2016 Olympic Sailing Competition

Race day format for 49er and 49erFX

A submission from International 49er Class Association

Purpose or Objective
To aid making the race days of the Olympic games fair for the sailors and exciting for sailing fans of the 49er and 49erFX classes.

Proposal
To schedule 4 X races per day each of a target time of 20 minutes.

Current Position
The current position is to use schedule 3 X races per day each of a target time of 30 minutes.

Reasons
1. A 20 minute race is more suitable to television viewing or live viewing than a 30 minute race.
2. A 20 minute racecourse is smaller than a 30 minute racecourse, so more of the racecourse can be close to a live viewing audience.
3. If fairness is defined as the team with the best skills being rewarded by taking the best finish places, then there is little change to the overall fairness of this format change. There is a small negative effect on fairness by shortening the race as a large proportion of the result is determined in the first 20 minutes compared to the last 10 minutes in a 30 minute race. The decrease in fairness created by shortening the race is countered by the increase in the number of races per day to 4 instead of 3.
4. 3 X 30 minute races and 4 X 20 minute race take roughly the same amount of time so there is little effect on the overall regatta schedule.