2016 Olympic Sailing Competition

Final day format for 49er and 49erFX

A submission from International 49er Class Association

Purpose or Objective

To aid making the final day of the Olympic games both fair and exciting for sailing fans of the 49er and 49erFX classes.

Proposal

1. To use the ‘Theatre Style’ format for the final day of the Olympic games. Both the 49er and 49erFX classes should be scheduled to race 3 X 10 minute target time races.

2. Theatre Style means that the race course shall use, when appropriate, a continuous artificial boundary running parallel with the wind and on either side of the race course that the teams may not pass beyond.

Current Position

The current position is to use one or two medal races, where teams race on a normal racecourse with a target time of between 20-30 minutes.

Reasons

3. A 10 minute race is more suitable to television viewing than a 20 or 30 minute race.

4. A 10 minute race without boundaries results in teams going straight to the laylines and is not exciting to watch.

5. A continuous boundary allows media boats and fans to get very close to the sailing boats without being a navigable hazard to the sailors

6. A series of 3 races increases the fairness of the result compared to a single race, aiding the goal of having the team who sails the best win the regatta.

7. The Class has trialled this system a number of times and the sailors have voted for it.