

2012 Olympic Sailing Competition - Equipment

Selection of Equipment for Women's Keelboat (Match Racing)

A submission from the Danish Sailing Association

Proposal:

That the following criteria and principles shall be guidelines selection of equipment for the Women's "Keelboat (match racing)" event for the 2012 Olympic Sailing Competition:

1. **Preamble:** Main principles concerning the decision about match racing as an Olympic discipline based on submissions in November 2007:
 - a. The nature of match racing is based on that a crew should be able to adjust to different boats and equipment at different events,
 - b. Match racing gives an opportunity for smaller, less affluent MNA's to participate, with greater global distribution; As the boats will be supplied, it would be easier and cheaper for many countries to participate; Individual boats do not have to be transported around the world,
 - c. In order to make match racing accessible and as cheap as possible for competitors all around the world, match racing should continue to be based on supplied equipment at the Olympic Sailing Competition, Graded Events and Olympic Qualifying Events.
 - d. It must be avoided that "Olympic Match Racing" becomes an "equipment driven discipline" based on one specific boat type (class)
 - e. There should only be one World Ranking System for match racing in the future ISAF
2. **Equipment - Olympic Sailing Competition:** a newly designed, purpose-built boat, not available for sailing until the teams arrive at the Olympic Sailing Competition in 2012; this should be a 3-person keelboat with symmetrical spinnaker; ISAF must own the rights to the design, control the "class rules and specifications" and the price level.
3. **Equipment - Graded Events:** Events Committee/Match Racing Committee shall define the criteria for the Equipment, and Equipment Committee shall come up with a final list of boats, which can be used at graded events. The Events Committee shall finalise the criteria in more detail, and the main principles to be:
 - a. 3 or 4 person keelboat with symmetrical spinnaker
 - b. very good manoeuvrability, a cockpit with sufficient space and possibility for hiking – provides for an athletic sport and more action on TV
 - c. max. and min. weight of the crew (average app. like in the Yngling today)
 - d. the list must provide for a sufficient number of different boats, in order to secure that match racing events may be conducted at all continents
 - e. boats - if not an ISAF Class - must be series produced and controlled/weighed by an ISAF authorised measurer in order to secure equal equipment for the respective event
4. **Olympic Qualification System:** shall be considered separately at the ISAF Mid-Year Meeting 2009 and include both criteria for equipment to be used at all events and proposal for Olympic Qualifying Events structure. Based on

submissions received and the discussions at the Midyear Meeting, an Events Committee working party (including Match Racing Committee representatives) should finalize and present a submission for the November 2009 Annual General Meeting.

5. Equipment - Olympic Qualification System: Council shall, upon recommendation from Events Committee, decide on a specific boat to be used for all Events included in the Olympic Qualification System. The boat shall be announced as late as possible prior to the first event. Events could be organised at the same location within a relatively short timeframe.

Current Position:

Match Racing has not earlier been an event for women.

Reason:

The decision in Council November 2007 concerning Women's "Keelboat (match racing)" was based on the submissions and the reasoning from 12 MNA's and the Chairman of the Match Racing Committee.

The decision in Council was primarily based on arguments that match racing should continue as it is practised today, and the following statements were in principle repeated in most submissions and discussions in the different committee's:

- Supplied Equipment - in order to:
 - Maintain match racing as practised today
 - Maintain match racing as cheap as possible
 - Make Olympic match racing accessible to as many sailors around the world as possible
 - Recruit more sailors to match racing in general globally
- Graded events must be open for up to 64 teams each and open to competitors from many nations (not invitational events); format with different knock out stages with repechage (*MR Committee recommendation to Council*)

We feel it is very important that we make a decision which respect all the arguments put forward to Council as a basis for the decision in November 2007.

NOBODY argued for a match racing format with one design boats.

Therefore we must be loyal to the basis for the decision in November 2007, and secure that match racing continues as being practised today in different boats in different regattas.

Nevertheless there must be some more specific guidelines about equipment used for the ISAF World Cup, the All Olympic Classes Events and the Olympic Qualification Events. This equipment should be reasonable close to the size of boat and crew number going to be used for the Olympic Sailing Competition.