

Youth Sailing World Championships

Selection of Events

A submission from the International 420 Class Association and International 470 Class Association

Purpose or Objective

To review the boys two-person dinghy event and girls two-person dinghy events at the Youth Sailing World Championship in relation to the youth pathway leading to the events at the 2024 Olympic Games.

Proposal 1

To introduce a boys or mixed two-person dinghy event and retain the girls two-person dinghy event at the Youth Sailing World Championship, and amend regulation 24.5.3 as follows:

24.5.3 The following events, classes and equipment shall be included in the programme of the Championships:

- (a) Boy's One Person Dinghy – Laser Radial
- Girl's One Person Dinghy – Laser Radial
- Boy's **or Mixed** Two Person Dinghy - 420
- Girl's Two Person Dinghy - 420
- Boy's Windsurfer – RS:X (with the 8.5m rig)
- Girl's Windsurfer – RS:X (with the 8.5m rig)
- Boy's Skiff – 29er
- Girl's Skiff – 29er
- Mixed Multihull – Nacra 15

Proposal 2

That the introduction of a boys or mixed two-person dinghy event and girls two-person dinghy event at the Youth Sailing World Championship be effective from the Championship held in 2021 and forwards.

Current Position

The current position is there are currently two separate two-person dinghy events for boys and girls at the Youth Sailing World Championship, as per Regulation 24.5.3:

Reasons

1. At the 2019 World Sailing Mid-Year Meeting, the Events Committee reported they would appoint a working party to review the '*Impact of 2024 Olympic decisions on youth pathway generally and on the Youth Worlds*'. The International 420 Class Association has considered this review and feels that the proposal above would meet the needs to consider the youth pathway via the Youth Worlds.
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2. The events and equipment selected for the Youth Sailing World Championships have a significant influence on MNAs' youth pathway programmes and investment in sailing. It is therefore imperative that any decisions on the events are taken with the understanding of how decisions will positively or negatively impact the growth of sailing around the world.
 3. Many people link the 420 Class at the Youth Worlds directly with the 470 Class at the Olympics. However, it is important to understand that the 420 Class is a pathway class to all of the two-person events at the Olympic Games, not just the 470. Therefore, the International 420 Class Association believe it is appropriate to keep the two-person dinghy as two events at the Youth Worlds with the proposed changed.
 4. The change from a 'boys' to a 'boys or mixed' event introduces the opportunity for mixed and boys teams to compete in the 420 Class at the Youth Worlds. This change will support teams who transition from the 420 Class to Olympic Sailing, in the single gender and mixed gender two-person Classes; 49er, 49erFX, Nacra 17 and 470.
 5. The events at the Youth Sailing World Championship are selected as 'pathway' events to the Olympic Games and should not be forced to 'replicate' the events at the Olympic Games.
 6. This change will reflect the events line-up at the annual 420 World Championships where the events are Men/Mixed, Women and U17 (Men/Mixed and Women), and at the Junior Europeans where the events are U19 Men/Mixed and Women in one fleet, and U17 Men/Mixed and Women in one fleet.
 7. It is well-known that in many countries sailors in two-person youth boats prefer to sail with their own gender. Removing that opportunity risks removing participation opportunities.
 8. Gender does matter, and, in some countries, the approach and involvement in sport is often determined based on cultural, religious or social reasons. In such countries, youth athletes may not be permitted to engage in mixed sports. It should also be noted that participating as a mixed team in the physical proximity and close confines of a boat is very different to competing in a mixed team in sports such as tennis or badminton, for example.
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