2024 Olympic Sailing Competition

Retain 2020 Events & Equipment

A submission from the Hungarian Sailing Federation, Russian Yachting Federation and Virgin Islands Sailing Association

Purpose or Objective

To retain the Events for the 2020 Olympic Sailing Competition as Events for the 2024 Olympic Sailing Competition.

Proposal 1

Under Regulation 23.1.6(b), Council agrees to consider changing the Events for the 2024 Olympic Sailing Competition in order to retain the Events of the 2020 Olympic Sailing Competition.

Proposal 2

To make the following change to Regulation 23.1.4 (the Events for the 2024 Olympic Sailing Competition) and hereby retain the Events of the 2020 Olympic Sailing Competition:

2024 Olympic Events and Equipment

Men's Windsurfer - RS:X (equipment subject to further World Sailing decision)
Women's Windsurfer - RS:X (equipment subject to further World Sailing decision)
Men's One Person Dinghy - Laser (equipment subject to further World Sailing decision)
Women's One Person Dinghy - Laser Radial (equipment subject to further World Sailing decision)
Mixed Kite - IKA Formula Kite
Heavyweight Men's One Person Dinghy - Finn
Men's Skiff - 49er
Women's Skiff – 49erFX

Mixed Two Person Keelboat Offshore
Men's Two Person Dinghy - 470
Women's Two Person Dinghy - 470
Men's Two Person Dinghy – 470
Women's Two Person Dinghy - 470
Mixed Two Person Multihull – Nacra 17

Proposal 3

Regulation 23.1.9 be deleted.

Regulation 23.1.9

Notwithstanding any other Regulation, for the Mixed Two Person Keelboat Offshore Event at the 2024 Olympic Sailing Competition:
(a) no later than 31 December 2020, Council shall select a list of equipment which it considers meets the key criteria for the Event and may therefore be approved by Council at later dates as equipment to be used for qualification for the Event.

(b) no later than 31 December 2023, Council shall select the Equipment for the Event from the list approved under Regulation 23.1.9(a).

Current Position
As above.

Reasons

1. That events which are not currently sailed as a world championship should not be in the 2024 Olympics (Mixed Two Person Keelboat Offshore)

2. The sport of sailing should not be running “made-up” events concocted to make the Olympic 2024 gender equality math work, regardless of the damage to the sport.

3. Sailing should not have two Mixed events where other Sports have just one or none.

4. World sailing should not be disagreeing with the view expressed by IOC Director of Sport, Kim McConnell that Sailing has already (with the 2020 Olympic event slate) has met the requirements of Agenda 2020. There is no change in IOC requirements between 2020 and 2024. Sailing has decided that it will “over-comply” for 2024. It is not an IOC requirement at all.

The IOC comments are contained halfway through this rather long story:

5. Sailing should not go beyond Mr. Kim McConnell’s assertion that it is acceptable to have gender imbalance in a Sport when there are “clear sporting reasons”. Most would accept not having an Event for sailors weighing more than 85kg is an exception contemplated by IOC policy. Mr Kit McConnell in fact cited Sailing as an example of an acceptable exception.

Mr. Kit McConnell’s, the IOC Sports Director’s comments about Sailing already having achieved Agenda 2020 and having an exception event are contained here:

Quote:
In response to a question on the International Athletics Federation and the continued inclusion of two similar Events Heptathlon and Decathlon, Mr. McConnell used Sailing by way of an example.
"In some sports, we recognise that there are differences between the exact schedule between men and women. We can think of Sailing and a couple of others where there the two event programs are not absolutely mirrored but are balanced in many other ways."

6. In the proposal there are 4 symmetrical events. Thus, nations are able to run a paired event coaching and development program - which reduces program and equipment costs and results in increased participation.

7. Many nations, particularly the top sailing nations, operate on the basis of state funding for their Olympic programs, as opposed to just funding assistance with sailors to compete at the actual Olympics. The state funders also require a minimum standard of performance - usually top 10 in the world - which is a disincentive to back sailors who are well off this benchmark. The state funders have also made considerable investment over the years in what was a stable and symmetrical set of events, and have to balance their investment in athletes in sailing with those athletes in other sports - who may have slightly less compelling prowess - but are competing in a sport which has stable events, and therefore a longer competitive life for an athlete.

8. That begs the question for an investor (indeed family, business, benefactor or government) that there is no stability in the events for the Sport at all, and selection of events is short-term only. When balancing two opportunities e.g. supporting a rower or a sailor - why would you support an athlete competing in an unstable sport, compared to one which is stable in its events selection. A rower for instance can look forward to a 12 year or more Olympic life. Under the current process on World Sailing event selection, and with the willingness to exclude male sailors with a bodyweight of 85 kg+, Sailing has a very short Olympic life.

9. Further, the Youth and Junior pathways are very important for those coming into the sport. After a lot of effort on both the Olympic and Youth program level there is now good symmetry. For the parents who are making the initial financial commitment - stability in events is very important. The data points to 50% of these parents knowing nothing about sailing. In the wake of the change advocated by World Sailing, how can they be encouraged to make a considerable investment in time and money into their children and club programs, and particularly in a situation where sailing is not one of the primary School sports at a Secondary School level?

10. The young sailors are wanting a lot more detail on how the events will be structured and what their MNA will be doing to put the pathways in place. Without this detail it is impossible for them to decide whether or not to continue into the Olympics or take up a professional sailing option that excludes the Olympics. The long-term ramifications of that thinking should be obvious to all of us.