

2024 Olympic Sailing Competition

Olympic Events & Equipment

A submission from the Chairmen of the Events Committee and the Oceanic and Offshore Committee

Purpose or Objective

To propose events for the 2024 Olympic Games for the 5 events placed under review by the decision of Council on 19 February 2018.

Proposal

Current Event & Equipment	2024 Event Proposal	2024 Equipment Proposal
Men's One Person Dinghy – Laser	Retained	Retained
Women's One Person Dinghy - Laser Radial	Retained	Retained
Men's Skiff - 49er	Retained	Retained
Women's Skiff – 49erFX	Retained	Retained
Mixed Two Person Multihull – Nacra 17	Retained	Retained
Men's Windsurfer - RS:X	Men's Windsurfer Combined	New Equipment
Women's Windsurfer – RS:X	Women's Windsurfer Combined	New Equipment
Heavyweight Men's One Person Dinghy – Finn	Mixed Team Kiteboard (Two Person)	New Equipment
Men's Two Person Dinghy – 470	Mixed Offshore Marathon	New Equipment
Women's Two Person Dinghy – 470	Mixed Team Event (second medal/existing quota)	New Equipment

New Equipment Criteria:

Men's/Women's Windsurfer Combined

1 registered production board

Maximum of 3 registered production rigs

1 registered production foil and 2 registered production fins

The equipment must be able to launch from the beach and be suitable for winds from 6-30 knots and both racing formats and slalom.

Mixed Team Kiteboard

High performance hydrofoil system (single mast), hull open
High performance foil kite quiver up to 4 kites to cover wind range of 6-40 knots
Registered series production systems for hydrofoil and kites

Mixed Offshore Marathon

OSR Category 2 offshore keelboat, sloop rigged, suitable for 3-4 day and 2-3 night race offshore. Short-handed sailing enabled for 2 persons. If more than 2 person, the additional athletes must come from the other events due to quota constraints. Total number of boats dependant on sailing athlete quota. Gender equity in both this event and total athletes competing in sailing at the Games must be preserved.

Event to be sailed on identical, supplied equipment. Equipment supplier to support the development of a minimum of 6 training bases, one in each continent with at least 2 boats available for training throughout the year at reasonable charter costs. One training base to be at the venue of the Olympic Sailing competition with a minimum of 6 boats.

Mixed Team Event

- (a) Equipment from other event(s) in the sailing program; or
- (b) Equipment that meets the following criteria:
 - Displacement hull
 - Equipment should be highly manoeuvrable, simple to tack and gybe.
 - Knowledge of the boat specifics should not be an advantage. Boats to be equalized in terms of configuration capabilities.
 - Hiking permitted to both crew.

Current Position

As above.

Reasons

General

The background to the various Submissions from the Chair of the Events Committee is set out in notes (a) – (d) below. The reasons for putting forward this proposal are as follows.

1. This proposal provides for 4 mixed events and 3 men's and 3 women's events in the Sailing event program. It retains separate men's and women's windsurfer events but proposes format changes to the current event to better showcase windsurfing. The 3 new mixed events of Team Kiteboard, Offshore Marathon and a second medal opportunity Team Event are very different to the other events and to each other and ensure an innovative event based program for Sailing that meets the objectives of World Sailing and the IOC.
 2. Windsurfing and kiteboarding are off-the-beach events with a number of exciting disciplines, which opens new opportunities to showcase this part of sailing as an "urban" sport with high youth and media appeal. The equipment proposal for the windsurfer and kiteboard events enables access to high performance equipment at a competitive price and increases team or individual sponsorship opportunities with multiple equipment suppliers involved.
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3. The Mixed Offshore Marathon provides a very different event for the Olympic Sailing Program which will attract a diverse group of sailors, is positive for women and opens new commercial opportunities and interest in sailing.
4. The Mixed Team event proposed is for sailors from the other sailing events which creates a second medal opportunity. The quota places that become available can be used in the most universal events to help maximise the number of countries participating in the sailing events at the Olympic Games.

Men's /Women's Windsurfer Combined

5. An event that showcases exciting windsurfing disciplines will meet the key objectives of World Sailing and the IOC for an Olympic event. The disciplines should include slalom and may include a long distance race and/ or short course racing or other suitable disciplines, with a combined score determining the places.
6. The accessibility of Windsurfing creates significant potential to grow the number of countries currently participating in Olympic qualification events for sailing and with the retained singlehanded events, ensures that we have at least 4 universal events included in the 10 events in the Sailing program.
7. Windsurfing is attractive to the media, to youth and both genders. A separate women's event will build on the existing strength of women in windsurfing and enable the retention and increase in the participation of women.

Mixed Team Kiteboard

8. Kiteboarding meets the objectives of World Sailing and the IOC for an Olympic event. It is particularly appealing to youth and the media and can be both universal and innovative.
 9. The kiteboard event is off-the-beach and has a number of exciting disciplines, which opens new opportunities to showcase sailing. The kiteboard event could showcase one or potentially multiple racing format disciplines which may include border-cross, speed and short course racing
 10. There is strong interest from the IOC in the inclusion of kiteboarding events as evidenced by the awarding of an additional medal for the event at the 2018 Youth Olympic Games.
 11. Although a separate men's and women's kiteboard event would be capable of meeting the key objectives of World Sailing and the IOC for an Olympic event, two kiteboard events in addition to the two windsurfer events limits the options at this time to include events which showcase other parts of sailing and enable a diverse group of athletes to compete at the Olympic Games.
 12. A mixed team of one male and one female would compete as a team with the scores of both male and female sailors counting and combining to determine the overall place. The format would be investigated and tested but by way of example only, could be a short track relay style event with short (10 minute) 4 lap courses (men and women alternating). One gender starts, does one lap, then after passing the leeward mark sails into a "change zone" and the other member of the team starts over the wake of the first sailor.
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Mixed Offshore Marathon

13. Keelboat sailing represents a large demographic of the sport of sailing globally, which is not currently represented in the Olympic program. Consistent with the IOC requirements for each event to have a unique signature, a mixed long distance offshore keelboat event provides a very different event for the Olympic Sailing Program and is well suited to, and likely to generate very strong interest for, both Paris 2024 and Los Angeles 2028.
14. This event opens up significant commercial, media, spectator and technology opportunities and exposure which will generate greater interest for sailing as a sport. This would be the only Olympic event available for broadcast live in all time zones, and is likely to attract a strong e-sport/virtual audience.
15. This event introduces a new demographic of athlete and skill set within the Olympic sailing program, requiring navigation and meteorological skills. An offshore keelboat would cater for a wide range of physiques, because crew weight has less impact on boat performance than dinghy, skiff and board classes.
16. Offshore sailing creates additional and varied sponsorship and funding opportunities for sailors and MNA's and will generate interest from a wider group of sailors, including in some developing sailing nations. World Sailing to align the recently approved annual Offshore World Championships to this concept.
17. The event would be supplied identical equipment at the Olympic Games, and World Sailing will develop a sustainable plan with the equipment supplier(s) to assist managing the challenges that the cost of a keelboat event will create for MNA's including facilitating affordable access to the boats at a number of training centres.
18. In many countries there is strong participation of women in keelboat sailing. This event will encourage women's participation and retention in sailing, increase the profile of female sailors and facilitate a pathway to professional sailing for women.

Mixed Team Event

19. The Mixed Team Event is a second medal opportunity for sailors competing in other events. The ability of sailors to win a second medal at the same Olympic Games and to increase the number of Olympic medals they can win over their career, helps create heroes in our sport, increases sailor profiles, adds value for their sponsors and increases the overall profile of sailing.
 20. Using one of the 10 events as a second medal event for sailors competing in other events has a significant advantage in relation to the quota, particularly if the IOC decreases the sailing quota for future Olympics. The places that become available can be used in the most universal events to help ensure we maximise the number of countries participating in the sailing events at the Olympic Games.
 21. The event would be held after the other Sailing events. This would keep more sailors at the sailing venue until the end of competition and maximise the number of nations competing over the last days of the Olympic regatta helping maintain national interest and broadcast appeal to the end of the sailing program. The event can be held close to shore with live commentary and excited spectator engagement from multiple nations.
 22. The team could be in various combinations depending on the format of the event. For example, 3 mixed, 2 person boats per country or 2/4/6 one person boats (1, 2, or 3 male and 1, 2, or 3 female) per country.
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23. Qualification could be each country with enough sailors in other events to field a team or could be based on finish places in other events.
24. The event could be a traditional team racing event or a team relay event and either use equipment from the other events or different equipment meeting the equipment criteria described above.
25. Traditional team racing is widely practiced in a number of countries. At the junior level, 48 nations competed in the team racing portion of the 2017 Optimist World Championships and many of these sailors or their contemporaries will be the future Olympic sailors. Unless entries are limited by a qualification system based on results in other events, this event is likely to need 2 days.
26. Mixed team relay events are becoming increasingly popular in different sports at both the Summer and Winter Olympic Games. Options for the most appropriate format, qualification and equipment would need to be investigated and trialled but could include a relay style event or even head to head slalom. By way of example only to illustrate how a team relay format could work, the sixteen top nations, based on overall performance across all events could qualify for the Mixed Team Event. Each nation chooses a mixed team of 4 individual sailors (2 male and 2 female). The females race in the equipment used for the Women's singlehanded event and the males in the Men's singlehanded equipment. The sixteen nations are divided into four quarter-final groups. The females start and sail a short upwind-downwind course. When the second female team member crosses the finish line, the male sailors can start and sail the same course. The first two teams to finish will qualify for the semi-finals. The top 2 teams from the semi-finals qualify for the final. The medals are decided in the final. The event is a total of seven races of approximately 10 minutes each.

Notes

- (a) The 2024 Events and Equipment Working Party with input from the broader Events Committee has identified a number of potential slates for the 2024 Olympic Games which have been included in Submissions M10-18, M11-18, M24-18, M28-18, M34-18 and M36-18 from the Chairman of the Events Committee.
 - (b) The Working Party will continue to work on the advantages and disadvantage of the events proposed in these Submissions, review the other Submissions made and any further input provided by the broader sailing community.
 - (c) After reviewing all the Submissions, the Working Party and the Events Committee will prepare a report and make a recommendation for the May Council Meeting.
 - (d) In relation to the names of the events, including in the Events Committee Chair's Submissions, the Events Committee intends to put a Submission forward for the 2018 Annual Conference to modify Regulation 23 to allow a change to Event names to be considered in 2019. It is important to review the names of all 10 events after all 10 events have been determined.
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