Youth Olympic Games

Adjust the Age Limits for the Youth Olympic Games

A submission from the Swedish Sailing Federation

Purpose or Objective

To give all sailors the opportunity to participate in the Youth Olympic Games, YOG and to reduce costs of preparation and participation in the qualifiers.

Proposal

To give all sailors the opportunity to participate in the Youth Olympic Games, YOG and to reduce costs of preparation and participation in the qualifiers.

Current Position

The aim of the Youth Olympic Games is to bring together talented young athletes - within the age group 14 to 18. It is up to each sport to decide whether the sport wants to use the full age span or a part of the age span. For sailing the current maximum age for competing in the Youth Olympic Games is 16 years and the minimum age is 14 years. The Youth Olympic Games are handled by the Executive Committee with input from the YOG working party.

Reasons

1. Sailing is a life time sport. Therefore we should not stress the young athletes to compete at a higher level if we do not have to. Use the maximum prescribed age span in YOG from the IOC, 18 years.

2. By using the 18 years maximum prescribed age, the same equipment could be used as in the Youth Worlds. This will likely mean a lower cost for the youth sailors as they do not need to purchase or rent additional equipment for preparation or qualification to the YOG.

3. The YOG is held every four years. If sailing has an age span of two years, half of all the sailors never get a chance to qualify to the YOG. To give everyone an opportunity, the age span should be four years i.e. between 14-18 years.