

World Sailing Regulations

Olympic Equipment - Regulation 23.1.6

A submission from the Hungarian Yachting Federation, Israel Sailing Association, Federacion Mexicana de Vela, Romanian Yachting Association and the Trinidad and Tobago Yachting Association

Purpose or Objective

That if an electronic vote is used for decisions regarding the Olympic Games, as set out in Regulation 23, that Council has the right to change a decision already taken with regard to an Olympic Event or Equipment by simple majority.

Proposal

To amend Regulation 23.1.6 as follows:

23.1.6 Council may only change a decision already made with regard to selection of an Olympic Event or Equipment if:

- (a) Regulation 23.1.9 applies; or
- (b) at least 75% of votes cast are in favour of a motion to change that specific Olympic Event or Equipment selection. **If that specific Olympic Event or Equipment selection was made by electronic vote, then a vote of more than 50% of votes cast is required to change that specific Olympic Event or Equipment selection.** In such an event, the timescales in regulation 23.1.2 shall not apply, and any subsequent voting process shall ensure that an Event or Equipment is de-selected, or new Event or Equipment is selected, only after a vote of more than 50% of votes cast in favour of the decision.

Current Position

As above.

Reasons

1. The World Sailing Council was pushed to make a decision on the five events/equipment to be retained and five events/equipment to be reviewed for the 2024 Olympic Games without the opportunity for proper debate, consultation or provision of information.
 2. It is evident from the close voting by Council, 21 in favour, 17 against and 2 abstain that whilst there was only a narrow majority to approve the Events Committee recommendation. Based on the Country Groupings and number of votes on Council, there were many more
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countries who voted to reject the Events Committee recommendation than voted to approve it.

3. When a vote is so close on such a critical issue and when that vote is taken without a face to face meeting and by electronic vote, Council shall have the opportunity to change its position based on a vote of more than 50% of the votes cast, not 75%.
4. The World Sailing Regulations regarding Council Rules of Procedure, Regulation 3, do not explicitly permit meetings by electronic means. Whereas, the Committee Rules of Procedure, Regulation 7.1.1 explicitly permit such meetings, as stated by:

“Additional meetings may take place by electronic means if appropriate.”

It is understood that by not explicitly referencing the ability to hold meetings by electronic means within the Council Rules of Procedure, the intention is not to permit such meetings.

5. The World Sailing Regulations 23.1.9 clearly state that the decision on which events and equipment to be put for review shall be made by 31 May 2018, which is in practice normally understood to be at the 2018 Mid-Year Meeting, and then the decision on the events under review shall be made by 31 December 2018, which is in practice understood to be at the 2018 November Conference.
 6. The World Sailing Board cannot continue to allow the lack of transparency provided by electronic vote to determine major decisions which have such far reaching implications as that for the 2024 Olympic Games. Decisions on matters concerning the Olympic Games must only be taken after a full strategic debate and around the table discussion, where committee members can fully discuss and understand implications ahead of making decisions which will significantly impact the future of sailing. The World Sailing Council must have an option to reverse a decision take by electronic vote by a simple majority.
 7. Electronic voting replaces live debate, collaboration and the possibility of finding a consensus between members of the Council, and is far from the transparency we all advocate. These are essential and when ignored the resulting decision has a high risk of being inadequate and not fit for purpose. The indiscriminate use of electronic voting is far from the “best governance practices” that should govern World Sailing and adversely affect the exercise of the rights of the stakeholders.
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