invite nominations from RNA's

(h) Corporate Identity

Develop standard formats, logos etc. to reinforce the image and role of the organization for all IFDS

- (i) Publications
- (ii) Clothing
- (iii) Communications