

2024 Olympic Sailing Competition

Medal Race Format

A submission from the Danish Sailing Association, Estonian Yachting Union, Finnish Sailing and Boating Federation, and the Norwegian Sailing Federation Norway.

Purpose or Objective

We present a medal race format that is both fair and exciting for competitors and spectators to follow up to the last minute of the last race.

The main objectives are to acknowledge good performance in the qualification when entering the medal race. Yet the winner of the last race is the winner of the regatta.

The proposed Medal Race 2.0 format is based on ideas from various sources. One of the most current events to use the proposed Medal Race 2.0 format is the Star Sailors League.

Proposal

The First to Win Two Races wins.

At the end of the qualification series the top four boats qualify for the medal race. The qualifying rank counts as one race. Boats race until one boat has two wins, which concludes the event.

Rank 2, 3 and 4 are determined by low point scoring with either the last race or the qualifying race breaking a tie (if more weight on the qualifying rank is desired it should be the latter).

A score board would look like this:

		Q	F1	F2	F3	F4	Score
Gold	Jensen	1	4	4	1	-	-
Silver	Nielsen	3	1	3	2	-	9
Bronze	Olsen	2	2	2	4	-	10
4	Hansen	4	3	1	3	-	11

Or like this:

		Q	F1	F2	F3	F4	Score
Gold	Jensen	1	1	-	-	-	-
Silver	Nielsen	3	2	-	-	-	5
Bronze	Olsen	2	4	-	-	-	6
4	Hansen	4	3	-	-	-	7

There will be a minimum of one and a maximum of four final races in the medal race. Every race will be a high-stake race with the finalists pursuing the final and deciding second win – and the gold position.

Option

The race course can be a simple two-lap up-down with a 12-15 minutes target time. The starting line, finishing line and bottom gate are made up of the same marks. The RC is on a boat in the transit of the start/gate/finish.

Boats not qualifying for the medal race can have a concluding fleet race to settle the ranks from 5 and downwards.

To have at least 10 directly interested nations as audience on medal race day, a repechage (semifinal) can be added to the qualification for the medal race (the final).

Current Position

The current medal race format does not guarantee intensity and high-stake racing as the winner can be known before the medal race if the qualifying lead is big enough.

The medal race is often conducted in an abandoned venue since there is no racing for boats not qualifying for the medal race.

Reasons

1. Every final race is an intense high-stake race that is easy to follow and easy to understand.
 2. The qualification counts between 51% and 21% (depending how many final races are held). So, the performance of the previous days is well reflected in the medal race, and winning the qualification means a big bonus as only one final race needs to be won by the boat entering the medal race as winner of the qualification.
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3. The medal race schedule would not need to be changed. On average, the turnaround time of one final race will be similar to the current medal races. The number of races will probably average out to be two.