

2016 Olympic Sailing Competition

Events and Equipment

A submission from the Royal Yachting Association

Purpose or Objective

To progress a slate in accordance with 23.1.1

Proposal

Delete regulation 23.1.4 and replace it with the following:

23.1.4 The Olympic Events and Equipment shall be:

~~Provisional list:~~

Men's Board or Kite board - Evaluation

Women's Board or Kite board - Evaluation

Men's One Person Dinghy - Laser

Women's One Person Dinghy - Laser Radial

Men's 2nd One Person Dinghy – Finn

Men's Two Person Dinghy – 470

Women's Two Person Dinghy - 470

Men's Skiff - 49er

Women's Skiff – Evaluation

~~Women's keelboat – Elliott 6m~~

Mixed Multihull – Evaluation

~~Mixed Two Person Dinghy (spinnaker) – 470~~

~~Council shall, in May 2011, confirm or change this list, and make all other Events and Equipment options decisions, in accordance with regulation 23.1.9.~~

Current Position

Men's board or kite board – Evaluation

Women's board or kite board – Evaluation

Men's one person dinghy – Laser

Women's one person dinghy – Laser Radial

Men's 2nd one person dinghy – Finn

Men's skiff – 49er

Women's skiff – Evaluation

Women's keelboat – Elliott 6m

Mixed multihull – Evaluation

Mixed two person dinghy (spinnaker) – 470

Reasons

1. This submission supports ISAF's strategic move towards gender equality, matched pairs of Events, and clear Equipment pathways in the choice of Events and Equipment from the Youth Olympic Games, through the ISAF Youth World Championships, to the Olympic Games.
2. This submission recommends a small change to the provisional slate agreed in November 2010, believing that this change will better support the above strategy in 2016, and better serve men and women elite sailors and MNAs.
3. The change recommended is that in place of Women's Keelboat (Elliot 6m) and Mixed 2 Person Dinghy (470), ISAF selects Men's 2 Person Dinghy (470) and Women's 2 Person Dinghy (470).
4. This change will deliver the following advantages:
 - i. it supports those MNAs that have invested in 470 programmes as their target Events for girls leaving 420s, and for light-weight men;
 - ii. it links better into Events and Equipment sailed at the ISAF Youth Worlds, and increases the number of matched pairs of Events, preserving the two events that uniquely use the same equipment with obvious cost and resource advantages;
 - iii. it eliminates the clearest example of "unmatched" Events.
5. The submission does not support Women's keelboat as an Olympic Event, and believes ISAF will serve its MNAs best by making this decision on Women's keelboat now, when only a small number of MNAs have invested in such an Olympic programme.

Women's match racing within the Sailing World Cup limits the access of many nations' sailors to that event and does not readily support more than one team per nation. The submission therefore believes that match racing will flourish better outside the Olympic Games / ISAF Sailing World Cup framework. Making that change now for Women's match racing will mean the same model for Men's and Women's match racing, simplifying the overall structure of our sport.

The submission does not support Women's keelboat fleet racing as an Olympic Event for cost and pathway reasons. The submission believes that aspiring elite women sailors are better served by lower cost, more accessible events that better link to girls' youth events, and therefore concludes that retaining keelboat as a Women's Event will actually hold back the global growth of women's Olympic sailing for many MNAs. In summary, many MNAs can afford to continue to support Women's 470 but will not be able to support Women's keelboat.

6. The submission notes the growth elsewhere of out-of-the-box non-technical high-performance dinghies, and believes that ISAF should seek to preserve a technical dinghy within the Olympic Events for both men and women. The current matched 470 Events do this.
7. The submission supports the introduction of Mixed sailing, but believes that the rate of change is better if in 2016 this is restricted to a single event that is Open in the ISAF Youth Worlds.
8. ISAF regulation 23.1.2 requires ISAF to "progress towards an equal number of Events for men and women to participate in". The gender split in the proposed slate of Events is 5 Men, 4 Women and 1 Mixed. In 2012 the split will be 6 Men and 4 Women.

The submission believes that this is the right rate of progress for the sport of Olympic sailing. The provisional slate would mean that a full team for all 10 Events will have 9 women and 7 men athletes which would not be representative of global participation in sailing.

In addition, it is likely that the Mixed 2 Person dinghy, being single trapeze, will be raced by a woman helm and a male crew, which further reduces the options for today's leading male helms.

The submission believes that the slate it proposes offers the right balance between gender equality and reflection of global participation, while supporting the global growth of women's sailing better than the provisional slate agreed in November 2010.

Criteria for Equipment Evaluation

In addition to meeting the requirements defined in regulation 23.1.2, the submission recommends that:

- the Equipment evaluation for the Board Events shall consider both windsurfing and kite boarding Equipment, and the optimal formats for each;
 - the Equipment evaluation for the Women's 2 Person Skiff Event shall select equipment with an asymmetric spinnaker that is fast and challenging to sail.
 - the Equipment evaluation for the Mixed Multihull shall select out-of-the-box one-design Equipment.
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