

ISAF Olympic Event and Equipment Decisions

Regulation 16.1 – Defining the Process

A submission from the Executive Committee based on the recommendation of the Olympic Commission

Proposal

Delete regulation 16.1 (16.1 to 16.1.6) and replace with the following:

Events & Equipment for the Olympic Sailing Competition

- 16.1.1 ISAF's vision for the Olympic Sailing Competition is that it is the pinnacle event, every 4 years, that showcases the skills and diversity of the best sailors from all parts of the world. Olympic Events, Equipment and formats are chosen to present the sport of sailing as a challenging but accessible and rewarding sport for participants from all countries, and as an engaging experience for spectators and remote audiences.
- 16.1.2 In choosing its Olympic Events and Equipment, ISAF shall seek to ensure that each Event at the Olympic Sailing Competition is, and will be likely to remain, the pinnacle Event for that discipline or area of sailing. In addition, the Olympic Events and Equipment taken together shall seek to:
- (a) demonstrate the diversity of skills required to race various types of small boats, and minimise the overlap between Events;
 - (b) place an emphasis on athlete skill rather than equipment development, and limit the impact of equipment on performance;
 - (c) demand a high level of athletic ability as well as excellent sailing skills;
 - (d) be attractive and accessible to young athletes from all continents, and of different size and weight, with a clear one-step pathway from ISAF Youth to Olympic Events and Equipment;
 - (e) maximise the participation of the world's best small boat sailors and showcase the sport well;
 - (f) provide an effective platform for promotion of the sport, and elite sailors, between Olympics;
 - (g) progress towards an equal number of Events for men and women to participate in;
 - (h) avoid unnecessary or excessive equipment costs, development costs, measurement costs, coaching costs, race organisation and race official costs, and television and other media costs;
 - (i) offer continuity of Events and evolution of Equipment to give MNAs and sailors a dependable pathway into Olympic competition with continuity of investment;
 - (j) provide suitable Events and Equipment for Regional Games and other regattas;
 - (k) minimise environmental impact.
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- 16.1.3 The Olympic Events and Equipment are defined in regulation 16.1.4. Any change to regulation 16.1.4 shall be made according to the process below.

Change to Olympic Events

A decision to introduce a new Event, or remove an Event, shall be made no later than November of the year six years before the Olympic Games. The requirements and other criteria for the choice of Equipment for any new Event shall be specified at the same time. Any submission to add a new Olympic Event or Events must identify the Event or Events to be deleted.

Change to Olympic Equipment for a Retained Event

A decision to consider change or evolution of the Equipment for a retained Event shall be made no later than November of the year six years before the Olympic Games. The requirements and other criteria for the choice of new or evolved Equipment shall be specified at the same time.

Selection of New Equipment (for both a New or Retained Event)

New Equipment shall only be selected following Equipment trials or other evaluation against the specified criteria, and shall be decided no later than November of the year four years before the Olympic Games.

Evolution of Retained Equipment (for a Retained Event)

Equipment evolution shall be decided no later than November of the year four years before the Olympic Games following liaison between ISAF and the relevant Class organisation and manufacturers.

- 16.1.4 *to be decided separately; the text below is explanatory and not part of the regulation.*

This is where the Olympic Events and Equipment will be listed.

It will first be decided in November 2010 and / or May 2011. Genders and Event titles will be specified. When 16.1.4 is first decided, ISAF shall also decide whether to retain current Olympic Equipment, evolve current Olympic Equipment, or conduct trials or other evaluation to select Equipment. When Equipment is to be evolved or selected, the criteria for selection shall be defined, and Equipment shall be decided in accordance with regulation 16.1.3 (iii) or (iv) no later than November 2012.

- 16.1.5 Council may decide, at its November meeting six years before an Olympic Games, that an Event in 16.1.4 is a "Core Event" and as such is also provisionally agreed to be an Event at the Olympic Games in ten years time. A vote to establish an Event as a Core Event requires at least two-thirds of votes cast to be in favour. A Core Event may be deleted as an Olympic Event in accordance with 16.1.3(i), but, unless at least two-thirds of votes cast are in favour of deletion, the deletion shall not take effect until after the Olympic Games for which it has been provisionally agreed. At any time there shall not be more than eight core Events, and Equipment for a Core Event may change in accordance with 16.1.3(ii).
- 16.1.6 Olympic Equipment contracts shall be agreed between ISAF and the appropriate Classes and / or manufacturers by May 1st in the year four years before the Olympic Games. The contract shall require the Class to be an ISAF Class at the first opportunity thereafter, and, in any event, prior to the Olympic Games, and to remain an ISAF Class while it remains Olympic Equipment. In the event that ISAF is unable to agree the contract for particular Equipment, Council shall decide alternative Equipment in November of the year four years
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before the Olympic Games from a list of Equipment options provided by the ISAF Executive.

- 16.1.7 Council may decide to change a specific part of regulation 16.1.4 closer in time to the Olympic Games than permitted in regulation 16.1.3 if at least 75% of votes cast are in favour of a motion to do so. In such an event, the timescales in regulation 16.1.3 shall not apply, and any subsequent voting process shall ensure that an Event or Equipment is de-selected, or new Event or Equipment is selected, only after a vote of more than 50% of votes cast in favour of the decision.
- 16.1.8 ISAF shall review its Event and Equipment choices for the ISAF Youth World Championships, and for the Youth Olympic Games, following any change of Olympic Events or Equipment, to ensure that there remains a clear, single step pathway for MNAs and sailors from Youth to Olympic.
- 16.1.9 The following regulation shall apply for the choice of Event and Equipment for the 2016 Olympic Sailing Competition only, and shall take precedence over any conflicting regulation. Council may provisionally decide some or all of the Events and Equipment options to be listed in regulation 16.1.4 in November 2010. Council shall finally confirm or change these decisions, and make all other Events and Equipment options decisions, in May 2011. Classes and MNAs may make submissions on Events and Equipment options for decision in May 2011; any such submission shall propose a full set of ten Events. Council shall make decisions on Core Events in May 2011. This regulation will be cease to apply and be deleted after May 2011.

Current Position

Current Regulation 16.1. There is no provision for prescribing Olympic Events and Equipment in regulation.

Reasons (for full reasons see *Olympic Commission report, section 5*)

Sailing does not currently have the predictability and continuity of Olympic Events, or a process for Equipment evolution, that would allow it to guide and protect sailor and MNA investment, and use its participation in the IOC Summer Olympics to maximise the growth of the sport in terms of nations or sailors.

Greater predictability and continuity will not only serve MNAs and sailors better at the Olympic Games. It will also provide the continuity outside the Olympics which will:

- provide a clearer pathway for young sailors with an “Olympic dream”;
 - encourage ISAF and Event Organisers to develop the skills and resources necessary for hosting ISAF Sailing World Cup and other similar events;
 - provide greater clarity to the public and the media over who are sailing’s true elite;
 - provide better return on investment to sponsors of elite sailors and events.
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The Olympic Commission recommends that ISAF replaces the current process, where every Olympic Event and every choice of Olympic Equipment is reconsidered every 4 years. Henceforth ISAF should:

1. Define Olympic Events and Equipment in regulation, which means there is implicit continuity, and ISAF will only consider specific changes to the defined list, rather than reconsider the whole list every four years. *[Olympic Commission recommendation 5.25, 5.32]*
2. Decide any changes to Olympic Events at least 6 years in advance, and decide the options for Equipment (retain current Equipment, evolve current Equipment, or run trials or other form of evaluation) at the same time as deciding the Events. *[Olympic Commission recommendations 5.29, 5.45, 5.49.1]*
3. Consider the set of 10 Events as a whole, to make it more likely that they maximise the value of Olympic participation to the sport of sailing, represent a wide cross section of the sport, and offer participation opportunities for all nations, and for a wide range of sailor skills and physiques. *[Olympic Commission recommendation 5.25, 5.32]*
4. Establish a subset of “Core Events” which are expected not to change for at least 10 years. *[Olympic Commission recommendation 5.35]*
5. Formally assess after each Olympic Games how well sailing performed, and where opportunities for improvement might lie. *[Olympic Commission recommendation 5.47]*
6. Establish a process for evolving current Olympic Equipment to keep it up-to-date, attractive and low cost. *[Olympic Commission recommendation 5.34]*
7. Only select new Equipment following trials or other evaluation, and only conduct such trials once the Event has been agreed.

An amended regulation 16.1 is proposed to give effect to this new process. The Terms of Reference for the Events and Equipment Committees would also need to change, and these changes are proposed in separate submissions.

The Commission recommends 6 years in point 2 above as any shorter period would not give sufficient time for appropriate Equipment development prior to trials, or proper ISAF Sailing World Cup and ISAF Sailing World Championships event planning.

It is now 6 years until the 2016 Olympic Games. The Commission therefore recommends that Council is given the opportunity in November 2010 to make provisional decisions for some or all of the 2016 Olympic Events and Equipment (the implementation of this recommendation is the subject of another submission). This will establish a higher degree of certainty in some areas and provide sufficient time for Equipment trials in others. However, as Classes and MNAs have not been advised to make submissions on this issue in 2010, the Commission recommends these decisions are provisional and subject to confirmation or revision in May 2011, and that MNAs and Classes can make submissions for May 2011.

Specific exceptions (regulation 16.1.9) within the proposed regulation 16.1 enable this process to take place in November 2010 and May 2011. A separate submission has been submitted to enable Council to make provisional decisions in November 2010.

Other Comments of the Submission

1. The timescales for Event decisions mean that ISAF Sailing World Cup and ISAF World Sailing Championship bidding venues will know the Events they must accommodate in advance of their final bids. [*Olympic Commission recommendation 5.27*]
 2. The process enables Equipment evolution, under ISAF control but in conjunction with the Class and manufacturers concerned. [*Olympic Commission recommendation 5.34*]
 3. Equipment trials will only take place after the Event decision has been made, making trials an attractive investment for designers and builders. A change of Equipment decision is not finally made until after the preceding Olympics, allowing for sailing's performance at those Olympics to be taken into account, and for latest trends in Equipment to be considered. [*Olympic Commission recommendation 5.46*]
 4. ISAF's strategy and criteria for selecting Olympic Events and Equipment are incorporated in regulation. [*Olympic Commission recommendations 5.1, 5.4*]
 5. MNAs and sailors are provided with an improved pathway as Events and Equipment at the Youth Olympics, ISAF Youth World Championships, and (if Regional Authorities choose so to do) Regional Games can be changed to reflect any Olympic change, but with the change brought into effect before the next Olympic Games. Olympic Event decisions made in November 2010 and May 2011 will enable appropriate submissions on ISAF Youth and Regional Games Events and Equipment decisions to be made in November 2011. [*Olympic Commission recommendation 5.39*]
 6. There is a provision for Council to overturn an earlier decision when exceptional circumstances make this appropriate. [*Olympic Commission recommendation 5.40*]
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