

International 470 Class Association



the boat the world sails

2019 GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Sanremo – Italy
6th May 2019

This report covers the period between May 20 2018 and May 6 2019.

1. Administration

The Management Committee of the 470 Internationale is still in the form which was decided on November 25 2016:

Dimitris Dimou (GRE) - President
Nino Shmueli (ISR) - First Vice-President
Iulia Fulicea (ROU) - Secretary General
Andreas Kosmatopoulos (GRE) - Treasurer
Haluk Suntay (TUR) - Chairman of the Technical Committee
Gonzalo Heredia (ARG) – member
David Hughes (USA) – member
Vincenzo Losito (ITA) – member
Fernanda Sesto (ARG) – member
Agnieszka Skrzypulec (POL) – member

The Management Committee held various meetings throughout the period as Skype conferences.

The Executive Committee held 1 meeting on 10 and 11.10.2018 in Athens – Greece.

2. Sports

In the 12 months since the General Assembly in Bourgas we have run successfully the 2018 470 Junior European Championship in Sesimbra, the 2018 Junior World Championship in Bracciano and the Masters Cup in Hourtin. The 2018 Worlds were organized in Aarhus by World Sailing together with all other Olympic Classes.

These events were generally well organised but the participation in Sesimbra was low, the race management in Aarhus was not on top level and the Women's fleet was forced to sail the regatta with fewer races than they could have. The Class has expressed to WS its concerns about the performance of the race officers in this event, and will keep pushing for proper management of our races in the WS-managed events.

The 2019 European Championship is again on good participation level, and we expect that next events will be even better as the selection process of events and equipment for the 2024 Olympic Games events will finish in about two weeks and the inclusion of the 470 for mixed teams is almost guaranteed.

In September we will start a series of regional / continental championships: the East Europe Championship in Lithuania, the 1st 470 Asian Championship in China in December, the 470 African Championship in Angola and the 470 Oceania Championship in Australia in January 2020 and finally the South American Championship in Argentina in February 2020. All continental championships will be the Olympic qualifier events for the respective continents.

3. 470 Class Development and Support Programs and Clinics

A detailed report for the 2018 actions has been prepared by Iulia Fulicea, Fernanda Sesto and Andreas Kosmatopoulos, who are managing the support programmes and clinics. In 2019 our main focus is to use our development & support programmes for direct support of junior teams and to help the Olympic preparation in those regions that are considered as emerging.

4. Sailors and Coaches

The International 470 Class Management Committee held a meeting with sailors and coaches during the World Championship in Aarhus, to discuss the 2019 World Championship situation. There will be another meeting during the last days of the European Championship, to discuss the 2024 situation. We will also try to have another meeting during the World Championship. The MC is working on the suggestions/proposals of our sailors and coaches from 2018. The MC members who are present at our events are always available to discuss with our community members about the present and future of the class.

5. 2020 – 2024 Olympic Games

The 2019 World Championship will take place at the Olympic venue, giving a chance to our teams to test the venue and the race courses one year before the Games. It will be followed by the Test Event and the 1st round of the 2020 World cup series.

About the 2024 Games, the WS Council decision on May 14 2018 (to have a slate which includes the new 2-person dinghy event with mixed crew) was not changed in November 2018 at the WS annual conference. Of course losing the two separate events and getting the chance to be the equipment in one mixed crew event in return was not the optimum result for the Class but given the circumstances and the general situation, it was the best possible result and would still keep the class in the Olympic Games. The final phase of the campaign will close in less than two weeks, with the WS Council voting to confirm the recommendations of the WS Equipment Committee about the equipment for the mixed two person dinghy event. The evaluation panel has recommended that the 470 will be the equipment for this event and we expect this to be taken to Council and get its approval on May 19 2019. The final decision is with the IOC at the end of 2020, and there is always the possibility of new submissions to be considered at the next WS annual conference in October 2019. However these will need an increased majority in the Council to be approved. The Class will now focus on the necessary changes and the promotion to have a well-structured and organized mixed fleet for the next Olympic Games. The separate men / women fleets should continue and an Open fleet should still race at our Championships with a separate title.

6. Administration

The proposals and suggestions of our Auditors from 2016 and 2017 were taken into consideration in the last two years and certain practical measures have further improved our financial control and the overall situation. The Auditor's report confirms that this is definitely back on the right track again. The Class Manager's time is now spent more effectively and efficiently for the Class.

The website has been under constant updating with new options added for the media section as well as a new 2024 Olympic Campaign section. Our Social media have been revamped especially with the addition of Instagram and Flickr accounts. The Flickr account now includes a full set of photos from our past Championships starting with 2004, with only a few of the older events missing and those where the media rights don't belong to the Class (i.e. WCS events). For the latter, these photos will be uploaded to special galleries on our website. The YouTube channel is also restructured with playlists of our event videos sorted out properly.

7. The 470 future

The main issue is the final selection of the 470 as the equipment for the two person dinghy event for the 2024 Olympic Games. This will mean that the main fleet will be the Mixed, while we will still have the option

of awarding additional World Champion titles: Men or Open fleets may be retained although without the possibility to go to the Olympics.

Going Mixed seems at first to be a step backwards in the class development and fleet sizes, and it will probably be a serious challenge in certain areas, mostly because of cultural reasons. However it is also an opportunity to have a fresh start, especially in some of the countries which dropped out in the last few years, and to work on improvements like a better race format (subject to WS approval) and a different approach to our own development programmes and targets. The Class must work hard to improve its image and show that it has a place in the Olympics programme which the other two-person events cannot cover.

I would like to thank all sailors and coaches, all friends and fans of the 470 for their continuous support and dedication to this great Class.

Sincerely Yours

Dimitris Dimou
President of the
International 470 Class Association