

2024 Olympic Sailing Competition

Creating Event Gender Equity

A submission from US Sailing

Purpose or Objective

To determine a one time replacement for Regulation 23 based on the concept of core events to achieve event gender equity for the 2024 Olympic Games.

Proposal

Procedure (outlined below) to select Olympic Events. Appoint a working party to create an event based selection procedure for the selection of events and equipment to replace Regulation 23 on a one-time basis. The Working Party shall have representatives from Events Committee, Equipment Committee and Constitution Committee. The recommendation of the Working Party should be presented to Council in enough time for MNAs to consider the process prior to the submission deadline for the World Sailing Meeting in the Spring 2018.

Current Position

Regulation 23

Reasons

This proposal creates a logical process to select Olympic Events and Equipment for 2024 that achieves event gender equity.

US Sailing supported the revision to Regulation 23 to open the discussion in November 2017 and to postpone any decisions until May 2018. However, we feel the revisions to Regulation 23 are insufficient to enable World Sailing to reach a strategic and logical outcome. The problem is that MNA's have to nominate the elimination of up to four classes in order to make changes, and there is no guarantee that the eventual replacements would be the desired choice of that MNA. The proposed process is likely to be acrimonious and unlikely to result in an optimal outcome.

US Sailing suggests that we go back to some variation of the old regulations where we first decided events and then later decided equipment, even if all of those decisions are made at the same meeting. It is likely that some core events will have nearly universal support. After selecting those events, we can have a logical discussion about the remaining event choices, followed by a selection of equipment.

Proposed Procedure

Stage One

Confirm the following Seven Core Events:

Core Events

M&W Singlehanded Dinghy

M&W Doublehanded Dinghy

M&W Boards (kiteboards and/or windsurf)

Mixed Doublehanded Multihull

The list above represents seven of ten events and achieves gender equity of 3.5 events for men and women respectively.

Stage Two

There is an argument to be made that after deciding on seven core events we select equipment for those events before proceeding to the selection of the remaining events. An additional step might be to nominate a list of equipment and format for each event so that choices are very clear cut.

Stage Three

Three more events are selected from the following list, recognizing that we must select:

- a) three mixed events or
- b) one mixed event, one men's event and one women's event, or
- c) change the mixed multihull above to M&W multihull as core events, and then select either two additional mixed events, or one each men's and women's events.

Additional Event Options

Another M&W Singlehanded Dinghy (Heavy and/ or Lightweight compared to above)

Another M&W Doublehanded Dinghy

Another M&W Board (kites and windsurf as separate events)

M&W or Mixed one design Keelboat

M&W or Mixed Match Racing

Mixed Team Racing (existing athletes, opportunity for 2nd Medal)

Mixed Offshore Keelboat Long Distance

Mixed Doublehanded Dinghy

Additional Multihull, combining with event above to make M&W Multihull instead of Mixed

Additional nominated events

While this paper does not go as far as prescribing voting procedures, it should be recognized that each of the current Olympic classes would have multiple opportunities to fill a slot as either a core event or an additional event.

At this stage, we should also consider voting on slates of three events to ensure that the overall program of events meets agreed strategic objectives.

As an example, US Sailing might support the following slate of events:

M&W Singlehanded Dinghy

M&W Doublehanded Dinghy

M&W Board Sailing Pentathlon (kites and windsurf)

M&W Multihull

Mixed Offshore Keelboat

Mixed Team Racing (existing athletes, supplied boats, 2nd medal)

We feel this would be an exciting program for Paris 2024 and Los Angeles 2028!
