

2024 Olympic Sailing Competition

Windsurfing Format

A submission from the Chinese Taipei Sailing Association

Purpose or Objective

Format submission for the 2024 Olympic games for Windsurfing.

Proposal

1. The courses should be set as close to the shore & the spectators as possible.
2. That the course racing courses in more than 12 knots of wind have reaching starts going to a rounding mark & then directly down wind to a gate & back up wind to a port rounding mark. [Windward leeward courses for 2-laps. Finishing with a reach to a finish line directly below the start line.
3. The last finish of the day has the finish line close to the harbor or the beach.
4. The windward beats have boundary lines such that the course is no more than 1 nautical mile wide.
5. Winds lighter than 8 knots normal up wind starts & between 8 to 12 knots, the starting system is optional according to the race committee. Normal windward leeward courses.
6. At least one long distance race per regatta going to geographical points of interest & close to the shore comprising of an approximately equal amount of time Up wind on each tack, down wind on each tack & reaching and be approximately 3 hours long with the start & finish on or close to the beach when practical.
7. The medal race is reduced to the top 4 sailors winner takes all. The medal race start & course is the same as above course as above but with a 15-minute target time race.
8. That slalom is included at the end of a course race in planning conditions & not a stand-alone event.
9. Racing should be started as close to possible to the scheduled time as long as there is a reasonably consistent wind direction & there is enough wind to complete the course within the time limits. 2 knots is enough wind in a sea-breeze situation for a fair race.

Reasons

1. The spectators on the shore need to be able to see & hear mark rounding's & so it can be possible for a commentary made through a PA system. The sport needs to engage the spectators on the shore better.
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2. Reaching starts in planning conditions are safer, easier to manage & control, more exciting to watch & easier to understand.
 3. Having the reaching start to windward of the same "committee boat" used for finishing offers the potential to have the start & finish line become a spectator barge & have all the coaches on this platform. The reach to the windward leeward course clears the wind disturbance from the barge. Then the sailors can come to the side of the barge between races. This can reduce the need for coach boats.
 4. Finishes near the harbor or the beach bring the event closer to the spectators.
 5. Windward leeward courses offer the most over taking lanes & are easy to watch & understand if the sailors cannot go too wide. The extra tacking reduces the drag race aspect & introduces more tactics, which makes a more interesting race.
 6. Winds below 8 knots are more weight dependant for planning conditions & up wind starts in light winds are easy to manage & safer due to the reduced closing speeds.
 7. A harbor race using geographical points of interest & close to the beach can be more interesting to show on screens, can be easier to include the general public based on shore & be more tactical due to a possible wider range of conditions in the race. The start & finish on or close to the beach have better spectator appeal.
 8. The medal race needs to be very simple to follow & the final result needs to be known as the sailors cross the finish line [unless there are any protests.] The top four places are the most interesting stories of the Olympics. Each sailor will clearly be out to win & wont hold back or risk pushing other sailors back.
 9. Slalom racing has very reduced over taking options, which is boring to watch & compete in. Large fleets with congested mark rounding are dangerous for slalom. Reduced heats are problematic when trying to run inclusive events with large fleets with many heats & often-large slalom events are not completed due to lack of wind.
 10. Racing should always be started as close to possible to the scheduled time to comply with live television time slots at the Olympic Games.
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