

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP LASER 4.7

6 – 14 July, 2011 Netherlands

420 boats

280 boys – 130 girls – 29 countries

SUGGESTIONS / REMARKS ORGANISATION EC LASER 4.7

ILCA	International Laser Class Association
LON	Laserklasse Organisatie Nederland (Dutch Laser Class Organisation)
SELK	Stichting Evenementen Laser Klasse (Foundation Laser Class Events)
	Foundation is set up by LON to organise (international) Laser Class Events
	SELK: contract party with ILCA and therefore the Organisers of the Event

Tender :

November 2008: EC Laser 4.7 is appointed to the Netherlands. Date: end of July

June 2010: ILCA informed the Organizers of the EC Laser 4.7 that the EC has to be organised from 8 – 15 July 2011, due to the fact that the Worlds 4.7 have been appointed to San Francisco at the end of July.

The LON was not amused by this announcement and filed a strong protest against this behavior from ILCA as school holidays in The Netherlands begin one week later and most of the sailors had to be at school during the new appointed week. Besides because of the same reason it was also very difficult to find volunteers.

Point of improvement: better management with regard to appointing dates for EC's and Worlds. It should be impossible that ILCA overrules already agreed dates for the organization of a WC or EC. The dates set in the bid book by the country that offers to organize a WC or EC should be respected at all times. There are valid reasons in the offer from a proposing country. This includes the given dates and number of participants.

Agreement and requirements:

Agreement between ILCA and SELK: signed November 2010

With this agreement the ILCA appoints SELK as the Organizer of the 2011 EC Laser 4.7

Purpose of the agreement: 6.2.: *To ensure a united approach between the Parties to ensure the successful operation, promotion, conduct and management of the Championship.*

With regard to the above:

Agreement (contract) signed between ILCA and SELK (the Organisers). This means that the Organisers are responsible for the overall (including everything with regard to on shore activities and race management both on shore and on the water) organization of the event as well as for the financial responsibilities.

In the view of SELK all communication about the EC should be between these 2 parties. However, ILCA communicated about the event and items to be organized such as the number of participants and the NOR with a sub-contractor of SELK, namely the Zeilvereniging Workum.

E.g.: sailing instructions: SELK received these on a very late stage full of mistakes – important items were missing or wrongly mentioned (eg colours bands etc). Also name of organizers of the EC were not correctly mentioned.

Website: via a subcontractor SELK was informed that the ILCA representative had made some remarks about missing items on the website (Note: mentioned missing items were mentioned and available on the website, and thus the ILCA rep. made a false statement to a third party about the organization without addressing the contract partner).

Even during the EC the ILCA communicated with a subcontractor, although SELK was the organizer and although it involved typical organizational matters (website).

SELK informed by e-mail the involved ILCA persons (Laszlo / Jeff Martin) that, if there were any remarks, the Organisers (SELK) should be contacted and not one of the subcontractors.

A subcontractor of SELK received a plaque from ILCA during the prize giving ceremony. This is fine with SELK of course, however it seems a bit strange that the organizers never received a plaque, a thank you note (or a not well organized note) or what so ever.

It is very annoying to notice that the ILCA does not know how to act correctly to a contract party.

Agreement remarks:

Entry Fee: 210 EUR per sailor

To ILCA:

28.75 EUR per entry for administration and entry processing

This fee seems to be very high, as registration for the event has to be made via internet

5.25 EUR (2,5% of fee) per entry for bank and credit card charges: seems to be too high these days

35.30 EUR per entry for prizes and officials travelcost including jury, measurers and ISAF Race managers

In total: 140,70 EUR per competitor to host / 69.30 EUR per competitor to ILCA

Point of improvement: the balance is totally out of order. It is impossible to organize an event taking into account all obligations as stated in the ILCA requirements for the organization of a EC.

Suggestion: The balance should be reviewed and/or ILCA should at least accept all the costs for Jury, ILCA measurer and ILCA representative (Hotel costs for these persons alone were approx € 7000,--)

Requirement remarks:

Deliverables seems to be a bit an "overkill" (number of toilets needed etc). It strucked the SELK that quite a lot of deliverables were never met by former EC 4.7 organisers. However, the deliverables can be read as a handy draft for the organization.

SELK suggests that the mentioned requirements of dressing rooms with lockers will be skipped from the appendix 2 (Competitors Village – 7). SELK had set up a dressing room and rented 100 lockers.

Use of dressing room and / or lockers: by no one! A waist of money for the Organizers.(€ 3000,--)

Suggestion: review the requirements and deliverables.

Registration sailors

Maximum number of sailors agreed upon in November 2010: 420 sailors

Request of Organizers to raise this number was denied by ILCA. Reasons:

- negative decision by Zeilvereniging Workum

Zeilvereniging Workum declared at a later stage that it was not a decision but an advise

- statistics : ILCA (Laszlo) presented a reasoning for not accepting more participants with statistics, that could only prove that these statistics did not prove anything and were certainly no proof for the given risk of loss of quality. The given statistics did only prove that the 2011 EC Laser 4.7 was the best event with the most participants for a Laser 4.7 event ever!

Suggestion: make a clear proposal how to decide on the maximum number of participants. It should be taken into account that in most countries it will be impossible to organize a EC with only a small number of participants within the given financial possibilities.

Administration

Documents needed for registration: responsibility of ILCA office, but appeared chaotic, were sent to the Organisers at very late state and not complete.

First batch of documents received in time:

- entry forms at random and not in the same sequence as mentioned in entry list

All forms needed to be sorted out by country / sail no by Organisation

- parental consent forms This was a total mess, many not completed forms and even many forms belonging to another event! This took a lot of time again to sort this out, while the ILCA office should provide the organizers with the correct papers. The ILCA is well paid to do this job! The excuse was that the ILCA office was very busy, but this is not acceptable.

Second batch of documents: to be asked for several times:

- we asked for forms which had not been sent with the first batch such as the missing parental consent forms. We received again all forms (the ones sent earlier and new forms. Result: everything had to be sorted out again!).

Parental consent forms: about 30 forms were missing at the start of the event. A list with names of missing parental consents had to be sent to ILCA.

Suggestion: improve the administration at the ILCA office.

Measurement

We received a proposal for the way measurement should be conducted by the ILCA measurer.

The organization has much experience with the measurement of large number of boats and did not fully agree with the ILCA proposal. It appeared to be impossible to have a discussion about this proposal.

The ILCA proposal indicated a time scheme, where the participants should be ready for measurement by country. This meant, that when a country had not yet arrived, there were no sailors to be measured and the whole measure team of volunteers had nothing to do, while other teams were present and could easily come in for measurement, but did not come as they were scheduled for another moment or day.

Thus you have the risk of much stress on the last day of measurement, when a lot of late arrival teams had still to be measured. In practice this misjudgment by the ILCA measurer was corrected and the organization called in all sailors that were present for measurement. This went very relaxed and smooth and to the total happiness of the ILCA measurer.

Suggestion: review ILCA measurement procedures.

On site Organisation

Preparations: regatta and launching area / information desk / marquee / catering / press and website / car parking / rib parking / pick up from airport (jury members, measurer) / notice boards etc: all set up by volunteers of the Organisation (SELK).

Also preparations made for Track and Trace by the Organisers.

Track and Trace is very well known with the Organisers of the EC, as they have used this several times before during the Open Dutch Championships (8 classes), which they organise every year for more than 800 boats (more than 900 sailors).

It was astonishing to notice that quite a few ILCA reps were not accustomed to a T&T system (This is the future!). A large number of coaches were delighted with the T&T and used it intensively to evaluate the races with their team.

Organisation went well and smoothly. Friendly atmosphere.

Area could have accommodated more than 420 boats. We strongly advised ILCA to accept 450 participants, but ILCA refused based on false reasoning's that are not in the Requirements.

These Requirements even mention deliverables for up to 650 participants.

Communication

Communication ILCA – Organisers: poor (see remarks above)

ILCA denied the agreement between ILCA and SELK: questions / remarks etc were sent to a subcontractor of SELK or even discussed with a single person chosen by ILCA without consulting SELK.

SELK was not informed about the name of the ILCA representative and his / her consignment – even an email with a request for the name was not answered by ILCA.

The ILCA rep (which later appeared to be Laszlo Matthias) informed the Organizers that he was very pleased and satisfied with the organization of the event.

The ILCA rep did send daily reports during the event to the ILCA about the event – the Organizers never received a copy with his remarks (even not after the event) – open and fair communication?

The Organisers did not hear anything from ILCA after the event

Suggestion: Strongly improve your way of communication

CONCLUSION.

Suggestions to ILCA:

- make good use of the (local) knowledge within the organizing organization
- respect your contract partner and be aware with whom you communicate
- open and fair communication is highly recommended: don't invent reasoning's based on arguments that are not present in the official ILCA Requirements for the organization of a EC and don't use not relevant statistics to make a point and discuss with the contract partner only.
- visit the regatta area and ask for a CV of the OC before the EC takes place, so you are well aware about the possibilities of the area and the experiences of the Organizers
- Show your respect for the knowledge of the Organization for the organization of the event.
- prepare the right statistics about no of sailors participating per event in relation to the quality of the event and participating sailors – Take into account other valid items on the choice of the number of participants, such as the promotional impact of the event for the class, certainly when you deal with the Laser 4.7.
- optimize your administration (registration documents and preparation of the NOR)
- administration costs ILCA are out of proportion (are disproportional)
- skip out unnecessary requirements: dressing rooms and lockers
- review measurement procedure
- review the financial cost division: ILCA should take all cost for jury, measurer and ILCA representative
- Have the ILCA representative sent his daily report also to the organizers and/or share his findings directly on a daily basis with the contract partner. This improves the two way open communication.
- be polite and send a thank you note to the Organisers