

2016 Olympic Sailing Competition

Events and Equipment

A submission from the International Hobie Class Association

Purpose or Objective

To provide a balanced, representative, cost effective set of events for the 2016 Olympic Games.

Proposal

The following set of events be selected for the 2016 Olympic Games.

Event	Men	Women	Mixed
Board <u>and</u> /or KiteBoard	<u>RS:X / KiteBoard</u> (Evaluation)	<u>RS:X / KiteBoard</u> (Evaluation)	
One-Person Dinghy	Laser Standard	Laser Radial	
2 nd One-Person Dinghy	Finn		
Two-Person Dinghy (Spinnaker)			<u>470</u>
Skiff	49er	Evaluation	
Two-Person Multihull	Evaluation	Evaluation	
Total Events	5	4	1

Total Athletes in full team: 15
 Male / Female Gender balance in full team: 8 Male Athletes / 7 Female Athletes
 Events Open to Each Gender: 6 for Men / 5 for Women
 Matched Events: 4

Current Position

Provisional Decision taken in November 2010 as per Regulation 23.1.4

Event	Men	Women	Mixed
Board or KiteBoard	Evaluation	Evaluation	
One-Person Dinghy	Laser Standard	Laser Radial	
2 nd One-Person Dinghy	Finn		
Two-Person Dinghy (Spinnaker)			470
Skiff	49er	Evaluation	
Keelboat Match		Elliott 6m	
Multihull			Evaluation
Total Events	4	4	2

Total Athletes in full team: 16
 Male / Female Gender balance in full team: 7 Male / 9 Female Athletes
 Events Open to Each Gender: 6 for Men / 6 for Women

Matched Events:

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Reasons

The recommended slate fully supports the recommendations of the Olympic Commission but provides additional representation of the existing sailing community through the inclusion of a women's multihull event and in so doing providing the addition of another media friendly discipline.

The submission also includes the provision for three single handed dinghies (2 Men's, 1 Women's) and three doublehanders (Men's, Women's and Mixed).

The Olympic Commission highlighted five key areas in their recommendations:

1. Building Popularity

- ISAF won the coveted IOC Golden Rings Award for the best TV coverage across all sports at the 2008 Olympic Games. The winning piece of footage put forward to the selection panel was the multihull medal race, with this footage being judged the best television coverage across all sports and all events at the 2008 Olympic Games. The addition of a second multihull will provide an additional high quality media appeal event to build the popularity of the sport.

2. Increasing Universality

- The two regions identified by the Commission as being the most under represented at Olympic Games Qualifiers were African and Oceania. Both of these regions are current multihull strongholds where the addition of low cost multihulls would significantly reduce the barriers for entry and increase participation at Olympic Qualifiers, especially if regional events were included. In many small Oceania countries the only boats sailed are Optimists, Boards, Lasers and multihulls, generally Hobie 16s. One of the largest sailing events in Africa is the Tanzacat regatta in Tanzania - for multihulls only.
 - The submission supports the increase in womens' events as recommended by the Commission. Multihulls are sailed by both men and women, but as the boats become larger they are generally sailed by men because of the strength requirements, including the Olympic Tornado. Smaller multihulls generally have approximately 40% women sailing but these women have been excluded from Olympic competition because of the strength requirements of a large Open gender catamaran. Smaller multihulls have a significantly higher proportion of women, both as skipper and crew. For example the Italian Hobie 16 Ranking list shows 31 out of 72 ranked boats (43%) have female skippers (ref: www.tinyurl.com/48nldy6).
 - In Regional Games, the classes sailed are generally boards, Lasers and Hobie 16's, with this year's Pacific Games adding a Women's multihull due to the number of women sailing multihulls in the region.
 - A major component of increasing Universality is the ability to reduce the net cost of a campaign. Net costs are reduced by pairing of events, removal of development costs, reduced shipping costs, reduced turnover of equipment, and also from increased revenue from sponsorship and increased resale value of equipment. Olympic multihulls have had an excellent reputation of reducing turnover on equipment, and increasing resale value and income from sponsorship. Selection of a one source supplier including sails would remove development costs and provide a cost effective solution with a single platform multihull for men/women. Multihulls have always been cost effective in shipping do to the ability to break down the hulls and pack multiple boats in a single container (18 Hobie 16's in a single 40ft container) and provided excellent longevity of platforms with the Olympic Gold medallist using the same hulls in the 2000 & 2004 Olympic Games. Fully battered mainsails and furling jibs also provide longevity in multihull sails reducing costs to a minimum.
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3. Expanding Qualification Opportunities

- The submission supports the concept of regional qualifiers. Because multihulls are strong in even the most under represented regions (African and Oceania), regional qualifiers in these areas are feasible, providing the ability for smaller nations to send representatives to qualifying events.

4. Improving Event Structure

The Commission recommends "providing our best athletes with a platform to generate income through commercial support." Multihulls have consistently provided the most sponsor friendly platform to allow Olympic athletes to generate income. Ex-Olympic Tornado sailors are still generating significant income from sponsorship (e.g Tornado Red Bull Racing), and commercialisation of events such as the Extreme 40's show the interest generated by multihulls. At the 2008 Olympic Regatta, 20 of the 27 skyscraper billboards of sailing showed the Tornado providing an insight into the marketability of the discipline. The decision by the America's Cup to choose multihulls was based solely on their appeal to the media. This has also provided additional pathways for multihull sailors to further their careers. All of these provide opportunities for MNA's to promote their athletes as recommended by the Commission.

5. Enhancing the Olympic Games

The submission supports the inclusion of kite surfing. However, we believe that this is a new discipline within the sport and provides the opportunity for ISAF to approach the IOC for two additional medals to allow for two board sailing and two kite surfing events. Cycling were allocated additional medals to include BMX, and winter sports were allocated additional medals to include snow boarding. These provide precedence that should allow ISAF to strongly argue for the addition of medals to include a new and exiting discipline within sailing. Kite surfing off Copacabana beach would attract significant media appeal and should be included in the 2016 Olympics in some form.

The selection of "non development" multihulls will provide events where no athlete has an equipment advantage. This together with regional qualifiers would provide a truly global representation enhancing the appeal of the Olympic Games to a wider number of nations.

Event / Equipment Continuity

- The recommendation of the Multihull Commission is for a multihull with a single platform and two rig sizes and the selection of a single multihull platform for both men and women would result in only two new platforms for dinghies, i.e. the Women's skiff and Multihull.
 - In addition, the selection of a boat with a single sourced supplier would result in only two classes where development costs were required.
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