

2024 Olympic Sailing Competition

Olympic Equipment

A submission from the Chinese Yachting Association, the Japan Sailing Federation and the Chinese Taipei Sailing Association

Purpose or Objective

To ensure the Olympic windsurfing equipment offers fair & affordable competition without discrimination & can grow the sport of sailing & windsurfing. The One design windsurfing equipment should be easy and fun to use & launch, [without changing rigs or fins] in a wide range of conditions, while still providing a wide range of options for competition formats that are spectator & media friendly.

Proposal

Current Event & Equipment	2024 Events – May 2018	2024 Equipment Proposal
Men's Windsurfer – RS:X *	Retained	Select New Equipment
Women's Windsurfer – RS:X *	Retained	Select New Equipment
Heavyweight Men's One Person Dinghy – Finn	New Event - Mixed One-Person Dinghy	Select New Equipment
Men's Two Person Dinghy – 470	New Event - Mixed Two Person Dinghy	Select New Equipment
Women's Two Person Dinghy – 470	New Event Mixed Kite	Select New Equipment

** Note the equipment for this event is under Olympic Equipment Re-evaluation if retained.*

Equipment Criteria for Men and Women Windsurfer (Only if Evolve or Select New Equipment is chosen in table above):

Board concept: Non-foiling

Sail size for Men: 8.5m².

Sail size for Women: 8.5m².

Same board for Men and Women with same rig concept:

Suitable wind range for competition: 2- 27 knots.

Athlete weight range for Men: 60-80 kg.

Athlete weight range for Women: 50-70 kg.

Builder / Class structure: Manufacturer controlled One Design

[TPE only: Format proposal: As per document attached]

Other Equipment considerations:

1. There should be a guarantee from the Brand Owner, manufactures / Class, that there will be podium level charter equipment available for less than 300 Euros per regatta for the Olympic Games, World & Continental Championships & Youth World Championships. The sailors should bring their own mast sail & fin.
2. There should be multiple licensed global manufactures building to strict One Design tolerances to ensure security of supply, high quality equipment & introduce market place price competition.
3. A new hull shape should chosen and be less than 3 meters long to help ensure the board can be air transported as excess baggage & have a wide weight carrying capacity.
4. The equipment should be durable, reliable & safe to use.

Equipment Criteria for Mixed One-Person Dinghy:

Criteria to be approved by Council through other submissions

Equipment Criteria for Mixed Two Person Dinghy:

Criteria to be approved by Council through other submissions

Equipment Criteria for Mixed Kite:

Criteria to be approved by Council through other submissions

Current Position

As above.

Reasons

1. Equipment costs can be the biggest hurdle to developing nations & self funded campaigns. Every aspect of the costs of a campaign needs to be considered & way found to reduce all costs. Transport costs around Asia, the Americas & the Pacific are higher than around Europe & so low cost charter equipment events are a good solution.
 2. The Olympic windsurfing equipment traditionally has been a strict one-design class with one hull rig, fin & centreboard and was affordable, durable & simple to use. This has allowed the Windsurfing Event to remain as one of the most accessible events for developing nations & allowed self funded programs & developing nations to be successful at winning Olympic Medals. One Design Equipment is the best solution to allow for charter equipment events.
 3. Multiple choice hulls, rigs, hydrofoils & fins introduce unnecessary complication & increase the costs multiple times. Multiple-choice equipment reduces the chances of podium level charter equipment being available for any events.
 4. The maximum fin size should be less than 60 cm which reduces the importance of the fin and enables the boards to more easily clear debris from the fin, have beach starts & finishes
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& sail closer to shore safer than foiling can. The top performing hydrofoil lengths are up to 1.2 meters.

5. Hydro Foiling equipment is faster than traditional equipment, but the extra speed will mean smaller equipment differences will mean bigger differences in performance & greatly favour developed well-funded nations who can afford equipment development programs.
6. Hydro Foiling equipment has a much smaller wind range that races can be run in than traditional windsurfing equipment. Delayed starts are not compatible with Live TV coverage at the Olympic Games.
7. Hydro Foiling is much more difficult to control and therefore dangerous than traditional equipment when racing in close quarters in large groups. The hydrofoils need to be very sharp to work properly.
8. Hydro Foiling equipment requires calmer conditions, deeper water & more open space with consistent wind for launching compared to traditional windsurfing equipment that has a centreboard. Hydro foiling is much more limited for places & times it can be used than traditional windsurfing.
9. Hydro foiling equipment including the rigs are still evolving quickly & should be allowed to continue to do so without the burden of being restricted by IOC Equipment requirements.
10. A centreboard allows displacement conditions sailing as often required in sheltered harbours or off shore conditions in light winds. A centreboard is also much easier to use when launching off a beach in on shore conditions than a hydrofoil.
11. In places where the tide goes out a long way or the water is murky & has shallow areas, or there is a lot of debris in the water, hydro foiling is much more problematic & prone to crashing violently than traditional windsurfing equipment.

[TPE and CHN only:

12. *The maximum rig size of 8.5 allows men women & youth to use the same size rig & increase the second hand market. Currently the RSX 9.5 cannot be resold easily & often the second hand market for the 8.5 is under supplied. Currently the 9.5 rig size means that over a wide range of conditions, men's height & weight is well above the global average height & weight for men. The Olympic women's & men's rig size for the Olympics prior to 2005 was less than 7.5 meters squared & is still faster than the RSX 9.5 in under 8 knots.*
 13. *The RSX hull is not an efficient shape for sailing in under 8 knots & is not easy to sail in over 20 knots in rough water. The RSX hull shape requires a large fin, which is more susceptible to performance variation & breakage than a small fin.*]
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