

Other Committees - Executive, Women's, Keelboat, Sailing

Crew Weight Limit for Women's Keelboat 2004 Olympic Regatta

A submission from the Royal Yachting Association

Current Position

There is no crew weight limit currently included in the Yngling class rules.

Proposal

It is proposed that ISAF introduce a new class rule for application to the Yngling Discipline at the Olympic Games which states;

“The total weight of the crew at an Olympic regatta when dressed in underwear shall be not more than 210kg.”

Reason

To further the Olympic ideal

- The aim of the introduction a crew weight control of 210kg is to: -
Ensure sailing skill not crew weight decides the medals at the Olympic regatta.
- Ensure that individual sailors are not prevented from being competitive by virtue of their weight.
- Ensure that the new Olympic discipline is open to the largest demographic section of potential women sailors, worldwide.

Why 210kg?

The reasons for a control of 210kg are: -

- The average weight of women sailors who participated in the ISAF Women's Match Race Circuit, our only regular International women's sailing circuit, is 67kg*.
- The average weight of sailors, men and women, currently participating in the Yngling class is 68.3kg with an average total crew weight of 204.85kg.
- The absence of a crew weight control for the Olympic Regatta is likely to lead to total crew weights of 220kg to 240kg; the weight of the current Yngling class open championship winners. This likelihood is supported by the Yngling VPP data prepared by Nicola Sironi on behalf of the ISAF.

VPP YNGLING COMPARISON - ALL WINDWARD

Yacht	True Wind Speed	6	8	10	12	14	16	20
YNGLING 180		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
YNGLING 200		6.3	0.6	-3.2	-4.2	-4.6	-5.1	-6.3
YNGLING 220		13.4	3.7	-4.9	-6.8	-7.9	-8.8	-10.6
YNGLING 240		20.4	7.7	-5.9	-9.1	-10.7	-11.9	-14.6

VPP YNGLING COMPARISON - ALL DOWNWIND

Yacht	True Wind Speed	6	8	10	12	14	16	20
YNGLING 180		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
YNGLING 200		4.3	2.3	1.0	0.8	1.0	1.4	1.8
YNGLING 220		8.9	4.9	2.4	1.7	2.0	2.6	3.6
YNGLING 240		13.3	7.7	3.9	2.7	3.1	3.9	5.3

VPP YNGLING COMPARISON - WINDWARD/LEEWARD

Yacht	True Wind Speed	6	8	10	12	14	16	20
YNGLING 180		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
YNGLING 200		5.3	1.4	-1.1	-1.7	-1.8	-1.9	-2.2
YNGLING 220		11.1	4.3	-1.2	-2.5	-2.9	-3.1	-3.5
YNGLING 240		16.8	7.7	-1.0	-3.2	-3.8	-4.0	-4.6

NB: Yngling with crew weight = 180 kg taken as reference. Numbers are sec/mi.
Negative numbers mean faster boat - positive numbers mean slower boat.

- A total crew weight of more than 210kg will make it difficult for some countries to field competitive crews, in particular sailors from Asian-Pacific countries. A paper produced for ISAF in the late 1980's by Jacques Rogge shows that the average weights for women from different ethnic groups are; Caucasian - 62kg, Afro Caribbean - 58kg, Pacific Asian - 51.3kg. This clearly shows that with no weight control the Yngling class will only provide competitive racing for a small percentage of the worldwide women's population.
- Olympic sailing is trying to portray itself as a sport for athletes. No crew weight control would requiring participants to be 80kg to 90kg to be competitive which will not help develop this Olympic image.
- 210kg is high enough to allow individual sailors of all weights to compete.
- Experience in narrow waterline small keelboats provides evidence that sailing with the maximum crew weight nearly always prevails at Olympic level competition.

The new class rule

The proposed new class rule is based on the text included in the current published edition of the ISAF Standard Class Rules.

