2024 Olympic Sailing Competition

Timeframe to Decide Events & Equipment – Regulation 23.1

A submission from the Hellenic Sailing Federation

Purpose or Objective

To review the decision of Council to amend the timeframe to decide the Events and Equipment for the 2024 Olympic Games which was taken by email vote between Friday 28 July and Friday 4 August 2017, and defer the timeframe to decide Events and Equipment for the 2024 Olympic Games by one year, to November 2018.

Proposal

1. Amend Regulation 23.1.2 as follows:

23.1.2 In choosing its Olympic Events and Equipment, World Sailing shall seek to ensure that each Event at the Olympic Sailing Competition is, and will be likely to remain, the pinnacle Event for that discipline or area of sailing. In addition, the Olympic Events and Equipment taken together shall meet the requirements and objectives of the IOC and to:

(a) demonstrate the diversity of skills required to race various types of small boats, and minimise the overlap between Events;
(b) place an emphasis on athlete skill rather than equipment development, and limit the impact of equipment on performance;
(c) demand a high level of athletic ability as well as excellent sailing skills;
(d) be attractive and accessible to young athletes from all continents, and of different size and weight, with a clear pathway from World Sailing Youth to Olympic Events and Equipment;
(e) maximise the participation of the world’s best sailors and showcase the diversity of the sport;
(f) provide an effective platform for promotion of the sport, and elite sailors, between Olympics;
(g) progress towards an equal number of Events for men and women to participate in;
(h) avoid unnecessary or excessive equipment costs, development costs, measurement costs, coaching costs, race organisation and race official costs, and television and other media costs;
(i) offer continuity of Events and evolution of Equipment to give MNAs and sailors a dependable pathway into Olympic competition with continuity of investment;
(j) provide suitable Events and Equipment for Regional Games and other regattas;
(k) minimise environmental impact.

2. Amend Regulations 23.1.3(a) and 23.1.3(b) as follows:

23.1.3 The Olympic Events and Equipment are defined in Regulation 23.1.4. Any change to Regulation 23.1.4 shall be made according to the process below (subject to the provisions of Regulation 23.1.6) and the associated voting process and submission requirements are specified in Regulation 23.1.8:
(a) The ten Olympic Events and Equipment in Regulation 23.1.4 are selected for the 2020 Olympic Sailing Competition. Equipment evolution shall be permitted and shall be decided in accordance with Regulation 23.1.3(d). World Sailing may propose additional Olympic Events(s) and Showcase Events(s) for 2020, including a showcase event. World Sailing may propose Event(s) and Equipment as determined by Council based on submissions made by 10 January 2017 using the voting process for each Event as set out in Regulation 23.1.8(d) – (f) as applicable.

(b) Council shall decide by 31 December of the year two years after of the Olympic Games which of the Events selected for the next Olympic Sailing Competition (in two years’ time) to review for possible change for the Olympic Sailing Competition in six years’ time. There shall be a minimum of four such Events and a maximum of three such Events. All other Events and their associated Equipment which are not selected for review shall be included in the Olympics in eight six years’ time.

3. Amend Regulation 23.1.4 as follows:

23.1.4 Olympic Events and Equipment:

2016 Olympic Events and Equipment
Men’s Windsurfer - RS:X
Women’s Windsurfer – RS:X
Men’s One Person Dinghy - Laser
Women’s One Person Dinghy – Laser Radial
Heavyweight Men’s One Person Dinghy – Finn
Men’s Skiff – 49er
Women’s Skiff – 49erFX
Men’s Two Person Dinghy – 470
Women’s Two Person Dinghy – 470
Mixed Two Person Multihull – Nacra 17

2020 Olympic Events and Equipment
Men’s Windsurfer - RS:X
Women’s Windsurfer - RS:X Men’s One Person Dinghy - Laser
Women’s One Person Dinghy - Laser Radial
Heavyweight Men’s One Person Dinghy – Finn
Men’s Skiff – 49er
Women’s Skiff – 49erFX
Men’s Two Person Dinghy – 470
Women’s Two Person Dinghy – 470
Mixed Two Person Multihull – Nacra 17

4. Amend Regulation 23.1.8(b) as follows:

(b) For the decision under Regulation 23.1.3(b), there shall be a single ballot paper listing the ten Events and associated Equipment selected for the next Olympics. Each voting member of the committee (or Council) shall mark an X against those whose inclusion in the Olympics after next he or she wishes to be reviewed. Members shall can vote for a minimum of 4 Events (there is no maximum number of Events) any number of Events to be reviewed (including none). The Events receiving the most votes shall be subject to review. The Events receiving the second, third and fourth most votes, and any Event receiving more than 50% of the votes cast (excluding abstentions), shall also be
subject to review, if they received more than 50% of votes cast (excluding abstentions). If no Event receives any votes, then, notwithstanding Regulation 23.1.3(b), no Event shall be reviewed.

5. Delete the current Regulation 23.1.9 and insert as follows:

23.1.9 Notwithstanding any other Regulation, for the 2024 Olympic Sailing Competition:

(a) In November 2017, Council will debate any strategic issues concerning the 2024 Olympic Sailing Competition;

(b) Regulation 23.1.3(b) applies except that Council shall decide at the November Conference in 2018:

(i) which of the Events will be selected for review under that Regulation; and

(ii) may at that time select a new Event in place of an existing Event;

(c) The deadline for the process and decisions to be taken under Regulation 23.1.3(c) is 31 December 2018.

(d) Any submission received in 2017 seeking to amend Regulation 23.1 or seeking to review or change an Event under Regulation 23.1.3(b) shall not be considered in 2017 and shall be deemed to be deferred for consideration at the 2018 Mid-Year Meetings and 2018 November Conference.

Current Position

As above.

The Board proposed amendments to Regulations 23.1.2, 23.1.3(a) and (b), 23.1.4, 23.1.8(b), 23.1.9 which were voted on by email vote between Friday 28 July and Friday 4 August 2017.

At the time of making this submission, the decision of the email vote of Council is not known and the final amended regulation wording is therefore not known. The proposal above takes the proposed wording of Submission E27-17, amended compared to the existing regulations, and with the adjustment that the final decision shall be taken at the 2018 World Sailing November Conference.

Reasons

1. Council took an email vote (between Friday 28 July and Friday 4 August 2017) to approve a proposal by the Board to amend the minimum and maximum number of events which could be reviewed for the 2024 Olympic Games and extend the timeframe to decide Events and Equipment for the 2024 Olympic Games. This Council decision shall be reviewed in order to ensure a full strategic debate can be considered at a full conference attendance in November 2018.

2. The request to Council to make a decision by email vote:

   - Gave very little time to Council members to consider the proposal

   - Blocked the transparency and ability for around the table debate

   - Meant MNAs were not informed or consulted on the proposed changes in quotas

3. The uncertainty created by continually revising and amended the regulations on the selection of Events and Equipment for the Olympic Games and opening up the entire slate is damaging for the sport, impacts athletes and nations’ ability to chart their pathway to the Olympics and demonstrates an indecisive sport to the IOC. Therefore, let’s make sure that
adequate time is given to fully consider the decision with full input from MNAs, Committees and stakeholders.

4. The usual timeframe that the IOC requires to know the programme of events and equipment that World Sailing is proposing for the 2024 Olympic Games is in 2020. Accepting the need for strategic and transparent debate, there is no need to push this decision to be made in May 2018? Whilst yes, World Sailing should endeavour to make a decision in 2018, it would be far better for the sport to have time to fully analyse what is the optimum outcome for the sport, after full consultation with MNAs, Committees and stakeholders, not make any decisions in May 2018 and make the final decisions in November 2018?