

2020 Olympic Sailing Competition

Showcase Event – Team Racing

A submission from US Sailing

Purpose or Objective

To showcase the sport of sailing in the most compelling format and provide the opportunity for sailing athletes to win two events at the Olympic Games in 2020.

Proposal

Propose to the IOC that sailing's 2020 showcase event be 2 on 2 team racing. Further details to be decided at a later date, but possible parameters include;

1. Athletes already qualified for other 2020 events, or could also be presented with athletes not qualified for other events, or a mix. An equal number of men and women on each team. Athletes in showcase events do not affect overall quota.
2. Provided doublehanded boats with main and jib, but could include gennaker. An International class to be selected, possibly something like a Tasar.
3. Minimum weight limits per boat or per team to ensure that athletes from any of the existing classes have an opportunity to compete.
4. Final event near the end of the Games, round robin followed by knockout.
5. Inclusion at some SWC events as training plus some standalone preliminary events.

Current Position

None.

Reasons

1. Team Racing is an existing discipline that is perfect for showcasing sailing at the Olympic venue. Short races conducted extraordinarily close to the shore and spectators. Extremely exciting with lead changes and last second reversals. Nation vs nation in a team format.
 2. Typical team races are twelve minutes or less. Racing may be conducted in conditions that may be too windy or too light for fleet racing.
 3. Perfect for television. Fixed cameras ashore, drones overhead, boats with onboard cameras and microphones. Commentators can usually be effective from a booth onshore. Sample [video](#) and [drone video](#) from recent 2 on 2 event.
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4. "Last loses" is a simple and easy to understand concept for non-sailing spectators. It is also relatively easy for nations and athletes that are less experienced at team racing to master the tactics, strategy and boathandling.
 5. Many of the other individual sports at the Olympics have some sort of team competition that enables athletes to win multiple medals.
 6. Many athletes and nations are already participating in team racing worldwide. Forty-eight nations competed in the 2016 Optimist Team Racing World Championship. Team racing is also popular in school sailing in a number of nations including the 2020 host nation Japan. The 2 on 2 circuit is expanding in Europe. Keelboat team racing is also growing in popularity.
 7. Thirty-one nations participating at the 2016 Rio Games could have fielded a team of two men and two women athletes. Nations with fewer athletes could be supplemented with non-qualified athletes.
 8. Provided identical boats ensures that all teams are on an equal footing. Twelve boats would be suitable for a final field of twelve teams with three races being conducted in flights. The expense of twelve dinghies is relatively minor given the residual value and probably could be sourced at no cost from a manufacturer.
 9. Additional nonbinding [concepts](#) on format, qualification and courses.
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