

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

Current Event & Equipment	2024 Events – May 2018	2024 Equipment Proposal
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: 1 convertible board, 2 rigs

Board concept: Convertible

Weight range men: 75-90kg

Weight range women: 60-75kg

Sail size for Men: 7-9.5 m²

Sail size for Women: 6-8.5 m².

Number of permitted rigs per event: 2

Number of permitted hulls per event: 1

Number of permitted hydrofoil systems per event: 1

Number of permitted fins per event: 1

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

Suitable wind range for competition: 6-30 knots.

Builder / Class structure: Registered Series Production Scheme. Multiple Brands / Builders.

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

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.

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

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 M-Course combines tactical racing on a windward/leeward part with slalom parts.

Both disciplines are sailed in elimination series and are weighed evenly.

Both course options would be able to be sailed with dedicated equipment (hydrofoil system for windward/leeward courses and fins for slalom courses) and would have a unique signature and clear differentiation from all other Olympic sailing events.

Registered series production equipment scheme for all parts of the equipment or would enable sponsorship for sailors and teams, as currently seen in the professional windsurfing circuit and the FW, IKA, Raceboard and IFCA classes, manufacturers will sponsor sailors to use their success in competition for marketing purposes to sell equipment to the mass market.

Since only one rig is used at the same time the life expectancy of the rigs doubles. So initially the investments is a bit bigger but the life expectancy is double.

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).

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+ can be used 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.