

Olympic Sailing Competition

Full Quota of Athletes at Olympic Games - Modify the Procedure of Olympic Berth Acceptance

A submission from the International 49er Class Association and International Nacra 17 Class Association

Purpose or Objective

To make the procedure for accepting Olympic berths more timely, equitable and efficient

Proposal

To amend the procedure of Olympic berth acceptance in the Olympic qualification document for 2020 (not yet written) so that each MNA accepts or rejects their Olympic berth within 2 weeks of the berth being won. Any rejections of a berth would offer that berth to the next MNA in line in the respective regatta with a further 2-week window to accept.

Current Position

As per the 2016 Olympic qualification document, MNAs have until the end of the Olympic qualifying cycle to accept or reject the Olympic berths they have won. The current position creates significant uncertainty until very late in the cycle. MNAs and Athletes next in line are left for Olympic berths are left scrambling to arrange logistics etc. too near in time to the Olympic regatta.

Reasons

1. The current system leaves berth uncertainty too late in the quadrennial for efficient passing of berths to subsequent qualifiers. In 2016 a number of MNA's next in line forfeited their berth because they did not have time to add the sailor to their team/ arrange boat transport/ arrange logistics etc.
2. The current system has resulted in MNA's holding back top sailors from Olympic competition in the middle of the peak Olympic news cycle resulting in poor news coverage of our sport to the general sporting public
3. The current system often changes which team gets the opened up Olympic berths when a team withdraws, tangibly changing which teams end up getting invited to the Olympics. This is a form of unfairness due to "after the fact" decision making. For example – consider if the first team and the second team not qualified at the Class Worlds (Games year -1) are from different continents, W1 and W2. If W1 team qualify from their continental qualifier and when a team withdraws then it is W2 that gets the spot. However, if the withdrawal happens before the continental qualifier, then W1 would get the spot and a different team from their continent would win the continental qualifier.