2024 Olympic Sailing Competition

Olympic Equipment

A submission from the International 470 Class Association

Purpose or Objective

To specify the equipment for the Mixed Two Person Dinghy for the 2024 Olympic Games.

Proposal

Equipment Criteria for Mixed Two Person Dinghy:
- Boat concept: Displacement (Non-Foiling)
- Skipper weight range: 55-70 kg.
- Crew weight range: 65-80 kg.
- Sail size: Mainsail 9-10 m², Jib 3-4 m², Spinnaker 13-14 m².
- Sail types: Mainsail, headsail and spinnaker. Yes
- Suitable wind range for competition: 5-35 knots and any respective sea state suitable for racing
- Builder / Class structure: Measurement controlled

Format proposal: Various options, including:
- Fleet race – trapezoid, windward leeward, triangle courses, with downwind slalom and/or middle gates.
- Or format detailed in a separate submission but not binding to the present submission
- Or “Format criteria to be approved by Council through other submissions

Other Equipment considerations: Glass fibre reinforced with polyester construction; Symmetrical spinnaker; Single trapeze rig; Class rules to permit adjustable and optionally arranged rig and sail control systems; Option in class rules to amend RR42 and permit kinetics and physical action by the athletes; The selected class should be run by a well-established worldwide class authority with well-developed class rules following the ERS and SCR format.

Current Position

The equipment for the Mixed Two Person Dinghy is to be finalized by Council.

Reasons

The equipment for the Mixed Two Person Dinghy event must be:

1.1 Affordable - the selected equipment must be the most affordable two-person boat at the Olympic Games, and particularly affordable for emerging nations which is critical for the ongoing development of sailing and aspiration to the Olympic Games. For example the price of a ready-to-race 470 dinghy starts from €13,000. The average ready-to-race 470 dinghy price is 25% to 30% lower than the price of the other two-person Olympic
classes, and about 2½ times the price of the current one-person dinghy men and women class. GRP construction prohibiting expensive materials is a must.

1.2 Mainstream – a 3-sail 2-person dinghy represents universal and mainstream sailing. A boat like the 470 would continue as the proven flag-bearer for two-person dinghy sailing at the Olympics. A technical and fully adjustable non-foiling dinghy with symmetric spinnaker challenges sailors to be fully accomplished in all aspects of sailing: tuning, tactics, strategy, technique, boat handling, agility and teamwork.

1.3 Universal – a boat like the 470 has worldwide popularity and offers a consistent and proven pathway from youth to Olympic.

1.4 Accessible - whether newcomer or elite, the selected boat should offer widespread participation and racing opportunities, and be flexible to different racing environments and formats, whilst offering a level field of tactical racing and high performance from 5-35 knots.

1.5 A Level Field Provider – a boat like the 470 is a well-controlled one-design class, with excellent rules and building specification, delivering a level playing field, with equipment provided by manufactures around the world. The 470 has been refined and upgraded through the years to become a modern, mature and proven racing machine.

1.6 Media Appeal – a boat such as the 470 lends itself to multiple race format options, which can better present the style of sailing than the limitations of the current Olympic format. Better use of on board cameras, headcams and audio will better convey the intensity of racing, precision of team work and the range of skills needed to sail such a boat.

1.7 The boat must be suitable for light to medium weight athletes hence the limitation to a single trapeze rig with the proposed sail area.

1.8 The boat should be suitable and responsive to kinetics action by the athletes, with class rules that permit these actions by amending RR42.