

MINUTES OF THE YAI COUNCIL MEETING
09 OCT 2021

1. The YAI Council Meeting was held at 1500h on 09 Oct 21 on Airtel Blue Jeans Online Portal. The following Council Members were present:-

Chairman

Admiral Karambir Singh, PVSM, AVSM, ADC President

Members

Lt Gen SK Shrivastava (Retd)	Senior Vice President
VAdm Ajit Kumar P (Retd)	Chairman National Classes Committee and Offshore & Motor Boating Committee
VAdm Atul K Jain (Retd)	Chairman Events Committee
Lt Gen TSA Narayanan	Chairman Asian Games and Olympics Classes Committee
Maj Gen MS Pillai (Retd)	Chairman Youth Classes Committee
Mr. Atul Kulkarni	Chairman Sailing and Club Development Committee
Mr. Ashok Thakkar	Chairman Fund Raising and Publicity Committee
Mr. Suheim Sheikh	Chairman Sailing Performance and Development Committee
Ms Nilma Shah	Chairman Women Development Committee
Cmde Amarjeet Saluja	Treasurer
Mr. Malav Shroff	Co-opted Member
Cdr Abhilash Tomy (Retd)	Co-opted Member
Cmde BR Singh	Honorary Secretary General
Captain Jitendra Dixit	Honorary Joint Secretary General

2. The HSG welcomed all Council Members and briefed about the sequence of proceedings for the day. Thereafter HSG requested the President YAI to deliver his opening address.

Item No. 1 – Opening Remarks by President YAI

3. At the outset, the President extended a very warm welcome and thanked all the council members to have spared their valuable time to attend the second Council Meeting of 2021.

4. The President stated that the sailors have participated in two important international events, since the last council meeting in Jun 21, Tokyo Olympics and the Optimist World Championship at Italy and there is also an interesting line up of sailing competitions coming up. Whether it is World Championships or Asian Championships or eventually the Asian Games in Nov 2022, it's a good opportunity to take stock of where we are and where we wanted to be. Our sailors have done reasonably well.

5. The President brought out that YAI has very simplistically put forward two essential roles or verticals, one to broad base the sport of sailing and spread sailing at grass root levels and the second vertical to support the elite sailors and to enhance the medal tally. Accordingly inputs were sought from the council members for options and opportunity which we can explore. It was heartening to note that large number of interesting suggestions have come in, and will be discussed during the meeting.

6. The President informed the council that he met Shri Anurag Thakur, the Hon'ble Minister of YAS. Four recommendations were put forward to the Minister which included, dispensation in the national sports code to affiliate State Associations for next five years. The Hon'ble Minister suggested to continue making attempts to get more state associations affiliated. Second was of supporting one Centre of Excellence through the Khelo India, which he had agreed to. On the third issue about GST exemption on Sports equipment import, the Minister was absolutely on-board and has assured that the issue will be taken up with the Finance Minister and he is hoping for good response. The fourth issue of inclusion of Sailing as a sport in 'Khelo India' has also been agreed to.

7. The President expressed his unhappiness on the standard of emails being exchanged between some members and was therefore compelled to set some ground rules for the discussion during the meeting. The President firstly requested all members to keep the views focussed on the larger purpose of the YAI as per the mandate given to the council. He advised all to refrain from any discouraging remarks of personal nature, endeavour to conduct the discussions in a mature fashion and focus on the broader issues. The President stated that all views are welcome Council will consider them together, will take a collegiate view, and will give a decision which will be acceptable by the majority. The President highlighted that he reads most of the mails being exchanged between Council Members and requested all members to follow certain decorum and decency. The impetus of the Council should be only on two verticals as listed and no personal matters, differences are to be discussed during the meeting. The members were forewarned of appropriate disciplinary action in case of default on the laid down ground rules. The President emphasised that we all have certain strong points, people have good experience in sailing, people have passion for the sport, people have good connects, we must actually reenergise all this to get what we want as an organisation.

8. The President requested the Hon Secretary General to commence the proceedings of the meeting.

Item No. II - To Approve & Confirm Minutes of the Council Meeting of 17 Jun 2021

9. The HSG brought out that minutes of the Council Meeting held on 17 Jun 2021 have already been circulated amongst all Council Members. No comments/ observations have been received from any of the Council members for recording of the Minutes of the Meeting. HSG sought the approval of the Council for confirmation of the Minutes. The minutes were approved by the Council, wherein, Lt Gen TSA Narayanan proposed and Maj Gen MS Pillai (Retd) seconded the motion.

Item No. III – Honorary Secretary General’s Report

10. The HSG informed the Council about the YAI affairs as enumerated in the succeeding paragraphs.

11. **ACTC Approved International Events Nov 21.**

- (a) Laser Std World Championship from 03-10 Nov 2021 at Barcelona, Spain – Two Sailors and One Coach.
- (b) IODA Asian and Oceanian Championship from 06-13 Nov 2021 at Thailand – Three Boys, Three Girls, One Coach and in addition One Female Coach.
- (c) 49er, 49erFX and Nacra 17 World Championship from 13-21 Nov 2021 at Oman – Two 49ers, One 49erFX teams and one Coach.
- (d) Laser Radial World Championships from 29 Nov – 06 Dec 2021 at Oman – Two Sailors and One Coach.

12. **International Events.** International events undertaken post last council meeting:-

- (a) **2021 Optimist World Championship, Italy.** The Championship was conducted at Riva Del Garda, Italy from 30 Jun to 10 Jul 21. Five Indian Sailors participated in the event.
- (b) **Olympics 2020 (23 Jul – 08 Aug).** It is a matter of immense pride for the YAI and for our nation that we had for the first time qualified for the Olympics competitively and participated in the Tokyo Olympics. The YAI supported the sailors since the beginning and was confident that the team of sailors representing India will do us all proud. This was the first time that India competed and secured a berth at the Tokyo Olympics 2020. The event ended up with lot of learnings and aspirations for the future. Vishnu Saravanan finished 20th out of 35 Laser Standard entries and Nethra finished 35th out of 44 amongst world’s best Laser Radial sailors. The 49er duo of Ganapathy and Varun finished 17th out of 19 entries.
- (c) **2021 Europa Cup Hungary.** The Championship was held at Balaton, Hungary from 23-27 Sep 21. Nethra Kumanan won the bronze medal out of 72 participants.

13. **Domestic Events.** The following Domestic events have been conducted since last council meeting:-

- (a) **12th Monsoon Regatta.** The event was conducted by YCH from 30 Jul to 05 Aug 21. 40 Optimist sailors participated at Hyderabad.
- (b) **35th Hyderabad Sailing Week.** The Event was conducted by EMESA & SSC in conjunction with LCAI. The following classes participated in the event.

Laser Standard	-	27
Laser 4.7	-	46
Laser Radial (Women)	-	05
Laser Radial (Men)	-	25
Total Sailors	-	103 sailors

(c) **Mysore Multiclass Youth Sailing Championship 2021**. Conducted by Trishna Sailing Club at Mysore from 26 to 31 Aug 21. The following classes participated in the event:-

Optimist	-	43
Optimist Green	-	14
Laser 4.7 Boys	-	25
Laser 4.7 Girls	-	06
Laser Radial	-	06
29er	-	05
Rs One	-	03
Total	-	107 sailors

(d) **YAI Senior Nationals 2021/ IN-MDL Cup 2021**. Conducted by INWTC Mumbai from 01-06 Sep 21. The event sailed in the following classes:-

Laser Standard (Men)	- 36 Entries
Laser Radial (Women)	- 08 Entries
470 (Mix)	- 15 Entries
49er (Men)	- 09 Entries
49er FX (Women)	- 02 Entries
RS: X (Men)	- 12 Entries
RS: X (Women)	- 02 Entries
Wind foiling (iQ Foil) (Men/Women)	- 01 Entry
Total	- 111 sailors

14. **National Judge Clinic**. NJ Seminar was conducted by Brig Jagdish Singh (Retd) and Brig GS Julka (Retd), International Judges on 11-12 Aug 21 at EMESA Secunderabad. Out of nine candidates who appeared, only one candidate passed NJ exam while two candidates cleared CJ level. The details of qualified candidates are as follows:-

<u>Ser</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Marks</u>	<u>Level Cleared</u>
(a)	Lt Aman Mohan Vyas (INWTC MBI)	80 %	National Judge
(b)	Cdr Prasant C Menon (INWTC MBI)	67 %	Club Judge
(c)	Col NS Johal (AYN)	65 %	Club Judge

15. **National Measurers Clinic**. Maiden National Measurer's Clinic was conducted by Mr Ajit Diaz, World Sailing International Measurer Instructor. Out of 13 Members participated, 11 participants obtained qualifying marks (80% & above). The details of qualified candidates are as follows:-

<u>Ser</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Club</u>	<u>Marks</u>
(a)	Cdr Madhu Lal Sharma (Retd)	INWTC (Kochi)	100
(b)	Nilma V Shah	TNSA	95
(c)	Ashish Mehta	TNSA	90
(d)	Vishnu Chandra Bose	CESC	90
(e)	Rahul Rai	INWTC (Mumbai) / INSA	90
(f)	Ram Lal	INWTC (Kar)	90
(g)	A N Swami	INWTC (Mumbai)	85

(h)	Col Vivek Ahlawat	EMESA	85
(j)	Sucharita Kamath	TNSA	85
(k)	Capt Vivek Shanbhag	RMYC	80
(l)	Lt Col Vishal Ahlawat	EMESA	80

Item No. IV - Grant of YAI Life Membership

16. HSG brought out that the YAI Secretariat has received applications for Life Associate Membership from the following: -

- (a) Dr. Tejashree Milind Colvalcar - GYA
- (b) Dr. Sweta Prabhakar Shervegar - RMYC

17. It was recommended that the applicants seeking Life Associate Membership of the YAI may be granted the membership.

18. **Decision.** The President granted the Life Associate Membership to the applicants.

Item No. V - Affiliation of New Member Clubs/ State Association

19. HSG brought out that request for YAI affiliation has been received from the following Clubs/ Class Associations: -

- (a) Premier Kiteboarding Association – Class Association
- (b) National J80 Class Association – Class Association
- (c) Royal Mysore Sailing Club
- (d) Sandunes Yachting & Watersports Association, Pondicherry
- (e) Jelly Fish Water Sports Pvt Ltd, Kerala
- (f) Royal Madras Yacht Club Ennore Centre

Discussion

20. It was recommended that the Sailing and Club Development Committee makes a visit to the club premises and render a report to the Council to consider their request for grant of provisional affiliation.

21. Lt Gen TSA Narayanan highlighted that Kite Boarding Class Association should be named as ‘ Kite Boarding Association of India” and not Premier Kiteboarding Association, he being the President of the same informed that initially the association was registered as Premier Kiteboarding Association.

22. Mr Ashok Thakkar stated that for affiliation of Clubs there is a minimum criteria laid down and the Sailing and Club Development Committee can seek all the data and records

by email and then put up the recommendations to the YAI council. Mr Atul Kulkarni explained that this is typically what is done as a committee wherein the papers are seen and correspondence with the clubs is initiated to seek information about the club's constitution and all the infrastructure facilities available. Thereafter the committee members visit the premises for inspection. As regards the Jellyfish Water sports, the committee is in touch with them and has discussed that once the Corona scenario in Kerala subsides visit to the venue will be planned. The Secretariat was requested to forward the documents of the balance clubs seeking affiliation.

23. Mr Ashok Thakkar brought out that the Jellyfish Water Sports is a Pvt Ltd Company and the laws for the society and the association are different from the private limited and that could lead to complications as the sporting body is supposed to form association and get registered. If we start allowing corporate bodies to affiliate, then there will be taxation implications for YAI. We could advise them to form an association and then seek affiliation. It was further stated that as far as the Class associations are concerned, the J 80 boats are already sailing in India and post seeking details from the Class Association we may approve. On the issue of private limited he requested the President and HSG to check with the legal entity before taking a decision.

Item No. VI – Agenda Points for Discussion

24. Interaction of President YAI with Hon'ble Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports.

The council was intimated that the President YAI called on Mr Anurag Thakur Hon'ble Minister YAS on 05 Oct 21. The following issues have been agreed upon during the meeting: -

- (a) MYAS agreed to special dispensation for five years on deviation from NSDC-2011.
- (b) MYAS agreed to one 'Centre of Excellence' for sailing under 'Khelo India'.
- (c) MYAS agreed to include sailing as part of Khelo India.
- (d) MYAS agreed to take up GST exemption with FM. However, his recommendation was that we buy in India, as far as feasible.

Discussion

25. Mr Ashok Thakkar stated that he has also taken up the GST issue with Minister of Finance as the sailing equipment is levied GST of 28 % and may be reduced to 5 %. The MoF has advised to bring up the issue through respective State Finance Minister because in the GST council the agenda are normally put up by the various states. TNSA has already written to Tamil Nadu Govt and the finance secretary Mr Krishnan has agreed to raise this to next GST Council. He requested all other members, if they could also take it up with their own home state.

26. The President stated that he could also write to the Finance minister with copy to MYAS and Finance Secretary on the issue. Mr Suheim Sheikh highlighted that though it is a good idea that we should buy in India as far as possible, however, there is not a single piece of quality equipment that can be bought in India, not even a thimble, fairlead or even a rope we can buy in India.

27. The President stated that the key issue is the underlying spirit of 'Atma Nirbharta'. The customs duty exemption is not being given to Armed Forces. May be basic sailing equipment could be bought in India and for competitions the equipment could be imported. The HSG informed the Council that YAI obtains custom duty exemption certificate from SAI for procurement of competitive boats as and when requested by the affiliated clubs.

28. Maj Gen MS Pillai (Retd) brought out that as far as training optimist boats are concerned, M/s Joe is the one who is the builder supplying. We may look into making an Indian version of it, so that we don't come under the stricter international norms. We may have to name it differently and we can mass produce it, this is being looked at by the Youth Classes Committee. There have been talks on with Mr Sheri Bamboat, Joe and others. Once there is any progress on this, YAI Council will be informed. Mr Suheim Sheikh informed that, as far as the optimist is concerned, Joe already has something called the training optimist. These training optimist are available across the world, almost every manufacturer makes training optimist. In India the price is about 60 % of IODA optimist, which is the authorised optimist, Joe can actually make both. YCH has almost about 30 training optimist which cannot be used for championship because they will not pass measurement, but they are much cheaper and in fact at some level they are much safer also but they are not as hardy as the IODA standards. From discussions with Joe and some other manufacturers, it seems to be not a profitable business at all, they do it as a favour to whoever wants to buy them. In terms of cost, even if we import assuming duty free exemption will be granted, the cost of a domestically manufactured IODA hull is almost the same as of the international hull and the international hulls quality is good, the domestic quality is also good but price difference is not too much. Maj Gen MS Pillai (Retd) mentioned that even the training optimist once made in china are cheaper to import than to make it in India.

29. **President YAI Email.** Ideas and suggestions were sought by President YAI on the following two key verticals from Council Members:-

- (a) **Vertical 1.** Bring up Sailing at grassroots level.
- (b) **Vertical 2.** Extend full support to our Yachtsmen, who will be representing India in international events.

30. **Inputs from Lt Gen SK Shrivastava (Retd).** It was brought out that Sailing as a sport needs fair amount of infrastructure and equipment besides the availability of a suitable water body having suitable wind conditions. It needs very large amount of time and expert guidance for a person to come up as an international level sailor. Due to these constraints, inspite of a vast coast line and multiple lakes, there has been very little enthusiasm shown by youth to take up this sport. State sport bodies are also generally not much enthused by this sport. This is also viewed as an elitist sport.

- (a) **Use of Organisations like NCC.** The Gen brought out that the NCC has a robust youth wing and a vast country wide network. In conjunction with MoD and Sports Ministry, one node per state can be supported. State level bodies exist which will need support from central ministry and permission for priority use of land near water bodies. Most of the water fronts have a scope for being developed into tourist attractions where young children can be introduced to sailing.

Discussion

(b) Mr Ashok Thakkar stated that NCC does not create infrastructure at their own locations and have to depend on other agencies for launch and recovery of boats. NCC Chennai entered into an MoU with TNSA and RMYC for training of cadets on a regular basis. NCC cadets come at very late age and they try to join sailing or other sports, because they get additional points for their enrolment into colleges. NCC needs to think of getting out of whalers and enterprise boats and induct Olympics or Asian games classes.

(c) HSG brought out that so far as the Naval training of NCC is concerned, the whaler is very integral to them because they have to be taught the naval way of sailing. The enterprise is there for pleasure and the sporting part of the sailing. The NCC organisation need to adopt an Olympic class boat as their standard and then that class must get sailed in their entire organisation.

(d) Lt Gen TSA Narayanan stated that we need to catch NCC cadets at very young age because sailing requires a very high level of discipline and that is already inculcated in the NCC youth, so it is very easy to train them into sailing. If we can catch them young from NCC and train them into our clubs, we will be able to get more youth.

(e) HSG brought out that 60 percent of the NCC is the junior wing. These are children in class 8,9,10. We need to catch them in their 7th or the 6th standard i.e. before they reach to class 9 or 10 where the studies become more critical. NCC provides absolute vast pool that can be tapped into.

(f) Mr Suheim Sheikh highlighted that in the past NCC was the member of YAI and they just faded out of the system after some point of time probably about 7-10 years ago. DGNCC was actually the member of YAI as an organisation. The NCC is widespread. HSG informed that NCC continues to be affiliated member of YAI. Mr Suheim Sheikh further elaborated that as the HSG has been in the NCC for four years, it makes a lot of sense that he probably spearhead the entire NCC venture. He expressed apprehension on whether NCC would be able to afford the Olympics class of boats, as the cheapest Olympic class of boat is laser class that's almost 8 to 10 lakhs. NCC buying the optimists could cost 1 or 2 lakhs each, but it's not easy to buy. The model adopted by EMESA has been working fine wherein they have been training around 60 kids of class 6th standard. He further suggested that the services of clubs like TNSA, RMYC and YCH could be utilised by NCC.

(g) Lt Gen TSA Narayanan brought out that the school students generally enter that sport which helps them in getting admissions into a good college for higher studies. We could explain to the students that it is very easy to enter nationals in sailing than entering nationals of other sports. In other sports one had to go from district level, state level then to national level. We could go and give speeches of encouragement in schools in order to attract more youth to the sailing.

(h) Lt Gen SK Shrivastava (Retd) brought out that Navy and Army have been authorised to purchase Enterprise Class of boats. It is time to approach the Ministry explaining the change of authorisation to Olympics class of boats as Enterprise is no more part of Olympics and Asian Games. Lt Gen TSA Narayanan stated that the NCC conducts an All India NCC yachting regatta every year at INS Chilka which

indicates that sailing as an event is present in the curriculum of NCC. We need to tap and promote that.

(j) Mr Ashok Thakkar highlighted that NCC is provided a separate budget under the youth welfare by every state. There is a need to train the NCC cadets young and make sure that they sustain efforts, which in turn will result in a large pool of sailors in future.

(k) Mr Suheim Sheikh suggested that NCC could shortlist cadets for sailing who can be brought to the YAI affiliated clubs for optimists training. Once they come to club everything is free of charge. The talented young cadets could then move to ABSC and NBSC where they would have a fantastic career, which is what YCH is doing with absolute civilians off the street, same thing can happen to the NCC.

(l) The President brought out that a High Level Expert Committee has been constituted on NCC. The expert committee is to submit its report by mid-Nov 21. **The HSG was directed to discuss the issue with DGNCC and arrange a meeting in President YAI office in order to pursue the matter expeditiously.**

(m) **Creation of Water Sports Facilities by Private Players.** Lt Gen SK Shrivastava (Retd) brought out that water sport is catching up in some select cities, especially with young couples and families. Places like Goa, Port Blair, Kodaikanal etc which have great tourist attraction, are best suited to be promoted in conjunction with private bodies. It will build interest in sailing if the person is given a taste of sailing along with a trained sailor as crew. Certificate courses can be started with basic (three days), Novice (two to three weeks), Crew (one month), sailor (three months) and Advance (up to a year). Certificates should have approval of YAI and recognition of Ministry of HR and Ministry of youth affairs and sports. The recognition is important for the students to get priority marks for admissions in colleges. There are many other good locations where the water bodies are available such as Pune, Bangalore, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Shillong etc. These cities have a large number of young Professionals (Millennia) staying who have the means and interest in adventure and sports. They must be tapped and encouraged. The facilities have to be created within a suitable turn around distance of six to seven hours. Hang gliding, Bungee jumping and skydiving, Para Sailing, water skiing etc becoming popular is a case in point. First objective is to develop knowledge and interest in this sport. All already scheduled events and races must be given due publicity in local and national media with the support of Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs. School children must get an invite to come and witness the races as well as get a free boat ride with some experienced sailors albeit with parents approval.

Discussion

(n) Lt Gen TSA Narayanan (Retd) stated that Private clubs exist for generating profit, it's not for supporting or sponsoring the game as such. It will be advisable for private entities to form an Association before affiliation. Private profit making organisations may come under the ambit of income tax issues. Mr Ashok Thakkar brought out that Corporates do not need to form Private Clubs, but they can support Private Clubs. The issue is also of legal aspect when including private Players in sports. He requested for a letter to be written formally to seek proposals from the Corporates on YAI letterhead.

(p) **The President directed that Mr Ashok Thakkar could write to Corporates on YAI letterhead seeking funding for YAI. The involvement of Private Players in running the sailing clubs and other sailing related facilities was not recommended.**

(q) **Organised Set up.** Lt Gen SK Shrivastava (Retd) brought out that the organised set up, already existing with defence forces as well as at many clubs, must be utilised to the fullest. Model adopted by Mr Suheim Sheikh can be emulated in which children from government run schools and underprivileged strata are given special support along with meal schemes of the government. Promising children can be enrolled in the PSUs and defence forces.

Discussion

(r) The President queried whether we can combine CSR from Pvt Players with Sports Company for sailing for the underprivileged children? Mr Suheim Sheikh stated that this is a brilliant idea, both the ABSC and NBSC could be funded by CSR activities of Pvt. Players. We have got 19 children as part of ABSC and NBSC who are picked up through advertisements. YCH picks up kids from underprivileged backgrounds and put them into training for two years and ABSC/ NBSC get trained kids probably medal winning through their induction process. He further suggested that why don't we enable EME to start the ABSC or artillery to start it. All the INWTCs start one NBSC each and EME is already doing it with NCC. It is evident that youth sailing is dominated by Trishna Sailing Club (ABSC), NBSC, YCH, NSS etc and promotion of sailing through organised set up of ABSC and NBSC is recommended. Lt Gen TSA Narayanan clarified on the issue of ABSC in Army. The complete detailing is done by the DCoAS who is in- charge of the sports, various corps and centres have been nominated for different sports. That's how the Engineers (MEG) has got Youth sailing and AYN Senior Sailing. The ABSCs started on our own initiative will not get Army finance.

(s) **The President stated that we could have a word with Army Headquarters, however, don't see any harm with our watermanship training centres starting the initiative.**

(t) **Associate with 'Save Our Rivers' Campaign.** Lt Gen SK Shrivastava (Retd) further highlighted that the most important and critical aspect for promotion of sailing is finances. Besides the government funds from state and central resources, promotional events need to be organized with support of corporate sector. Due to lack of visibility and interest in the sport in the country, getting sponsors is a daunting task. If this can be included as part of CSR activities for under privileged children, then funding can be arranged. Interaction with the Ministry officials, in view of the performance in Olympics by our sailors, should yield positive results. An event to sail down Ganges and Brahmaputra in conjunction with "Namami Gange" and "Save our Rivers" will be useful. It will bring visibility as well as funds. Even if we do this with 10-20 boats like one event probably it will make a huge difference in front of many ministries and probably even SAI.

Discussion

(u) The HSG supported the suggestion and stated that in the NCC every unit or directorate conducts a sailing expedition, if they are coastal state they do it in the coast or if they are the land locked state then they do it either down a river or within a water body or under a dam or something. We could combine this idea with NCC whaler and enterprise sailing. Our other clubs like NSS Bhopal or INWTCs could do combined sailing down the river, not everybody has to sail the entire 1000 km length. The President queried what are the outcomes we are looking at? Visibility or funding? The HSG stated that we are doing Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav events wherein, a whaler sailing expedition by NCC across the country with 75 boats is planned on 04 Dec 21. Also an Offshore race from Kochi to Goa is being conducted by Navy from 24-28 Oct 21. Both the events will provide the visibility to sailing as proposed. Gen Shrivastava elaborated that the proposal is not linked to CSR but related to getting the support of SAI and ministries who are supporting clean ganges or Namami Gange. Once we get visibility, people may understand what is sailing and may attract even CSR activity and funding. **HSG suggested to work out something tangible and come back with workable proposal in next 6 months.**

31. **Inputs from Lt Gen TSA Narayanan.**

(a) **Bringing up Sailing at Grass Root Level.** It was brought out that EMESA and LCAI have been focused in capturing talent at youth level and nurturing them to enhance their sailing skills. The sport of sailing requires popularity among the youths. Unlike other sports sailing is very less known to the youths. Sailing can be included into the curriculum of school so that the young lot gets initial exposure of this sport. Major clubs and state association should approach the agencies holding youth talent like NCC, Schools etc and pull in young talent and train them further. There is a necessity of separate infrastructure and training aids for the beginners. These may include sailing simulators, training with help of videos etc. It is recommended that sailing sports school should be proposed in every state which focuses only on youths involved in sailing.

Discussion

(b) Lt Gen TSA Narayanan stated that we have to catch the youth at school level and there is need to go and tell the schools that it is very easy to come up to national standard in sailing. The efforts required in sailing compared to national team of football etc are much different, it's much easier in sailing. Unless we catch the youth from school and tell them the advantage they will not get attracted. A series of lectures in various schools could be undertaken by clubs. We could go to the schools and highlight the advantage of sailing and encourage them to come to the clubs and teach them sailing. Involve NCC towards achievement of goal.

(c) **Extend full support to Yachtsmen.** Lt Gen TSA Narayanan brought out that Yachtsmen sponsored by SAI get full support from the country, however, there is a requirement of sending more number of sailors abroad to get exposure. Funding is the major issue which can be resolved by release of additional funds from SAI or we need to go in a big way for sponsorship. YAI should plan a central sponsorship like BCCI. To get international exposure, International events can be planned in India with more participation by our sailors. Coach for single handler and double handler should be hired separately.

Discussion

(d) Mr Suheim Sheikh reiterated that the coaches should be class based. Mr Ashok Thakkar brought out that it is more advantageous to conduct an international event in India. More Indian sailors will get opportunity to participate with the best International participants. This has other benefits like building up the relationship with the foreign countries. We get to know different coaches who become interested to come to India and coach. The only mistake we made in the past, even with the last coach Tomasz, was that certain commitments were given but not upheld by the ministry. The President queried how much will it cost to conduct an international regatta? Mr Ashok Thakkar stated that it used to cost around Rs 60 lakhs for the youth IIR at Chennai and the Govt of India gave some funding and rest was managed through corporate sponsorship. Now TNSA has been given a new place and we should revive IIR at Chennai.

(e) Lt Gen TSA Narayanan stated that in Indian events if we could give a good prize money, we will get participation of international players, however, the funding is the issue. Next year in Hyderabad Sailing Week if EMESA is permitted to name the event 'International', EMESA will increase the prize money that will attract international players. Mr Suheim Sheikh stated that as far as the EME event is concerned it's such a fabulous event all you need to do is call it international.

(f) The President queried whether we want sailors to sail in lakes or sail in sea? Mr Suheim Sheikh brought out that at Hyderabad we have seen three international events and one of the biggest problems in the Hyderabad is quality of water in the lake. Lt Gen TSA Narayanan stated that the advantage of the Hyderabad lake is that it is in the centre of the city and the event gets good visibility and advertisement value. An event conducted at sea can't be appreciated by general public due to lack of visibility and coverage. Mr Ashok Thakkar suggested to make Hyderabad International Event for the adult classes and Chennai one for youth classes as for the youth classes TNSA has been running the event for 10 years. Mr Suheim Sheikh suggested making the next Laser championship at Hyderabad International. Mr Ashok Thakkar brought out that to legally call an event international, you need to have the clearances from State Govt, Ministry of External Affairs, Home Affairs etc and it takes six months for clearance from various ministries and getting NOC. **The President directed that henceforth Hyderabad Sailing Week would be "The Hyderabad International Sailing Week" and EMESA to take it forward wrt clearance etc.**

(g) The President sought views of the Council Members on the issue of coaches for single handlers and double handlers. Mr Suheim Sheikh brought out that every class should have a separate coach, because it's very tough for 49er coach to teach the opti and the opti coach to teach the 470 and the 470 coach to teach the foilers. We absolutely need to have different coaches for each class and we have already advertised for the same and have got lot of resume. The foreign coaches could come in India and train the other Indian coaches which is also work in progress now. The AYN and Navy coaches got benefitted from Tomasz's presence as far as the 49er is concerned. Maj Gen MS Pillai suggested that the international coaches can come to Marve and train the opti coaches.

32. Inputs from Cdr Abhilash Tomy (Retd)

(a) **Relaxation to Clubs.** It was suggested to provide five years relaxation to the new clubs applying for affiliation from compliance of YAI regulations. Mr Atul Kulkarni agreed with the proposal towards broad basing of the sport. He stated that if we are looking at broad basing of the sport, there is a need to go to new locations and approach new people including State Govt. If these new clubs have to reach anywhere close to NSS, YCH, INWTC or Army clubs level, they will need additional time. As a council we can debate on this issue subsequently post discussions with the new clubs and also talk to the experts who have been in the profession for long and ascertain what is the reasonable time for the new clubs to come up to the level where we can possibly grant them full membership or allow them to contest for the election etc.

Discussion

(b) VAdm Ajit Kumar P (Retd) brought out that during his tenure as C-in-C West an exercise was undertaken to assess the capacity of INWTC Mumbai. It was found that the sailing club facilities were not being used in an optimising manner on every day of the week. A survey was done in schools around the South Mumbai and the response from the schools was good, wherein, we were looking at 6th-7th standard kids who could come and sail on one half of any working day, not on Sunday because the sea cadet corps utilisation. From there we could identify the children who could be enrolled as permanent members of INWTC and sail. In addition to the relaxation to be given to the new clubs, the existing infrastructure could be utilised to accommodate much more children to sail. Mr Malav Shroff stated that if Army and Navy infrastructure can be opened up for civilians in whatever manner with restrictions, it would help big time.

(c) **The President stated that the proposal needs to be studied in detail, he will write to the C-in-Cs as the issue of security would also be needed to be addressed.** There is a need to catch the kids early may be at 6th/ 7th standards. We can reduce the compliance requirements and give relaxations, so that the States can increase participation of sailors. YAI needs to identify the new locations for creating new clubs. Mr Ashok Thakkar raised the issue of auctioning of BER boats of Army/ Navy to civilian clubs. It will be of great help to clubs like YCH, TNSA or RMYC as they could get boats at a very low cost. The President stated that this has to be checked out as per the current accounting procedures.

(d) **Stowage of Boats.** It was proposed that private personnel be permitted to park and launch the boats from any of the YAI affiliated clubs. The President brought out that the parking and launching of the private boats had become an issue in INWTC Mumbai, because the people had just parked their boats and forgotten about it. The President stated that he is not inclined to accept the proposal of providing slipway or stowage facility to outsiders. Mr Ashok Thakkar also stated that it is not advisable to allow parking of boats from other clubs.

(e) **Social Media.** It was proposed to utilise social media effectively for publicity. The HSG brought out that YAI has YouTube channel, Instagram, Facebook and Twitter accounts that are being run by the YAI office. **The President directed to come up with a plan to better utilise Social Media.**

(f) **Funding.** The President queried how we have fared in fund raising in last 5-10 years. The HSG brought out that so far as funding is concerned in the last two years we have got funding only from PSUs like MDL and Goa Shipyard Limited. That was about 15 lakhs last year and 10 lakhs for this year. The President highlighted that the said amount has not come due to the effort of YAI Fundraising Committee and it cannot be considered as fund raising. The Treasurer brought out that YAI has hardly got any funds in last 3 to 4 years. Fundraising Committee has not even met once in last two and half years. Only when letters go from CNS to these PSU and DPSUs, we get some money that is also event related. **The President directed that lets work on the CSR and get some funds. Mr Ashok Thakkar can write to the Corporates on the YAI letter head.**

33. **Inputs from Mr Atul Kulkarni.** Mr Atul Kulkarni brought out that primarily the sport of sailing is limited to few coastal cities with significant presence of Naval establishments. Of late the new enrolment for Opties and then to higher classes has reduced significantly. No serious effort is being made to grant full membership to State Associations who can be the main vehicle to increase the entry level enrolment. Focus needs to be on developing/providing access to civilians to existing facilities, roping in Corporates/ Sports Enthusiast Individuals into the YAI System and decision making. He further stated that it has been a very tricky issue at YAI of 'Conflict of Interest'. With Civilians not just spending money but investing huge time of their wards and in certain cases of themselves, they want to be associated with the Administration. We need to be very transparent in this matter with well-defined policies. YAI Secretariat needs to remember that they are a support system both to the Council and to the athletes. The Council is supposed to deliberate on matters of importance at regular intervals rather than just tokenism of two meetings in a year. Most of the decisions that are to be taken by the Secretariat, for valid reasons the President have to endorse. The President need not be requested to look into operations matters. The Sub Committees need to be empowered and made accountable as well. On the issue of supporting the Athletes Mr Atul Kulkarni accepted that he has very little to say as he has not interacted with many athletes. Also his interaction has been somewhat superficial or based on secondary contacts. Personally he is keen to spend the next few months to see if we can form new State Associations and encourage setting up of clubs at new locations together with revival of a few dormant ones.

Discussion

(a) **State Supported Model more Useful.** The President stated that he is fine to write to the Chief Ministers, and quote the state supported Bhopal model for promoting the sport of sailing. Thereafter, the Council Members can follow it up. Mr Atul Kulkarni brought out that he has put four states on path and the papers have been submitted for registering the state associations with the support of the State Govt and various departments. We are trying to create a model where the sports youth development and tourism can come together and bring the required funds and identify the locations and the local state bodies can then help them create the infrastructure and the sport can be controlled by the Sports bodies.

(b) **Lt Gen TSA Narayanan disagreed with the proposal in Mr Kulkarni's presentation that the national championship should be held between the state associations. It is a fact that at the national championships, it is the clubs which are contributing the maximum and not the state associations. It will be incorrect to derive conclusion that clubs are not good for the sailing and only state associations are good for sailing. The sailing was started by the clubs like EMESA in 1964, so there is no question that the clubs are not good enough for**

promoting the sailing. The clubs have been promoting sailing for last forty, fifty years now. Mr Suheim Sheikh stated that a sailor need not represent the state associations, if somebody comes from an area which does not have a state association, they can still represent the state. It was done at monsoon regatta few years back and where we made press releases about sailor is from Tamil Nadu or from Jharkhand etc. The idea is not that they should represent state associations, but they could represent the state. Gen Narayanan stated that in case of AYN, Army is not a state. Because of such rules, the armed forces sports persons have been losing out. Mr Atul Kulkarni submitted that he is not saying that services are to be thrown out, YAI can have a rule saying that Army is a separate association by itself. Maj Gen MS Pillai (Retd) stated that in states, we have clubs which have been there for more than thirty years and some of those clubs could form the state association. The clubs which have got the depth of knowledge and talent to run an association could be forming part of the association of states. If any new state association is to be formed, it should be formed with the existing club, especially which is more than twenty years old.

(c) Mr Ashok Thakkar requested that like YAI has been given dispensation by MYAS, state federations like TNSA could be recognised with full rights even if we do not have required number of districts as members. The President highlighted that he had taken up the issue of 75% state affiliation and the minister has given us dispensation for the same.

(d) Mr Ashok Thakkar raised the issue of recognition of sailing certificates. States like Tamil Nadu are not recognising the certificates issued by Clubs even for Nationals. TN only recognises state based national events and provides quota for admissions in the colleges. He suggested that either we don't write the name of the club on certificate or we write the name of the club along with the state so that it benefits the sailor. In fact in respect of IIR, the state govt asked that is it an invitational event or is it a notified event by WS? Once the event is an invitational event, it does not qualify for the sports quota merit.

(e) **The President directed that the secretariat can study this and work out a model for certificates.** Mr Suheim Sheikh also highlighted the problem faced by sailors in Telangana wherein, the state admission office pointed out YCH is not affiliated to the Olympics Association of the state or the state association so YCH is just a club and we can't give the admission. The HSG brought out that NCC issues certificates (A/B/C). Certificate 'B' onwards are issued centrally by DG NCC. We can have a way of numbering certificates issued by YAI. Mr Ashok Thakkar informed that even today all the national and IIR etc certificates are being signed by HSG at YAI and the event organiser as a second signatory and the records are available. The Govt of Tamil Nadu has pointed out that YAI as a National federation may avoid use of the terminology 'open event', 'invitational event' or the 'selection trial'.

(f) Mr Suheim Sheikh suggested that overall state association should be largely a policy making body. The clubs could be affiliated to the state body but should be fielding sailors for competitions. **The President directed that Mr Ashok Thakkar could take on the issue of certificates and issue guidelines on how certificates are to be prepared and aspects to be avoided.**

34. Inputs from Mr Ashok Thakkar.

(a) Mr Ashok Thakkar brought out that we must distinguish between leisure sailing and competitive sailing, even though it is leisure sailing which brings in the money. We must get Optimist type boats built in India that need not be to exact class specifications but are made cheaply so that we can give access to these boats to a lot more sailors. The Clubs must own few class legal Optimists which are used for nationals. We must have club level coaching and the best from each club should then be sent to Nationals. For selection of the National Squad in the senior classes, each club must not depute more than two or three boats to ensure fair trials by ensuring that only sailors of acceptable standards participate, not to forget the safety risk they can cause by participating when not really ready, especially in open sea conditions.

(b) It was further stated that the cost of boats is the biggest challenge and we must ensure that we get the cheapest practical option to train the sailors, especially as they move from the Optimist class to subsequent classes. Even in developed countries it has been seen that at age 16 to 18 there is a huge attrition rate and proper transition pathway planning is key to keeping sailors in the sport. We may consider a boat like the 'Byte' which is similar to Laser but half the price, or we could build a boat very much similar like Laser in India for the masses. The best sailors can then move to the actual laser while others can opt out, as every sailor is not going to be a champion. Many leisure sailors can then emerge from here. Let each club decide on the numbers.

(c) Mr Ashok Thakkar suggested that the Class Associations must only focus on helping the clubs already established, in coaching the sailors in their respective classes. Both the Army and Navy have soldiers who after a certain age are not into competitive sailing, we can train them to become coaches for selected classes. These coaches can be rotated between all clubs. The Sports Ministry is very clear they are going to fund only adult competitive sailing and thus we must plan for a regular and well qualified coach. There are many options to choose from and normally we get the best immediately after the Olympics and should not let this opportunity pass by. These coaches are typically hired for longer duration by countries. Based on results, the agreement at the outset itself must assure a renewal if we are to attract coaches of quality. Further, coaching camps must be conducted at open sea locations and not in the Mumbai basin which sees high tidal variations daily. Only few months in Mumbai provide good sailing conditions. There is resistance for Chennai, Rishi Konda beach, Vizag could be recommended for camps.

Discussion

(d) Mr Suheim Sheikh brought out that the biggest problem what we face is not the number of boats, boats can always be bought. The problem we face is shortage of sailors, today the optimist fleet at the national level is forty sailors and we have around 110 boats in the country. The condition of boats is different issue but lots of

people have boats, the boats are never an issue, we can buy cheaper boats, but our problem is sailors. Mr Ashok Thakkar suggested that the competitive sailors who are moving out of competitive age from the army and navy could be spared and trained for coaching different class of boats. The President agreed with the suggestion. Maj Gen MS Pillai (Retd) brought out that amongst the coaches we have fair amount of talent both at Subedar and Officer levels who can impart knowledge to the sailors. We may grade the coaches to the club level coaches, the national level coaches and the international coaches.

(e) The President stated that at the grass root level, we should have a healthy mix of open sea and inland sailing for ranking. Mr Suheim Sheikh brought out that it's already a healthy balance, we have Marve, INWTC Mumbai, now Rameshwaram is coming up and we have KRS at Mysore. Mysore is one of the fantastic locations, it is equivalent to what we saw at Riva del Garda, Italy. The President stated that we should look at the venues for the Asian Games and Olympics and accordingly find venues in India which can replicate that and have most of our events in such venues so that people get used to the conditions likely to be faced. Maj Gen MS Pillai (Retd) emphasised that Marve is a wonderful venue with races conducted in the open sea. He complimented YAI for selecting Mysore as a location for ranking events, which also has the potential to host international events. **The President directed that we must find venues that closely replicate international events. Events must be planned accordingly.**

35. **Inputs from Mr Suheim Sheikh.**

(a) **Broadbasing.** It was brought out that a good age to start learning to sail is between 8-10 under the supervision of a good Coach who knows the Optimist and a few experienced Opti sailors. Our recent Olympians have proved the same as is the trend worldwide and the Optimist is the Boat to start on and we need heavy focus on the Optimist in terms of sheer numbers to improve our talent acquisition if we want to produce results on the long run.

(b) **Mobilise INWTCs, ABSCs and NBSCs.** There is need to increase the numbers of Army and Navy Boy Sports Schools. We need to convert all Army and Navy units like the EME, AYN, INWTCs into catchment clubs for young sailors with predefined physical characteristics of height, weight, fitness and talent. All the INWTCs need to buy a set of 10 Training Optimists and 05 IODA Hulls and Safety Vessels to start with. Optis are inexpensive. Optimist Sailors from across the country can drop by at these centres and train and a few could remain there to help take the program forward. Once we do this across 10-15 installations at low cost and prove the model even at 3-4 well set up centres we are good to take the program ahead.

(c) **Clubs and Associations ramp up.** Mr Suheim Sheikh suggested that there is need to start a carrot and stick approach for clubs and State associations to provide sailors to the National events if they want to retain voting rights. They can stay members but voting rights must come with participation.

Discussion

(d) Mr Ashok Thakkar brought out that long back this issue was raised and at that time YAI decision was taken that one club will have one vote irrespective of the number of sailors present in a particular club. TNSA has been non-functional since

last three years and has lost out on number of sailors. Mr Suheim Sheikh clarified that he has not implied it as proportional representation. The proposal is, if a club hasn't sent a sailor for a long period of time, then that club should not be part of the decision making process. **The President directed to maintain the status quo on the issue.**

(d) **Publicity Wing.** We need a top level publicity wing to provide our top performers adequate publicity. It was recommended that we appoint an inexpensive PR agency on a retainer basis and have them coordinate with the Secretariat and all clubs on a regular basis preferably a mid-sized committed agency that can do it on a CSR basis. The Navy, MoD and Army PR agencies could also be tapped with regular press releases.

(e) **Coaches Retention.** We need to find a way to retain the finest coaching talent and treat our coaches well. We have had too many mishaps with coaches. We need to investigate why that happened with Bunny Warren and Tomasz Januszewsky and ensure that we do not repeat those mistakes and bring them back into the fold given their popularity and commitment and performance in their respective classes.

(f) **Focus on Sailors.** Mr Suheim Sheikh stated that we need to make our top sailors secure and comfortable that the YAI is supporting them to the hilt. There appears to be a trust gap and that needs to be bridged as we all are aware all their needs have always been addressed. A meeting with all the top sailors may be addressed directly by the President clearly establishing the YAI track record and support provided across years and its commitment to their cause and well-being. We need to retain a top level physiotherapist, Mental health psychotherapist and a top Sailing based fitness consultant and a Nutritionist. Most of this work can be done online. The President agreed to the suggestion of meeting the sailors online on 28 Oct 21 or any other convenient date as the sailors are all disbursed due to various International events lined up.

Discussion

(g) The President agreed on the issue of nutritionist and physiotherapist etc and directed HSG to look into the issue. The HSG brought out that in his recent visit to Bhopal, he was introduced to the NSS sailing facilities and the MP govt has put in a fantastic system of sports medicine specialists, psychologist, nutritionist etc. Probably we could tap NSS Bhopal to help us out in this to start with. Lt Gen SK Shrivastava (Retd) further added that SAI has set up similar facility in Safdurjung hospital, which is quite advanced and they are further expanding it in Indira Gandhi Indore Stadium, probably a word through SAI would be able to get us the facility in Delhi.

(h) Mr Suheim Sheikh suggested that 'YAI' should be prefixed in the titles of all domestic events. He further proposed to provide 50% fee concession for females to encourage the participation in sailing events. **The President approved this proposal.**

36. **Proposal from Maj Gen MS Pillai (Retd).** NOAI suggests a foreign Optimist Coach be got to India in Feb/ Mar 2022, to train ten Indian Optimist Coaches, on fundamentals of coaching. NOAI will maintain a database of these coaches. This needs inclusion in the ACTC of next year. He further brought out that there is a lot of resistance

to Para dropping coaches' at international events in the last moment. The issue has been deliberated in youth classes committee and it has been recommended that we engage the Thailand girl as coach, who has been Asian and world champion. Mr Suheim Sheikh stated that SPDC is looking at coaches coming in January to India and we will bring in as many coaches as possible who can come in January and February for a planned coaching camp.

37. **Presentation by Mr Atul Kulkarni.** A presentation was shown by Mr Atul Kulkarni on the subject 'Sports Diplomacy/ Neighbourhood Engagement on Water'.

Discussion

38. The President queried whether everybody has gone through the presentation? The President stated that he is in favour of the proposal and would like Council Members to provide a feedback on how do we make it work. The HSG suggested that we take it forward with IONS, we have already held the Admirals Cup. The President stated that IONS has Pakistan who will oppose the proposal. He brought out that there is Goa Maritime Conclave where about ten neighbourhood countries, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Srilanka, Maldives, Seychelles will be participating and the proposal can be discussed. The HSG brought out that the first step has already been taken at the initiative of the Hon'ble Prime Minister as we are having the first BIMSTEC youth water sports event at Bhopal in Nov 21. **The President directed to circulate the presentation to the Council Members and finalise views and thereafter the proposals can be progressed.**

39. **Selection Policy for Asian Games.**

(a) The HSG brought out that we have spent considerable time and efforts to revise policies and comments of all Stakeholders were sought from time to time on the drafts. First draft was forwarded in Sep 20 and thereafter total of four drafts were promulgated to sailing fraternity prior promulgating approved policies wef 01 Jan 2021. No complaints, comments or suggestions have been received on policies till completion of YAI Senior Nationals in Oct 21. Suddenly after being in force for 10 months, now everything in the policies is looking flawed.

Discussion

(b) The President asked Mr Malav Shroff to state his views on the policies. Mr Malav Shroff stated that he would not like to comment on the direct accusations that everything is now looking flawed. Policies have been written but they have not been followed. In the last council meeting minutes Para 91 is very clear where he had suggested to dismiss the policies and it is again repeated the selection trials should not have been held. When the policy says trials to be done twelve months before, he had told the Council in June 21 not to conduct the trials. He further brought out how will YAI implement the policy when the Asian Championship during covid may not happen or happen with restricted entry, how can we have selection trials. He suggested that if there are changes to be made in the policies, don't take it as criticism, and take positive feedback from sailors. We may even start afresh by amending the selection policies of Asian games, We may have only two trials going forward may be in Jan, Mar or May 2022, that will be enough because there are only three clubs into the frames of Asian Games. The entire team is going to be

from AYN, Bhopal and TNSA, and these three clubs can sit together and draft the new policies.

(c) The President stated that the members should not get caught up in small ego issues and mind their language, treat everybody with respect and listen to everyone. Mr Malav Shroff further stated that the aim is to get medals in Asian Games. For that we may amend the policies as the time has changed, covid has changed things and therefore we can sit with the three clubs and re draft the policies, there should not be any issue. Lt Gen TSA Narayanan objected to why only three clubs, why not other clubs? It is not that always these three clubs will supply the top sailors and others clubs have got as important stake as these three clubs. Mr Suheim Sheikh stated that as far as Asian Championship is concerned, is Mr Malav Shroff pretty much confirming that it is probably not going to be held, however, the clause in the policy is very clear and it says 'if the Asian Championships are held'. The HSG stated that when these policies were made we had taken every stakeholder onboard.

(d) Maj Gen MS Pillai (Retd) brought out that we are poised at the best medal tally that India can get at Asian Games. He suggested to form a fast track YAI committee to look at all the issues of boats, policies etc and have the clubs which Mr Malav Shroff mentioned incorporated under Vice President. Mr Suheim Sheikh categorically brought out that policies are the contract between YAI and the competitors as much as the NOR for atleast the Asian Games, Olympics cycle that is about two years. It is the trust between YAI and the competitors. Changing the policy is breaking that trust. If you change the policy it will benefit some, it may not benefit some and you are asking for a lot of trouble. Whatever be the wisdom of the council, some sailors will be impacted after the change of the policy. You cannot change the policy after the trials have started. We had a policy everybody has been consulted, everybody was given enough time, it's been on the website since Jan 21, it is inadvisable to muddle with a policy which exists, there are reasons for a policy to be introduced months in advance, any changes if required must have been incorporated before start of the first event which is going to qualify sailors. Since no comments were received after promulgation of the policy, once the first event was held, it should be sealed and not be touched.

(e) Mr Ashok Thakkar stated that he is not asking for the change to the policy, but is requesting to adhere to the policy. The policy said twelve months before, we have conducted an event fourteen months before, and that is what Mr Malav Shroff is trying to say. Mr Malav Shroff stated that HSG brushed off his point of postponing the events and not conducting trials mentioned in the last council meeting. The President clarified to Mr Malav Shroff on Para 91 of the minutes of last Council Meeting that he has read it and after that there is Para 92 where the President directed to go ahead and try and hold events on dates as planned due to uncertainty of likely Covid third wave. Mr Malav Shroff further stated that we may have sailors objecting to this policy issue in future and it will not hold in the court of law.

(f) Mr Suheim Sheikh brought out that the NORs for the events were floated, everybody was aware of this and any kind of objections should have come long back. Lt Gen TSA Narayanan highlighted that all objections should have been raised after the NOR has been floated, not after the races have finished. **The President stated that we will face it as and when there is any objection and**

directed that we must follow the policies and should not try to deviate from them.

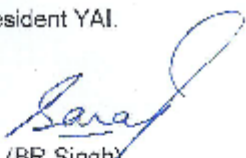
Item No. VII - Any Other Point

40. **Point from HSG.** It has been brought to the notice that GL Yadav of NSS Bhopal has split the 10er FX team of Ekta Yadav/ Harshita Tomar without permission of the YAI. This is brought to the notice of the Council that this split has been done with less than one month for the Asian and World Championships scheduled in Nov 21. We need to take explanation from the club or the coach as to why this was done without the knowledge of YAI, when we were seeking approval of SAI to send the top team for the events.

Discussion

41. Mr Malav Shroff brought out that the split is good for Indian sailing and for better medal prospects, we should not discuss it. This is a much better split for girls, it increases the medal chances, the initial combination was flawed, it wouldn't have worked, it was not good for the long term sailing. Mr Ashok Thakkar stated that the sailors know what is best for them and we must support them. Mr Suheim Sheikh brought out that there is a policy angle to this, Harshita is a fantastic sailor and Shweta is a proven sailor but the double handed team change policy states that any change with respect to the team must be submitted by the sailors through respective club to YAI in writing for the approval of YAI selection committee and if the partnership of the double handed boat splits up helm as well as the crew will carry half the previous ranking points. However, the new team will not be deputed for international event till date they prove themselves subsequent at domestic ranking events and retain their ranking or if they participate at own cost at an international event where the Indian team also participates and retain the ranking related to other Indian participants as they were participating in domestic event. Maj Gen MS Pillai (Retd) stated that the sailors know what is best for them. **The President directed that let us support the new teams in whatever way we can.** VAdm AK Jain supported the point to back the teams with medal winning combination and also suggested that YAI should catch the kids young as that is good for us at grass root level training. Ms Nilma Shah agreed with the last point that let the sailors take their own call, as they know it best.

42. These minutes are issued with the approval of the President YAI.


(BR Singh)
Commodore
Hon Secretary General
15 Dec 21