Equipment for 2018 Youth Olympic Games

Inclusion of Laser 4.7 in 2018 Youth Olympic Games

A submission from the Laser 4.7 Class

**Purpose or Objective**

Single-handed dinghy sailing is by far the most popular youth sailing discipline worldwide. The purpose of this proposal is to assure that the discipline of single-handed dinghy sailing is represented in the 2018 Youth Olympic Games.

**Proposal**

To include the Laser 4.7 as equipment in the 2018 Youth Olympic Games.

**Current Position**

Currently the discipline of single-handed dinghy sailing is not represented at this important event.

**Reason**

1. The discipline of single-handed dinghy sailing is by far the most successful and popular format for competitive youth sailing worldwide and should therefore be showcased in the Youth Olympic Games.

2. The hull size and sail plan of the Laser 4.7 is perfectly suited for young sailors (both boys and girls). This supports the objective of gender equality among the sports in the Youth Olympic Games.

3. The Laser 4.7 is actively raced in over 100 countries on 6 continents providing a very large number of potential competitors the opportunity, excitement and challenge of attempting to qualify for the Youth Olympic Games. For example, there were 400 entries in the 2015 Laser 4.7 Youth World Championships providing the highest level of youth sailing competition.

4. The Laser 4.7 has a well-established competition structure around the world including national, continental and world championships that would facilitate an equitable and transparent selection process for Youth Olympic Games athletes.

5. Easy access to low-cost equipment. The Laser 4.7 is an established, strict one-design class. Used equipment retains value, which provides a robust second hand equipment market. Competitive equipment can be obtained worldwide at reasonable prices providing access to sport of sailing in both established and emerging nations.

6. Supports an Olympic pathway that is easy to follow and relatively low cost. The strong international youth participation starts with sailors coming from the Optimist class into the Laser 4.7 then on to the Laser Radial and then, for the men, to the Laser.