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Dear All

International Competitions

Due to the COVID pandemic we have seen international events offered by International Class Associations cancelled or postponed. Government intervention and regulation has affected the ability of people to travel internationally & gain insurance whilst away. The spread of the virus and the ability to ensure the safety of competitors and volunteers have all been part of the thinking behind these decisions

Whilst globally the virus continues unabated, in Europe it is now under relative control and as a result we are now seeing a number of International classes trying to return to some form of International competition.

This is an area that the RYA have been looking at carefully, and we recognise that some British sailors may be looking to travel and compete if possible.

Whether to support International competition, and if not, what advice to offer to sailors and their parents requires us to think carefully about the risks and rewards, so we thought it may be helpful to share our decision making process and how we have reached our own decisions.

Here below are some considerations that we are applying as an organisation to determine whether we think a class, individual sailors or crews should attend an event and whether we would provide any support.

- With schools being formally closed, the majority from the start of lockdown, through to the projected return in September the RYA will not run or support activity that requires sailors to miss school time.
- With access to the water initially prohibited and still no return to domestic racing or double-handed sailing, sailors will have been unable to sail, race and train for a significant period of time. We believe it is vital that the sailors have had time to prepare properly for international selection and competition. Where this cannot happen we would choose not to support the event and we would advise sailors and parents accordingly.
- Before choosing to attend an event the RYA (and Class) will need to satisfy itself that the event can be delivered in a COVID secure way and that any associated risks have been mitigated.
- The RYA are working up a list of questions to ask an organising authority to support this process, and we are defining what we would expect to see in response, to allow us to consider attendance and support.

- Class associations, parents and sailors, need to consider if there are sufficient mitigations in place to ensure that sailors and support staff can travel and return to the UK safely in the event of any changes that may impact as a result of COVID.

Only when we have fully considered and are satisfied with the above will we then consider the likely level of competition and whether it's worth the associated costs.

Following the above process we have concluded that there will be no RYA support of Youth & Junior International competition in 2020. We are constantly monitoring this and will update our position as the situation evolves. We also recognise that for some individuals they will follow the process above and reach a different conclusion and we respect that.

To support sailors return to training and competition, the youth programme will restart support towards the end of August running into a modified RYA Youth Nationals In October half term then continuing through the autumn and winter when we are hopeful that a more traditional racing season can begin in spring 2021.

Should you have any questions please feel free to contact your BYS Performance Manager or myself.

Thank you for your continued support in these difficult times

Yours Sincerely



Mark Nicholls
RYA Youth Racing Manager