

ВІТРИЛЬНА ФЕДЕРАЦІЯ УКРАЇНИ

Україна, 01601, м. Київ вул. Еспланадна 42 оф. 815
тел/факс +380 (44) 289-50-73 E-mail: sfu@sfu.com.ua



SAILING FEDERATION of UKRAINE

42 Esplanadna str. Of. 815 Ukraine Kiev 01601
tel/faxs +380 (44) 289-50-73 E-mail: sfu@sfu.com.ua

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Dear Mr Kim Andersen,

As I am sure you are only too aware Ukraine and Russia are not on the best of terms at the moment. The Russian annexation of Crimea is a very serious matter that is affecting not only the political and business life of our two countries but also the sporting and social links.

The International Olympic Committee and the International Sailing Federation consider Crimea and the port of Sevastopol to be within the exclusive jurisdiction of Ukraine and the Sailing Federation of Ukraine.

Crimea is a part of sovereign Ukraine and many of the yachts men and women living there are Ukrainian citizens whom we wish to support however it would appear that the All-Russian Sailing Federation are now seeking to make political capital out of the situation and our sport. We consider this to an unacceptable breach of the rules.

We accept that yachtsmen the world over are free to organise regattas where ever there are boats and competitors, even in occupied Crimea, however we now have clear evidence taken from the published calendar of the All-Russian Sailing Federation that they propose to organise up to eight regattas in the city of Sevastopol some of which will be Olympic trials and others as part of their national league which contributes to the selection process of the national team.

We consider this to be a breach of both the letter and the understanding of the 'Rules of Sailing' as these regattas are being held in Ukrainian territorial waters and therefore may not be used as qualifiers for participation in international regattas and for the formation of the Russian National Team without our consent, which under the current circumstances we are unable to grant.

Whilst we are happy that regattas continue to be sailed and that Ukrainian sailors can compete we must raise our formal objection to these regattas being included in any way for the selection of teams that will compete in international regattas.

We realise that this is a difficult and delicate matter. The situation has been raised by our Ministry of Youth and Sport and we have discussed it with the Ukrainian Olympic Committee who join with us in asking World Sailing to advise the All-Russian Sailing Federation that they are in breach of the rules and ask them to cease and desist from any action that would contravene our sovereign rights .

We are of course happy to discuss this matter with you but ask you to understand that our position is determined by our government and by public opinion within our media and sailing community.

I look forward to hearing from you

Yours sincerely

Rodion Luka
President
Sailing Federation of Ukraine.