

March 13, 2017

Mr. Kim Andersen
President
World Sailing
Ariadne House
Town Quay
Southampton SO14 SAQ

Subject: Racing Rules of Sailing
Reference: Your letter dated March 8, 2017



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Dear Kim,

Thank you for your letter of March, and response to our concerns regarding the RRS Reproduction Policy 2017-2020 and your discussions regarding the same during the most recent meetings of the World Sailing Board of Directors. We appreciate the urgency you have given this subject.

US Sailing does not agree with the World Sailing policy in place regarding digital rights to the Racing Rules of Sailing and we feel that it has not been developed and implemented properly. Further, we feel that the policy is contrary to the well intentioned initiatives that you expressed to me about World Sailing's new direction to work much better and more closely with the MNAs in many aspects of the sport.

When the policy becomes widely known publically, sailors around the world will perceive the policy as more "government taxation" and rightfully so. Neither World Sailing nor US Sailing should have business practices that promote ill will with our membership as this policy does.

US Sailing acknowledges World Sailing's authority in our sport, therefore I have instructed Jack Gierhart to work with Andy Hunt to reach agreement on how we can proceed in the interim of our submission to have the policy rescinded. I do hope that we can put this matter behind us so that we can work on the more important business of improving the quality of the products and services that we provide the sailors and the relationship of World Sailing to the MNAs.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce J. Burton".

Bruce J Burton
President

Copies: World Sailing Board of Directors, Region P Council members



8 March 2017

Bruce Burton
President
US Sailing

By email only: JackGierhart@ussailing.org

Dear Bruce,

Racing Rules of Sailing

Thank you for your recent letter, which the World Sailing Board discussed at its recent meeting in South Africa.

The Council decision in question was made when Council was the board of directors of the Federation and responsible for its corporate and legal affairs. In 2010, that responsibility changed to the Executive Committee (now the Board). The Board is responsible under the Constitution for the corporate affairs of World Sailing, which includes the use of our intellectual property. So this properly a matter for the Board to decide and I can confirm the Board agrees with the current Reproduction Policy and with the approach of treating all MNAs equally in terms of the licensing of English-only online applications. No MNA, including the RYA, is given any preferential treatment in this area. I would repeat Andy's earlier comment that the present policy has been in place for over 8 years without dispute – the only dispute now is that World Sailing has decided to enforce it.

In any event, the Board does not consider that the old Council decision (even if it still applied) is being followed. During our Board meeting, a World Sailing staff member was able to download the US Sailing app and RRS in South Africa from a UK registered account. So geo-blocking is not in place and this can be said to infringe the rights of two other MNAs. This shows that, in this day and age, it is impossible to impose electronic borders on licencing in this way and this is why the Board supports the current Policy.

I understand you are considering a submission for this November – this is of course a matter for you and US Sailing.

Yours sincerely



Kim Andersen
President

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HM King Harald of Norway

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