

# Re-evaluation of Windsurf Equipment under Regulation 23.6 Equipment Committee Criteria

## 1) Introduction

Under the Olympic Equipment Re-evaluation Procedure (“Procedure”) and Regulation 23.6 the Equipment Committee (“EQ”) is tasked with deciding the equipment criteria for the Olympic events under re-evaluation. Only Equipment Criteria considerations are included in this document.

These, and further considerations to evaluate tenders, will be part of the Invitation to Tender documents, together with other technical and non-technical requirements which will be decided by the Working Party appointed by the Board.

Based on the decisions of the World Sailing Council in November 2018, the equipment criteria are based on the characteristics of the equipment currently used for the Event.

The current Re-evaluation is for the Men and Women Windsurfer equipment, respectively:

- Men Windsurfer:
- Women Windsurfer:

By way of background information, the current equipment is the RS:X. The following table gives an overview of the RS:X Men and Women equipment. Data and prices for the equipment are gathered from the RS:X website at the 26th of November 2018:

<b>Board</b> (2885.43 EUR):	Length:	286 cm
	Max Width:	93 cm
	Weight:	15.5 kg
	Volume:	220 liters
<b>Dagger Board</b> (168.88 EUR):	Length:	77 cm
<b>Fin</b> (Evo60: 399.00 EUR   Evo66: 416.00 EUR)	Length Woman:	60 cm
	Length Men:	66 cm
<b>Masts</b> (490Evo: 482.00 EUR   520Evo: 531.23 EUR)	Length Woman:	490 cm
	Length Men:	520 cm
<b>Sails</b> (Evo8.5: 913.00 EUR   Evo 9.5: 996.92 EUR)	Sail Area Woman:	8.5 m <sup>2</sup>
	Sail Area Men:	9.5 m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Boom</b> (Boom225: 869.29 EUR)	Size	225-265 cm

<https://www.neilpryde.com/pages/rs-x-pricing>

## 2) Equipment Criteria

### 2.1 Specific event equipment considerations

#### 1) Universality

The Men and Women Windsurfer events have been identified by the Events Committee as being Universal. The relevant description of a Universal Event for the purposes of equipment selection is as follows;

- i. Equipment is widely accessible and available around the world;
- ii. High performance in competition by athletes is derived primarily from athletic superiority and tactical understanding rather than technical knowledge of the specific equipment;
- iii. Existence of pathway classes;
- iv. Has the ability to be chartered locally through a strong distribution network. This is likely to mean the successful equipment is a one-design with limited opportunities for optimization or customization.

#### 2) Adaptation to multiple formats

The 2024 Event and Equipment Working Party has identified the Men and Women Windsurfer Events as those for which the format has not been decided yet. Although any new format options will need to be thoroughly tested before final decisions are made for the 2024 Olympics, the equipment selected must be able to accommodate a range of formats such as long-distance race or slalom racing while focusing in up and downwind performance in a wide range of winds.

### 2.2 Construction and design Considerations

- i. Single hull with variations in rig and sails to accommodate men and women respectively.
- ii. Equipment is simple, and development, optimization or customization is not permitted under the Class Rules.
- iii. Cost effective (the current retail price of current equipment will be used as the reference point).
- iv. Limitation of equipment per competitor.
- v. Easily transportable by normal scheduled airline as passenger's excess baggage.
- vi. Designed to accommodate men from 65 kg to 85 kg and women from 55 kg to 70 kg.
- vii. Designed to provide maximum flexibility to sail in a wide range of sea states (wind and waves).
- viii. Equipment weight not heavier than the current equipment.
- ix. Current sail size 8.5 and 9.5 m<sup>2</sup> to serve as the preferred sail size.
- x. Differences from the dimensions of current equipment in size must be set out and any effect on performance must be explained.
- xi. Maximum commonality of components between the men's and women's equipment.

- xii. Standardization of construction method and product among different manufacturers.
- xiii. Quality control methods at production.
- xiv. Measurement protocols and procedures of each equipment item.
- xv. Best possible trade-off between weight/performance/price.
- xvi. Manufacturing Cost/Retail Price ratio to be considered.
- xvii. Procedures to ensure fair availability distribution of equipment.
- xviii. Durability of equipment.
- xix. Environmental considerations.
- xx. Existence and evaluation of Class Rules and other class documents.

## 2) General Olympic Equipment considerations

As a reminder, Regulation 23.1.2, that is used in choosing Olympic events and equipment states that, World Sailing shall seek to ensure that the Olympic equipment taken together shall meet the requirements and objectives of the IOC and to:

- a) demonstrate the diversity of skills required to race various types of 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 pathway from World Sailing Youth to Olympic Events and Equipment;
- e) maximise the participation of the world's best sailors and showcase the diversity of the sport;
- 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.