

Selection of Equipment for the 2008 Olympic Regatta

A submission from the International Laser Class

CURRENT COUNCIL POSITION

Council Minutes, June 2004

Council noted the submissions on the selection of equipment for the Olympic Regatta 2008 and considered the corresponding recommendations from the Events Committee and the Sailing Committee

Decision

- (i) On a proposal by Jeff Martin (Representative for the ISAF Classes), seconded by Ross Robson (Group Q - Africa South of the Sahara), Council approved the amended recommendation from the Events Committee to accept the following list of possible equipment:

<u>Event</u>	<u>Choice</u>
Multihull O	- Hobie 16 (M34) or Tornado (M33)
Keelboat W	- Soling (M31) or Yngling (M32)
Keelboat M	- Soling (M31) or Star (M30) or Yngling (M29)
D/H Dinghy O	- 49er (M27) or Snipe (M24)
D/H Dinghy W	- 470 (M25) or 49er (M27) or Snipe (M26,M28,M35) or 49er (M27)
D/H Dinghy M	- 470 (M25) or 49er (M27) / Snipe (M23,M26,M35) [whichever loses vote 4]
S/H Dinghy M	- Finn (M06) or Laser (M07,M16,M36,M37,M38) Whichever is not selected is the only option in vote 8
S/H Dinghy O	- Finn (M10) or Laser (M09)
S/H Dinghy W	- Byte (M21) or Europe (M12, M13) or Flash (M20) or Laser Radial (M11,M14,M15,M16,M17,M18,M19,M35,M37,M38) or Zoom8 (M22)
Windsurfer M	- Hybrid (M04) or Mistral (M01,M02,M03,M36,M37) or Mistral Derivative (M01,M03) or (M05)
Windsurfer F	- Hybrid (M04) or Mistral (M01,M02,M03,M36,M37) or Mistral Derivative (M01,M03) or outcome windsurfing equipment evaluation trials (M05)

NB: the codes in brackets relate to the submission numbers.

Council also noted that the Events Committee have appointed a joint working party with the Sailing Committee to produce the evaluation report of the equipment choices for November 2004.

In addition, Council noted the recommendation from the Events Committee on the voting procedure to be adopted in November 2004.

Decision

- (ii) On a proposal by Oleg Ilyin (alternate for Group H - Euro-Asian), seconded by Dierk Thomsen (Group B - Central Europe), Council approved the following voting procedure for the selection of equipment in November 2004:
- Each vote shall be between the equipment listed for each event.
 - All equipment chosen shall have a 50% majority. Where there is not a 50% majority, the equipment with the least votes shall drop off the list and voting will continue until the majority is reached.

(34 members voted for the proposal, 1 abstained)

ORIGINAL SUBMISSION

REPORTING COMMITTEE – EVENTS
OTHER COMMITTEES – SAILING

Proposal

That the equipment for the Open single handed dinghy event for the 2008 Olympic Games shall be the International Laser.

Current Position

[None given]

Reasons

Although the International Laser best meets the criteria established by the ISAF Council in November 2003 for assessing the suitability of equipment for men's dinghy events it also meets Council's criteria for Open Dinghy Events namely

Innovative: design; technology; format of racing; courses

Like all Olympic classes, the Laser has followed ISAF's lead on standardising on the current Olympic course format. However, the high manoeuvrability of the design makes it suitable for different formats of racing and a variety of courses including short courses or slalom all of which have been used at national level.

Added Media appeal

The boats are all the same so speed differences are a lot closer than most other classes resulting in close exciting racing especially on short courses. In the last two Olympics, one on one competition for the gold and silver medals in the last race has provided both drama and action in the Laser class.

"Buzz" for young and established sailors

The current Olympic format already provides that in the Laser class with both young and established sailors able to dream of being an Olympic sailor and seeing a realistic pathway to achieving this. The Olympics drives youth sailing in the Laser.

Scope for development

The Laser is probably the nearest equipment to the Olympic ideal where the test is between the skills of the athlete and is not influenced by equipment. With the equipment being the same and universally available the ability to jump on a plane and use the same equipment anywhere in the world opens up possibility for different types of competition and different types of venues.

The Laser is continually developing sailing in a number of new countries.

