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**RE: LOW POINT RANKING SYSTEM**

Dear Sailors, Parents and Member Clubs,

Following the Optimist Review conducted in September 2009, changes have been made to the system to continually improve our National Ranking as well as increase the level of competition in the local sailing scene.

There has also been numerous feedback sessions conducted with parents throughout 2009-2010 which aim to offer more competitiveness within our local racing fleets as well as steer towards a more objective based selection system. The Selection Panel has reviewed these improvements in September 2010 and endorsed them for implementation with effect from the first ranking regatta in 2011. Invitation to the respective National Training Squads under the new systems will start from July 2011.

**1. High and Low Points Scoring System**

The **Optimist** and **Byte** Ranking system will adopt the Low Point Scoring System. All previous ranking races will be retrospectively adjusted to the new system. Other fleets will use the previous system until fleet numbers are consistently over 40.

*High Points Scoring System*

Currently, the High Points Scoring System is implemented in the National Ranking. This may not be the most accurate performance indicator of top sailors because the scoring is dependent on the fleet size. There is a significant difference in points for sailors at the top of the ranking who miss different regattas of different fleet size. (See example A)

**Example A**

Rank	Sailor	Regatta A (80 entrants)	Regatta B (65 entrants)	Regatta C (75 entrants)	Regatta D (80 entrants)	Best 3 of 4
1	A	77	0	74	78	229
2	B	80	63	72	76	228
3	C	74	65	73	80	227
4	D	0	64	75	79	218
...						
79	Y	3	3	0	2	8
80	Z	2	0	4	3	7

Sailors A and D both missed one regatta each but Sailor D has a much lower 'Best 3 of 4' points. The weakness of this system does not have a great effect on sailors at the bottom of the ranking.

*Low Points Scoring System*

The Low Points Scoring System scores sailors similar to fleet racing scores. The first placing will be awarded 1 point; second placing 2 points and so forth. The maximum points will be the total number of participants. A sailor that misses a regatta will be scored the maximum point plus 1.

Using the Low Points Scoring System, performance and consistency for the top tier sailors are more accurately reflected in the rankings. (See example B)

This also closes the gap between the higher ranked sailors, ensuring a closer level of competitiveness.

In the Optimist Fleet, it also allows Gold fleet sailors who fall into Silver fleet to remain at the top of the Silver fleet which is a true reflection of their performance.

**Example B**

Rank	Sailor	Regatta A (80 entrants)	Regatta B (65 entrants)	Regatta C (75 entrants)	Regatta D (80 entrants)	Best 3 of 4
1	C	7	1	3	1	5
2	D	81	2	1	2	5
3	B	1	3	4	5	8
4	A	4	66	2	3	9
...						
79	Z	79	66	72	78	216
80	Y	78	63	76	79	217

The Low Point System gives a more accurate indication of performance of those at the top of the ranking. Even though Sailors A and D both missed one regatta each, their consistency is still reflected by this system.

The disadvantage of using this system is that the discrepancy is now found at the bottom of the ranking. The Selection Panel acknowledges this fact and highlights that it is more important for the ranking system to show accuracy at the top than at the bottom of the ranking.

**2. Ranking Computation**

The Optimist Ranking System was changed from the 'Best 5 of 6' events to the 'Best 3 of 4' events computation basis in January 2010. This change allowed a better reflection for fast improving sailors and sailor's most current form. The Byte, Laser, Laser Radial, 420 and 470 Rankings will now adopt the same change, using the 'Best 3 of 4' events to compute the rankings.

**3. Change in name for Optimist Relegation Regatta**

Previously known as the Optimist Relegation Regatta, the event will now be known as the ***Optimist Gold Fleet Qualifiers***.

**4. Increase in Optimist Gold Fleet Size**

To ensure there will be at least 80 boats racing in the ranking events, the Optimist Gold Fleet will be increased to 90. This change will take place after the Optimist Gold Fleet Qualifiers in February 2011. The top 30 sailors in this event will qualify for a place to race in the gold fleet for the first half of 2011.

**5. Invitation to Optimist Gold Fleet Qualifiers**

With sailors moving out of the Optimist Class at different parts of the year, a review will be done on the Gold fleet before each invitation to the Optimist Gold Fleet Qualifiers to ensure sailors in the Gold Fleet will be racing in the next 6 months.

Improving on previous protocols whereby invitations were sent to the bottom 20 sailors of the Gold Fleet and top 20 sailors in Silver Fleet. Invitations will now be sent to sailors ranked 71 and over in the Gold Fleet, and as many sailors starting from the top of the Silver Fleet until there are 40 invitations in total.

With these changes, SingaporeSailing acknowledges that there may be initial teething problems and there may be no foolproof system to rank sailors. However along with the evolution of each fleet through the years, SingaporeSailing will match the best ranking system for each fleet in order to allow sailors to better compare their performance against others.

Should you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to approach me or any of the High Performance Staff.

Yours sincerely,



Chung Pei Ming  
(acting) High Performance Manager

cc. Dr. Ben Tan – President, SingaporeSailing  
SingaporeSailing High Performance Staff