

SUBMISSION

TO

ISAF

BY

**SNIPE CLASS INTERNATIONAL RACING ASSOCIATION
(SCIRA)**

REQUESTING SELECTION OF THE

SNIPE

AS EQUIPMENT FOR THE

WOMEN'S DINGHY EVENT

IN THE

2008 OLYMPICS

IN

BEIJING, CHINA

March 12, 2004

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The SNIPE is a 15-1/2 foot (4.7 meters), 2 person, one-design racing dinghy with a rich history. The SNIPE has evolved into a modern, tactical racing dinghy with fleets around the world. Although the SNIPE CLASS has some of the best competition in the world, the CLASS has not lost sight of the importance of the social aspects of our sport. The essence of the CLASS is summed up by its motto: Serious Sailing, Serious Fun.®

Designed by William Crosby in 1931, the SNIPE plans were first published in Rudder Magazine. The SNIPE was originally designed to be built out of wood planks of 16 feet length. Modern construction techniques, including fiberglass, have been fully implemented in SNIPES since 1964. Over 30,000 SNIPES have been built in 73 years.

Competition in SNIPES grew rapidly on a local level and exploded at the international level. The first World Championship was held in 1934. The first World Championship outside the US was held in Switzerland in 1947. Bob and Betty White (first woman World Champion) of Balboa, California won the Worlds in 1945 in Chicago. The SNIPE CLASS has World Championships (qualification is required and women are treated equally) every odd year in different regions of the world on a rotating basis. During the even years, there are hemisphere championships, which qualify the winners for the Worlds. Women, Master, and Junior championships are also held in alternating years. In the 2003 Worlds, there were 57 competitors representing 19 countries.

The CLASS Constitution was approved and ratified in 1932, and except for revisions duly debated and approved by the Board for modernization, the Constitution has provided stability and it remains the rock upon which SNIPE sailing has its foundation. Measurement is strictly enforced at all levels of racing: International, Regional, and local. A Commodore (President) with a one-year term (previously serves on the Board for two years) and a Board of Directors that has term limits lead the CLASS. The International SNIPE CLASS has a paid Executive Director. A National Secretary leads each country and a Fleet Captain leads each fleet. The current Rule Book shows 4 female National Secretaries, 2 female members of the Board of Governors, and 1 female member of the Rules Committee.

Women in Snipes are very active. Women have had their own World Championship with the following description and competitors in recent years:

Roy Yamaguchi Memorial Trophy

Emblematic of: Women's World Championship

Donated by: SCIRA Japan in 1994

Awarded to: Winning skipper and her crew

Open to: Any SCIRA women members in good standing from anywhere in the world. Boats, skippers, crews shall be current in the year with SCIRA.

Regatta Conditions: "Rules for Conducting National and International Regattas"

1. Held every 2 years in even numbered years
2. Nine or eleven races, depending on local conditions, of the official SCIRA courses published in the current Rulebook or the SCIRA Official Web Site (www.snipe.org). Races shall be managed to last approximately 60-75 minutes. A different time used to complete the race will not be grounds for protest. If six to eight races are

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completed, the worst race shall be dropped, including a disqualification, if allowed by the SCIRA Official Scoring System. If nine to eleven races are completed, the worst race shall be dropped, including a disqualification, if allowed by the SCIRA Official Scoring System. If five or fewer races are completed, all shall be counted.

3. Three races shall constitute a regatta.
4. No races to be started if wind velocity exceeds 18 knots prior to preparatory signal.
5. The regatta venue shall be approved at a National Secretaries meeting
6. Skippers may choose to use their own boats. However, the regatta-organizing country shall attempt to provide boats for those who represent countries where shipping their boats is difficult. In case of charter/loan boats, skippers may use the sail number of her boat. Charter/loan boats and her boat shall be current in the year with SCIRA.

The following list summarizes the top 5 finishers, the number of national, and the number of starters at the Women's World Championships since 1994.

Yokohama, Japan, August 11-15, 1994

Pauline Book and Carine Juliussen, Norway
Mika Shirai and Chisato Isogai, Japan
Yumiko Ito and Yukari Morishita, Japan
Mika Tsuchiya and Nana Sudo, Japan
Mary Bridgen Snow and Jerelyn Biehl, USA
5 nations and 55 starters

Mar Menor, Spain, September 8-11, 1996

Pauline Book and Carine Juliussen, Norway
Lisa Foulke Pline and Sherry Eldridge, USA
Marina and Marisa Sanchez, Spain
Mary Bridgen Snow and Jerelyn Biehl, USA
Sveta Maluok and Sveta Krestjashina, Russia
9 nations and 23 starters

Annapolis, Maryland, USA, October 3-7, 1998

Ekaterina Skoudina and Tatiana Lartseva, Russia
Pam Kelly and Michele Bustamante, USA
Jennifer Lovell and Molly Alexander, USA
Carol Newman Cronin and Jerelyn Biehl, USA
Lisa Foulke Pline and Sherry Eldridge, USA
10 nations and 31 starters

Trieste, Italy, August 28-September 3, 2000

Karianne Eikeland and Janett Krefting, Norway
Muneko Nakamura and Miho Yoshioka, Japan
Marcela Domato and Cecilia Granucci, Argentina
Kimie Isobe and Yoshimi Matsuura, Japan
Carol Cronin and Jerelyn Biehl, USA
10 nations and 30 starters

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St. Petersburg, Florida, USA, October 15-19, 2002
Carolyn Brown Krebs and Julie Redler, USA
Karianne Eikeland and Janett Krefting, Norway
Bridget Hallawell and Shelly Suarez, USA
Andrea Foglia and Mariana Foglia, Uruguay
Carol Cronin and Kate Fears, USA
8 nations and 26 starters

Women sail the SNIPE in many countries. The following list indicates the number of women per country as of the winter 2003-2004:

	<i>Total</i>
Argentina	3
Bahamas	1
Belgium	5
Belarus	2
Brazil	15
Canada	5
Chile	6
Colombia	13
Denmark	3
Spain	31
Finland	5
France	22
Great Britain	5
Germany	2
Italy	58
Japan	129
Norway	28
Poland	5
Portugal	9
Russia	29
Sweden	11
Ukraine	3
Uruguay	7
United States	137
Total	534

Women SNIPE sailors have been successful in many open regattas. For example, Bibi Juetz of Brazil won the 1988 Worlds Master OPEN Championship held in Cordoba, Argentina, against 35 entries, including men.

Mixed teams have also been very successful. In the 2003 World Championship, Marina Sanchez crewed for her brother Francisco, and finished in third place, almost winning. There were 15 mixed crews, or 25% of the 60 entries, sailing at this regatta.

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In 1970, the Western Hemisphere and Orient Championships was held in Bermuda and was won by the Boswells, a husband and wife team from the United States. 22 teams from 12 nations competed.

Mixed crews Kristoffer Spone and Janett Krefting, and Birger Jansen and Liev Ulveie, won the competitive European Championships in 1996 and 2000, respectively. Italy, Japan (for 38 years), Norway, the United Kingdom, Uruguay and the USA all have Women's National Championships.

Bahamas, Belgium, Brazil, Colombia, Finland, Norway, Portugal, Spain, UK, Uruguay and USA have trophies in their National Championships for the top mixed crews. Italy has trophies in their National Championships for mixed top team and for the all-women top team.

Spain had three all women crews at the last Spanish National Championship and two additional women skippers with male crews.

At the most recent US Women's National Championship in San Diego, California, (February 22 and 23, 2004), there were 29 boats. The present US Open National Championship crew is a woman, who beat the subsequent winner and second place finishers in the 2003 Worlds. In the 50's, Beth Olson was a prominent skipper in the US, winning her State Championships 7 times.

Other US women with "skipper" success:

2003: Women's World Champion – Carolyn Brown Krebs

2002-Midwinters - Carol Cronin 4th

2001-National Championship - Carolyn Brown 10th

2000-Atlantic Coast Championship's-Carol Cronin 5th

1998-Colonial Cup - Lorie Stout 3rd

1998-Cleveland Race Week - Lisa Pline 2nd

1998-Atlantic Coast Championship's-Lorie Stout 3rd

1996-Wells Series- Dina Kowalyshyn

There are over 1,500 SNIPES active in the world. There are over 3,000 registered Juniors, Masters, Women, and Seniors in 872 chartered fleets in the following countries:

Country	Total Class Members
Argentina	77
Bahamas	15
Belarus	5
Belgium	30
Bermuda	4
Brazil	164
Canada	19
Chile	12

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Colombia	54
Cuba	8
Denmark	35
Finland	64
France	83
Germany	9
India	5
Italy	276
Japan	717
Korea	1
Norway	163
Paraguay	6
Poland	27
Portugal	94
Russia	64
Spain	261
Sweden	65
Ukraine	6
United Kingdom	33
United States	689
Uruguay	36
Total	3022

With fleets in many countries, the SNIPE is available worldwide. There are SNIPE builders throughout the world: 2 in North America, 2 in South America, 3 in Spain, 1 in Denmark, 1 in Sweden, 4 in Italy, 3 in Japan and 1 in Russia. In addition, an average of 150 new SNIPES *per year* have been built in the past 10 years, and the SNIPE Class is a non-manufacturer's class. Comparing double-handed International Class dinghies, the SNIPE remains one of the strongest in terms of new boats built each year.

The SNIPE is sailed worldwide by crews of all ages and sizes. The SNIPE is suitable for average physiques and has a wide range of competitive crew weights from 270 lbs (122 kg) to 345 lbs (156 kg). The boat responds to crew work, and although physically demanding, it is not destructive and does not exclude older competitors. It requires athleticism and that crews be in good physical shape.

The SNIPE is affordable, economical and durable. A SNIPE can be obtained for US \$8,000 and lasts for approximately 8 years. Used boats can be sold for US \$3,000, resulting in a cost of US \$ 625 per year. Due to the cost of the boats, countries with limited budgets for athletics can compete and win. Cuba won the 1999 Worlds and the Pan American Games in 3 straight quadrennials. Few dinghies can claim such low annual

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cost and lifetime competitiveness. Sails can be obtained for only US \$ 900 and a mast for US \$ 800.

Due to 73 years of effort, the boat has evolved into a perfect blend of hull shape, weight, mast bend, and sophisticated rigging. The boats have proven seaworthy in the windiest of conditions and in the case of a capsized, the SNIPE is easily righted and sailed away without assistance. With a loose jib halyard, hank less jib and boom-launched whisker pole, the SNIPE has characteristics of the asymmetrical spinnaker carrying classes in medium to strong winds. With pole length adjustable, the downwind legs are open to more tactical opportunities.

Many consider the SNIPE to be the preferred training boat. Over the years, eventual and past champions in other classes – Felix Gancedo, Jorg Bruder, Mark Reynolds, Torben Grael, Alexandre Paradedda, Mauricio Santa Cruz, Santiago Lange, John Shadden, Allison Jolly and Lynn Jewell Shore (who chose sailing the SNIPE Winter Circuit over competing and training in the 470 in Europe before winning the US trials and ultimately sailing for Olympic gold in 1988), Miyuki Kai, Ted Wells, Paul Elvstrom, Peter Commette, Paul Foerster, Carol Cronin/Liz Filter/Nancy Haberland (2004 US Olympians in the Yngling), etc. – all have developed the skills required for Olympic sailing while racing the Snipe.

The emphasis in SNIPE sailing is tactical with speed differentials between properly prepared boats minimal. It is easy to learn to sail, but still provides challenges for Olympic class sailors. Rig tuning, trimming of sails, subtle weight adjustment, and shifting gears during racing are easy to accomplish, but all are required to maintain optimum performance.

ISAF's requirement for boat selection emphasizes sailor's physical diversity and equipment availability. Specifically as stated in 16.1.4(a) ISAF's criteria for selecting Events & Equipment shall be that equipment:

- Must allow athletes around the world, male, female and of different size and weight, to participate;
- Must achieve the current IOC objective of the minimum level of participation for women;
- Must give the best sailors in each country the opportunity to participate in readily accessible equipment;
- Must combine both traditional and modern events and classes, to reflect, display and promote competitive sailing.

The SNIPE fulfills the 16.1.4(a) criteria required by ISAF because:

- Persons of any size, age, or sex can be competitive in SNIPE.
- Women have always competed and participated in the SNIPE.
- The SNIPE is economical and readily available worldwide. Fleets exist throughout the world with the most recent fleet charter #872 granted to Spain in January. Poland and Germany have become established as new SNIPE countries within the past 5 years.

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- The SNIPE CLASS holds a variety of events in different venues, rotating across the continents.
- The SNIPE is a traditional design has evolved into an exciting modern boat to sail.

For the reasons outlined above, SCIRA requests and thanks ISAF for the consideration of the SNIPE for the women's dinghy event in 2008.