

**2024 Olympic Sailing Competition**

Olympic Equipment

A submission from the International Funboard Class Association

Purpose or Objective

To propose equipment criteria and format for the windsurfing events.

Proposal

<b>Current Event &amp; Equipment</b>	<b>2024 Events – May 2018</b>	<b>2024 Equipment Proposal</b>
Men's Windsurfer – RS:X *	Retained	New Equipment
Women's Windsurfer – RS:X *	Retained	New Equipment
Heavyweight Men's One Person Dinghy – Finn	New Event - Mixed One-Person Dinghy	Select New Equipment
Men's Two Person Dinghy – 470	New Event - Mixed Two Person Dinghy	Select New Equipment
Women's Two Person Dinghy – 470	New Event - Mixed Kite	Select New Equipment

\* Note the equipment for this event is under Olympic Equipment Re-evaluation if retained.

Format proposal:

Suitable wind range for competition: 6-30 knots.

M-Course in light wind (foiling), Downwind Slalom in higher winds (planning).

Equipment Criteria for Men and Women Windsurfer: 2 boards, 3 rigs

Board concept: Light wind foil combination and High wind slalom board

Weight range men: 75-90kg

Weight range women: 60-75kg

Sail size for Men: 7-9.5 m<sup>2</sup>

Sail size for Women: 6-8.5 m<sup>2</sup>.

Number of permitted rigs per event: 3

Number of permitted hulls per event: 2

Number of permitted hydrofoil systems per event: 1

Number of permitted fins per event: 2

Same hydrofoil system and board for men and women. Different board, fin and rig plan for men and women.

Builder / Class structure:

Box Rules: optimal Dimensions to be defined in a trial process  
Registered Series Production Scheme. Multiple Brands / Builders.

Other Equipment considerations:

The proposed registered series production equipment scheme is the currently used standard in the windsurfing world and supported by industry, sailors and general windsurfing community.

A registration deadline (1 or 2 years before the Olympic games) will ensure availability and fair conditions for all competitors

Equipment Criteria for Mixed One-Person Dinghy:

**Criteria to be approved by Council through other submissions**

Equipment Criteria for Mixed Two Person Dinghy:

**Criteria to be approved by Council through other submissions**

Equipment Criteria for Mixed Kite:

**Criteria to be approved by Council through other submissions**

Current Position

As above.

Reasons

The selection of a new Olympic format and equipment offers the unique chance to re-unite the Olympic windsurfing with the competition grassroots of the sport. This will ensure a wide acceptance for the Olympic programs and will create synergy effects.

Format:

Downwind Slalom is the highest regarded/televised/media-ised discipline in windsurfing today.. The current PWA (Professional World Tour, World Sailing Special Event) Slalom World Champions are considered as the world's best windsurfers by the general windsurfing community and media. The slalom format also reflects the mass market of windsurfing. 100.000s of recreational windsurfers are practicing slalom sailing in medium and strong winds. But in low winds course racing is the better competition format to show the fascination of the sport and to create fair and spectacular racing.

On the foil boards windward leeward with gybing marks is working well. Slalom would be sailed in the typical downwind setup. Both disciplines are sailed in elimination series and are weighted evenly. This combination has already proved its success in numerous national and International circuits world wide.

Equipment:

Even if it may be possible to cover the target wind range with one equipment set (hull, rig, foil/fin) this is not advisable. The design would be too much of a compromise and create a product that normal sailors will not use...only Olympic athletes. The performance would be low. We have to learn from the mistakes that were made at the last choice of olympic equipment!

The current foil boards are too big to suit as highwind slalom boards and slalom boards can not be used well as light windfoil boards.

So to enable racing from 6-30 knots we need 2 boards and 3 sails. One foil board and one rig for winds approx. 6-15 knots, and one slalom board with 2 fins and 2 rigs for winds 12-30 knots. This equipment is already available on the market as series production boards. It is working excellent. The total setup will not be significantly more expensive than a specially developed concept with one hull+rig+foil/fin.

Since only one board and rig are used at the same time the life expectancy of the equipment grows equally with the number of equipment used. So initially the investments are bigger but the life expectancy of the equipment is a lot longer.

A range of available sail sizes allows competitors of a wide range of physics to compete on a level playing field. Sails could be categorized in two size ranges (low wind / high wind).

The registered series production equipment scheme is well established in the professional windsurfing circuit and the FW, IKA, Raceboard and IFCA classes. It ensures availability and fair racing. It shall be used for all parts of the Olympic equipment. As in kiteboard the Olympic equipment (a limited selection of the best boards and rigs available on the market) would be freeze 2,5 Years before the Olympics to prevent an arms race.

The registered series production equipment scheme would enable sponsorship for sailors and teams, as currently seen, manufacturers will sponsor sailors to use their success in competition for marketing purposes to sell equipment to the mass market.

Several windsurfing classes (i.e. Funboard, Formula Windsurfing, Raceboard) are using this registered series production equipment scheme with great success since many years. The re-sell value of used equipment is very good through both the Formula Windsurfing and Funboard Class.

The current Techno 293 and Techno 293+ fit perfectly to this format as feeder class for the new Olympic format/equipment.

#### Final:

As specialist windsurf class we strongly advise since

- we are 6 years away from the 2024 games
- The fast evolution in the windfoil division (only 2 years old)

to test all available equipment in all wind strengths and sea states during Trials to find out what is working and how many boards/rigs is the minimum to cover all windspeed and what fixed rig sizes and fins would be appropriate.