

## **WHAT IS SAS AND WHAT DO THEY DO FOR ME?**

There is a great deal of misunderstanding amongst the sailing community regarding the role of SA Sailing (SAS) and how it affects the average sailor in South Africa.

The government of South Africa, through the Department of Sport and Recreation (SRSA) and South African Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee (SASCOC) recognise only one federation to represent each sporting code in the country South African Sailing is the recognised National Federation representing the interests of Sailing in all its forms in South Africa.

While SAS does organise regattas and their associated administration (it represents South Africa at ISAF, provides stewardship of the International Racing Rules that allow us to race here) it has a far more important and unrecognised role of administering sailing at the discretion of Government.

SAS is structured in such a way as to ensure that the interests of all its members are addressed and that everyone is able to make representation and be heard through the regional structures – the Regional Executive Committees, their sub committees, e.g. Dinghy Committee; Keelboat Committee; Youth etc, which in turn are entitled to be represented on each of the National Standing Committees and Council.

The National Committees and their areas of concern are:

### **INLAND AND OFFSHORE**

- Negotiation and Liaison with:

- National Ports Authority
- SAMSA
  - Preparation of Syllabi
  - Represent sailor requirements
- Department of Transport
- Small Vessel Regulations Offshore and Inland
  - Certificates of Competence (Skippers Tickets)
  - Appointment of Examiners / Surveyors
  - Certificates of Fitness
  - Boat registrations / Listings
- Safety at Sea

## **OFFSHORE**

- **Oceanic**
  - Communications
  - Blue water Racing / Cruising
  - IRC / Handicapping/Rating
- Sailing Schools

The Department of Transport (DoT) amongst its other functions is responsible for the enactment of the Merchant Shipping Act that from the yachtsmen's viewpoint legislates for the use of small craft both inland and offshore.

The control and administration of this Act as applicable to yachtsmen is today vested in SAMSA who have appointed SAS as an agency to perform many of these tasks on their behalf. The Merchant Shipping Act continues to be amended and of particular importance to yachtsmen and other small craft users is the Merchant Shipping Small

Vessels Safety Regulations implemented in March 2009. SAS had a major role to play in the initial drafting of these new regulations.

The new regulations have placed an increased burden on SAS and through it to the Yacht Clubs to meet the new safety criterion. For example, all boats with a length in excess of 9m and / or with an engine capacity exceeding 15hp need to be surveyed for fitness, there will be annual safety checks of all small craft requiring the issue of certificates, and for those operating such vessels, certificates of fitness are now a necessity.

SAS has recently invested in a rating system for keelboats, which event organisers will be able to utilise. This measurement based system will assist in removing uncertainty and will go a long way to reducing the dissatisfaction amongst sailors caused by the "human element" of current handicapping systems. It must be said that this new system is in no way meant to replace or undermine the importance of the IRC as a recognised class, but rather to encourage non IRC members to participate in events.

## **MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS**

SAS sees its responsibility to its members under this portfolio as:

- Communications
- Advertising & Promotions
- Service Delivery
- Identity
- Management of Perceptions
- Feedback
- Branding of the sport and events

- Representation at Functions / Events
- Funding and Sponsorship

Sailing as a sport needs to be more visible to the community at large. The clubs and classes organise and host events of international, national and local interest. These events are ideal opportunities to advertise the sport. We have amazing sailing waters along our coastline and inland – we aim to become a premier sailing venue in the world. This can be done if we improve our profile and actively and professionally market sailing.

South Africa has a boating industry with a growing reputation throughout the world. This organisation recognizes the need to assist this aspect of our sport to develop and succeed. With locally produced boats, sails and equipment the costs of sailing can be brought within reach of the average sailor. We must also not forget the retail stockist, who plays an important role in making these products accessible to the sailor.

SAS has an internet server on which any affiliated club or accredited class association may host their own website, advertise their clubs and facilities, promote events etc at no cost to themselves or their members.

### **HI-PERFORMANCE (Including the South African Sailing Academy)**

The responsibilities of SAS towards this aspect of our sport include:

1. Identification of talent
2. Nurturing of the identified talent
  - a. Coaching

- b. Health and Fitness
  - c. Psychological preparation and development
  - d. Defining of classes and events for preparation
- 3. Financial Assistance
- 4. Team and athlete Management
- 5. Logistics
  - a. Entries
  - b. Flights
  - c. Insurance
  - d. Equipment
  - e. Accommodation
- 1. Sports Science
- 2. Doping Control and awareness (SAS subscribes to the ethos and principles of SAIDS and WADA.
- 3. Liaison and fulfilling requirements of SASCOC, SRSA, ISAF, IOC.

### **Sailing Development**

- Assistance to and coordination of coaching at Clubs
  - Coach Development
  - Risk assessment and avoidance implementation
  - Policy implementation
- Sailing Schools
  - Preparation of Syllabi
  - Manuals
  - Instructors
  - Accommodation
  - Venues
- Marketing and Promotion

- Recruitment (esp. through involvement with schools, school sports and even
- Seminars
- Media
- Training and accreditation of event officials
- Training and grading of coaches
- Training, classification and grading of sailors
- Liaison with government departments and NGO's
- Collection & distribution of available funding
- Database of recruits and development programmes
- Promotion of safety and awareness

Like other sports and organised recreational activities, there are requirements from the Department of Sport and Recreation South Africa (SRSA) that sailing implements development programs to involve the previously disadvantaged members of our community. Whilst it may be seen as unrealistic demands being made on the sport, it should rather be seen for what it really is – an essential element to ensure the growth of our sport.

Whilst "development" is a "buzz" word, SAS recognizes the need to develop the sport amongst all population groups, ages and genders. Sailing is a sport in which everyone is able to participate, regardless of age, sex, race, physical or mental disabilities. The clubs and classes have a major role to play as their future depends on the introduction of sailing to all these potential participants in the sport.

The creation of the South African Sailing Academy has brought an added impetus to the formulation of a structured approach to the "learning" aspects of sailing, its administration and technical officiating.

Already a number of courses have been designed and implemented and SAS is working very closely with SRSA to have these accredited in terms of the requirements of the SAQA, which will enable participants to have their efforts formally recognised as qualifications.

### **SAILING MANAGEMENT**

- Racing Rules
- Appeals and review
- Race Officers - Judges
  - Setting of Standards
  - Classification
  - Qualification
  - Appointment
- Event Management
  - Standards
  - Logistics
- Handicaps and Ratings
- Technical
  - Measurers
- Sanctioning of Events
  - Ensure compliance with government requirements for participation in International Events.
  - Make application to government for permission to host events with International participation.
  - Setting and Maintenance of standards for National Events
- Event Safety
- Administration of and setting qualification criteria for Sailing Awards

- Class Association Recognition
- Club Affiliation

## **FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

1. Financial – Systems & Reporting
  - a. Budgets
  - b. Financial Statements
  - c. Class Administration
2. Secretarial support to standing committees and Council
3. Statistics
  - a. Government Returns
  - b. Affiliated Bodies
4. Boat Registrations
5. Ratings and Handicap Administration
6. Issuing and recording of certificates of fitness
7. Event Management
  - a. Training – Manuals (Control & Distribution)
  - b. Results – Compilation
  - c. Membership
  - d. Class Administration
  - e. Revenue
8. Staff and Office Management
9. Maintenance of Database of Members, boats etc.

## **So where do I fit in?**

It is extremely important to remember that you the sailor are SAS.

There are many people who give of their time and their talents in an effort to make sailing a better sport for you the sailor. The members of committees, from Council, the standing committees, the regional structures, your very own club committees and class organisers do what they do in the interests of sailing. Before voicing criticism, you are urged to remember that each one of them

- pays the same club subs as you,
- pays the same class fees as you in order to sail their boats,
- pays the same SAS fees as you,
- steals time from their employers or their business to do work for sailing,
- gets less opportunity to spend time on the water than you

and would really like your help to improve the sport.

With the support and assistance of more of its members, no matter how small, SAS could do much more.

The next time you feel unhappy about something that is happening in your sailing world, be it at your club, within your class, within your region or within your national structures, please do not complain about it, do something about it. Get involved and help!