2024 Olympic Sailing Competition

Olympic Windsurfing Equipment

A submission from the International RS:X Class Association

Purpose or Objective

To retain the existing RS:X Windsurfing equipment for 2024 Olympic games. However, to start immediately the procedure for a possible equipment change for 2028 Olympic games.

Proposal 1

For 2024 Olympic Games in France: To RETAIN the current RS:X equipment for Men’s and Women’s Windsurfer events for the 2024 Paris Olympic Games in France.

Current Position:

a. At the Nov. 2018 World Sailing Annual Conference the Council voted almost unanimously to retain the current RS:X equipment for 2024 Olympic Games.

b. On December 15, 2018, the World Sailing Board launched the FIRST ‘Re-evaluation procedure with an “Invitations to Tender”, for the Windsurfer equipment for 2024 Olympic Games’. 5 bids were received.

c. On May 1, 2019 the Board made a Recommendation to Council, after considering all 5 bids, “to retain the current RS:X equipment”, with no further activities within the Tender.

d. The Council rejected the above Recommendation at the Mid-Year meeting in London May 18, 2019 with 23 votes against and 19 in favour.

e. On July 15th, 2019 the World Sailing Board made the SECOND 2024 Men and Women Windsurfer equipment selection with a new Tender, open to all, in order to “Select a New Equipment” for 2024 Olympic Games in France.

f. The RS:X equipment was “included in the Tender as a full option in the sea trials”, despite the apparent illogic procedure which is to “Select a New Equipment” (i.e. the RS:X).

g. Currently there is no Windsurfer Equipment decided for 2024 Olympic Games in France.

h. The RS:X Class was asked by WS to sign the Olympic Class Agreement for the XXXIII Olympiad, which was duly sign by the Class on January 11, 2018. The Agreement is subject to the condition of retaining the Olympic status by the equipment RS:X.
Reasons

1. The uncertainties, changes of decision, unclear procedure and illogic behaviour, are causing severe difficulties for the Class to run regattas and the daily activities with its Members. The situation is ongoing since Rio Games of August 2016.

2. The discipline of Windsurfing needs stability in order to protect the existing movements of sailors, incl. master and youth.

3. The Events committee, at the 2018 Mid-Year conference, received a presentation where it was identified that the windsurfing events played a large part in supporting the “universality” aspect of World Sailing’s ambitions for the Olympic Games. This aspect of universality has been reflected in the athlete quotas for 2016 and 2020, where the windsurfing events are being used to support gender equity for 2020.

4. At the 2019 Mid-Year conference, many views were put forward when considering change to the singlehanded classes that also support universality, that a change in equipment has significant ramifications on the number of countries participating within the sport. A change to the windsurfing equipment will have an equal effect on the number of countries participating within the sport of windsurfing – especially if it is not replaced with an affordable one design class.

5. It is too late to make such a change, when only 2,5 years to the first Olympic qualifying event for 2024 Olympic Games (2022 Sailing World Championships). It appears that there are no valuable alternative, as equipment for the discipline of windsurfing, today in the world, that can meet the requirements of IOC and WS, to aim to achieve the Olympic Status.

6. The current RS:X equipment after several Games fulfils ALL the requirements requested for windsurfing event and it can sail at any format and discipline (W/L course racing, downwind slalom, extremely wide wind range (3-30 knots), close to the beach format, etc).

7. The new Windsurfing Format, was approved by the Council at the 2018 Annual Conference, in Sarasota, USA.

8. The Monotype One Hull & Rig is the best solution for sailors, cheap and easy to transport. This equipment concept shall not be changed in order to continue the growth of Windsurfing globally.

9. The RS:X equipment is well established globally and also with the second-hand equipment performing to podium level and it is suitable for a very wide range of formats.

10. Today the single producer of the equipment, the Hong Kong company NeilPryde Ltd. has approved the licence agreement to third producer therefore I possible to have several producers of the equipment in the future.

11. The RS:X has a good gender balance, strong universality with a good number of Countries competing globally and there is a wide age range on the fleet.

12. To retain the RS:X equipment will protect the Olympic equipment investments made by MNAs around the World. When changing the equipment, it will abolish all those investments and will exclude one of the most universal classes from the Olympic Games.
Proposal 2

For 2028 Olympic Games in USA: To IMPLEMENT a clear transparent, timely procedure for preparation for a possible change of equipment (and perhaps a format) of the Men’s and Women’s Windsurfer equipment for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic Games.

Current Position:
The preparation for a possible change of Windsurfer equipment and format for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic Games has not started yet.

Reasons
1. Changes of equipment shall be made with reasonable time, in order to permit the transition of the sailors from one equipment to another, without jeopardising the Windsurfing movements and especially the youth sailors.
2. Changes of Equipment can be adopted with timely procedure and following a decision duly motivated, in the interest of the sailors. Avoiding uncertainties and unclear fast decision with the risk of disrupting the “good will” of years of regattas and activities of the existing Windsurfing discipline.
3. The Olympic sailing equipment change shall be smooth, well prepared and the equipment previously well tested, taking into account also, the safety issues and possible formats.
4. The time necessary, shall be at least 8 years before the targeted Olympic Games.
5. Therefore, the change of the Olympic windsurfing equipment for 2028 shall begin with already now.