

2024 Olympic Sailing Competition

Mixed One Person Dinghy Format

A submission from the International Laser Class Association

Purpose or Objective

To define a credible, media friendly and exciting format for the Olympic Mixed One-Person Dinghy Event that will allow for a second medal opportunity for sailors from all Olympic classes.

The purpose of this submission is to propose the format for the Mixed One-Person Dinghy Event regardless of the equipment that is selected for the event.

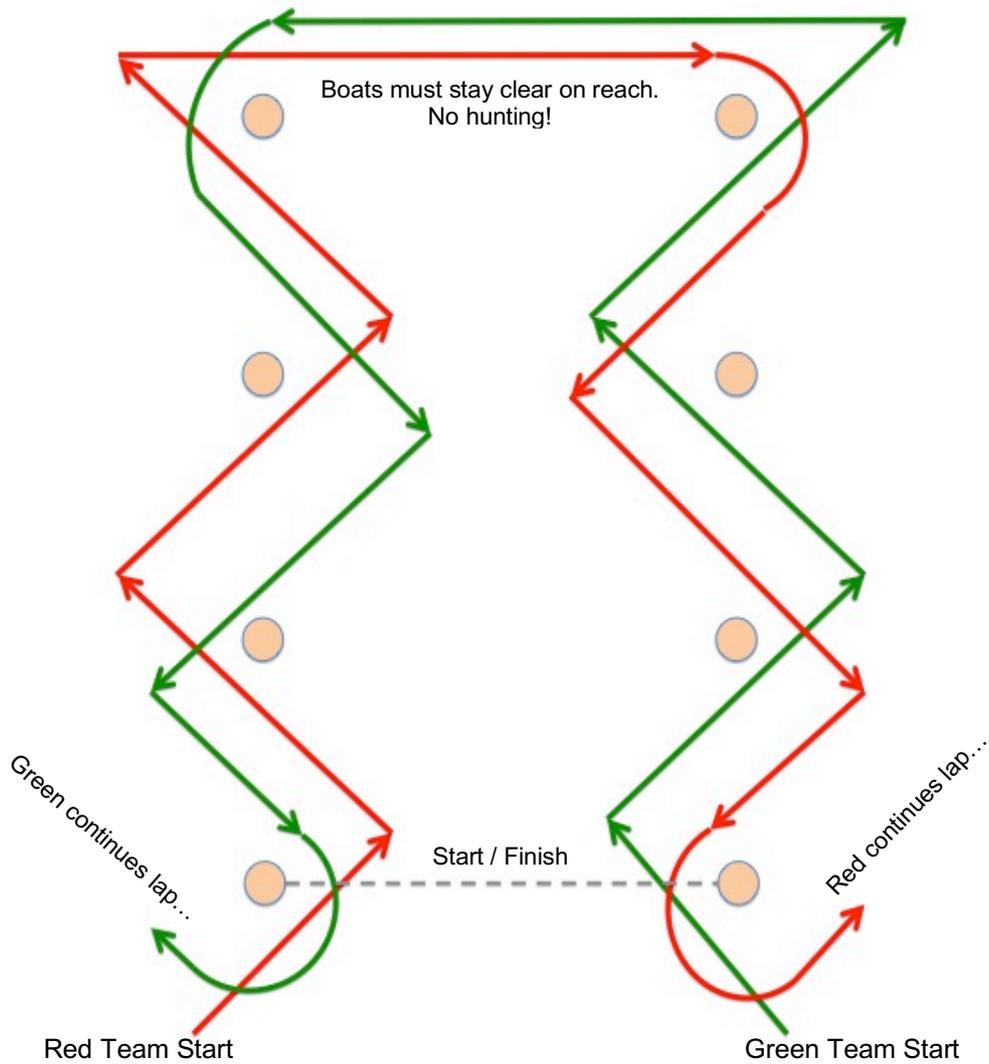
Proposal

The format for the Olympic Mixed One-Person Dinghy Event shall be a team slalom relay as outlined below.

- Countries will form teams made up of equal numbers of men and women chosen from athletes participating in one of the other 9 Olympic events, providing a second medal opportunity.
 - The tournament style elimination event should be held over 1 or 2 days, after the conclusion of the other 9 Olympic events.
 - Teams will compete in head-to-head relay races sailed on a small slalom course consisting of a Start/Finish Line, 2 Slalom Legs, and one Reach Leg. (*See diagram for example*).
 - Each sailor will complete a lap of the race, tacking at each upwind slalom mark and jibing at each downwind slalom mark before handing off to the next sailor. The equivalent of a “baton pass” can be achieved simply, with the boat beginning its lap crossing behind the boat that is finishing its lap after it has cleared the finish line.
 - Depending on the equipment used, the conditions and desired race length; slalom legs should consist of 3-5 marks set approximately 50 meters apart. Reach legs should be approximately 100 meters. (*See diagram for example*).
 - The team to cross the finish line first advances to the next round in a traditional “bracket style” tournament scoring system where winners advance towards a final head-to-head race.
 - The head-to-head format is similar to the parallel slalom skiing competitions where the leader can be identified visually at each mark and the first team across the finish line wins.
 - Like slalom skiing, sailors can hit marks as long as their boat passes on correct side.
 - To reduce the influence of on-the-water judging decisions, Rule 42 is not in force.
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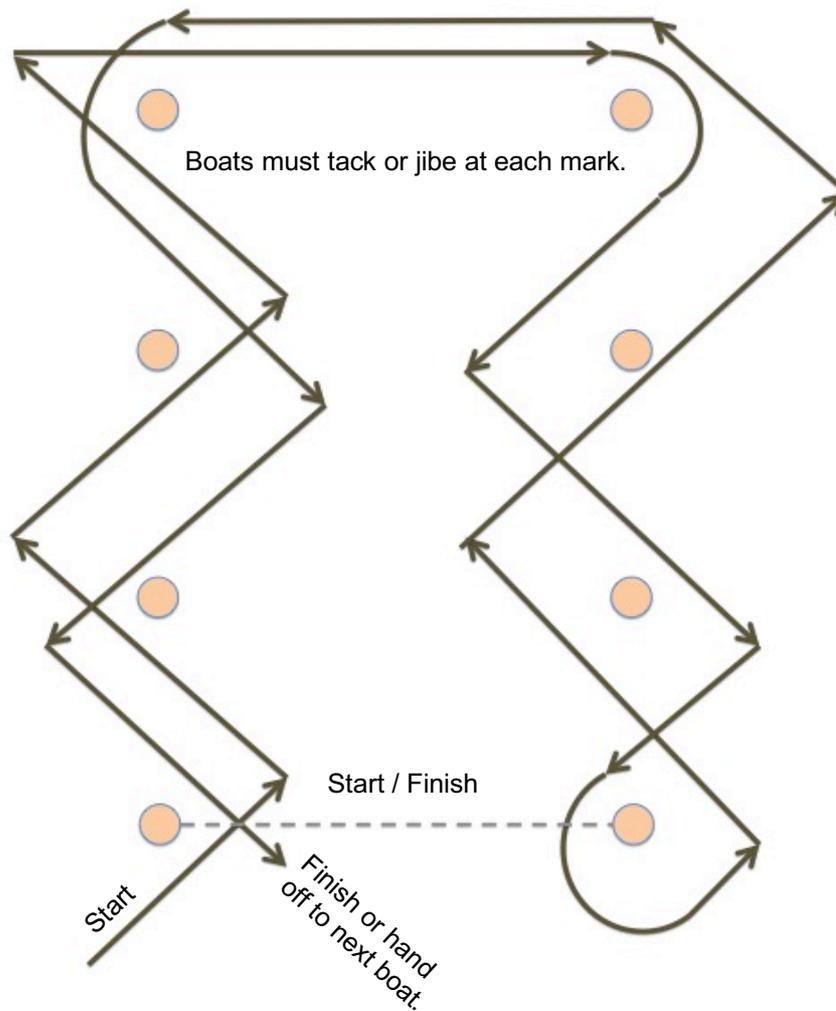
- The course shall be positioned as close to shore as feasible to maximize spectator appeal and provide ease of access for television coverage and commentary.
 - The number of laps and the size of the course can be configured to produce short, "media friendly" races that fit with established commercial television program requirements.
 - With short races and knock-out tournament style scoring, competition lengths as short as one day are feasible so as not to interfere with schedule of the other 9 events.
 - The details of the format (i.e. number of marks, distance between marks, number of laps sailed, number team members etc.) can be modified to meet any number of objectives including television timing, wind or current conditions, number of competition days, number of athletes etc.
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Example Course Diagram 2 Boats Starting and First Half Lap



(Diagram not to scale. The diagrams are examples for descriptive purposes and the actual course configuration can vary to accommodate conditions and timing considerations.)

Example Course Diagram *One Boat, Full Lap*



(Not to scale. The diagrams are examples for descriptive purposes and the actual course configuration can vary to accommodate conditions and timing considerations.)

Current Position

The format for the Mixed One-Person Dinghy Event is not defined.

Reasons

1. The slalom format provides credibility. It is a long-running, proven event dating back to the first San Francisco Slalom held in 1974 and held continuously and at numerous locations since that time.
 2. Second medal opportunity. Teams will be made up of athletes from any of the 9 other Olympic events providing the opportunity to create sporting heroes winning multiple medals at a single Olympic Games.
 3. Using the same athletes for this event allows for larger quotas in the other 9 Olympic events.
 4. Media and spectator appeal. The head-to-head racing style is exciting in both strong and light winds and is easy for viewers to follow and easy for media to cover.
 5. Media appeal and television potential. By changing the number of marks and the size of the course, the timing of races can be targeted to meet the requirements of television broadcasters and other media.
 6. Mass audience potential. The “first across the line” format and tournament scoring are familiar to the non-sailing audience, allowing for a large potential mass viewing market.
 7. Media coverage and spectator potential. A small race course close to shore allows easy access by television and media (including drones) and the potential for large live audiences at the venue and online.
 8. Supports the IOC requirement for gender equity.
 9. Easy race management with a minimum of Race Committee personnel and boats required. The marks for each of the two slalom legs are linked together with simple, pre-configured ground tackle, using one anchor at the top and bottom of each leg to maintain equal spacing and alignment, even in deep water. Low windage, high visibility marks are recommended.
 10. Minimal jury required. Slalom legs can be set far enough apart so boats do not interfere with each other on the water. No rule 42 or complicated mark roundings to police. Competition can be conducted with a little as one jury boat if needed.
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