Re: Use of Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs)

Dear IVF Member Federations,

We know that many of you are travelling from around the world to join us in Singapore. Some of you have been training for months, making travel arrangements, and looking forward to sharing the water with fellow paddlers from across the international community. We deeply appreciate the commitment, passion, and trust you have placed in our event.

Over the past months, we have explored every possible avenue to seek an exemption from the wearing of Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs). Unfortunately, after extensive discussions, careful consultation and review with the local authorities, we must inform you that we are unable to waive Singapore's legal requirements (Points 6.4 and 6.5) regarding the mandatory wearing of PFDs during our event.

Approved Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs) must comply with recognised safety standards and meet the following requirements:

- NO inflatable foam life jacket or paddling vest.
- Must be certified to one of the following standards:
    - USCG Type III (or Type I/II), or
    - ISO 12402 Level 50, 50S, or 100+.
- Designed for paddlesports, such as canoeing, kayaking, dragon boating, or other water sports. (Pool toys, swim aids, and recreational flotation devices are NOT acceptable.)

As organisers, we have a responsibility not only to deliver a memorable race, but also to comply with the laws and regulations that govern activities on our waters. While we genuinely wish we could offer greater flexibility, we simply do not have the authority to exempt participants from these legal requirements.

We fully understand that this decision may cause disappointment and for that, we are sincerely sorry. This is not the outcome we had hoped for, nor is it a reflection of our confidence in your experience or abilities as paddlers. Rather, it is a legal obligation that we must uphold equally for every participant.

Our commitment remains unchanged: to provide a safe, fair, and enjoyable event that showcases Singapore and brings together our global paddling community. We hope you will understand the position we are in and continue to support the event with the same spirit of sportsmanship and camaraderie that makes this community so special.

Thank you for your understanding, your patience, and your continued support. We look forward to welcoming you to Singapore and sharing an unforgettable experience together.

With sincere appreciation,

M. Matthews
President - Va'a Association Singapore