2024 Olympic Sailing Competition

Retain the Finn as equipment for the Heavyweight Men's One Person Dinghy Event
(IFA2)

A submission from the International Finn Association

Purpose or Objective

If submission IFA01 is successful and the Heavyweight Men's One Person Dinghy event has been reinstated, then retain the Finn as the equipment.

Proposal 1

Under Regulation 23.1.6(b), Council agrees to consider changing the Heavyweight Men's One Person Dinghy event for the 2024 Olympic Sailing Competition.

Proposal 2

To make the following change to Regulation 23.1.4 (the Events for the 2024 Olympic Sailing Competition):

2024 Olympic Events and Equipment
Men's Windsurfer – RS:X
Women's Windsurfer – RS:X
Heavyweight Men's One Person Dinghy - **Finn**
Men's One Person Dinghy - Laser
Women's One Person Dinghy - Laser Radial
Mixed Two Person Keelboat Offshore -
Mixed Two Person Dinghy - 470
Men's Skiff - 49er
Women's Skiff – 49erFX
Mixed Two Person Multihull – Nacra 17

Current Position

As above.

Reasons

1. The International Finn Association (IFA) is proposing this submission to retain the Finn as the equipment for the Heavyweight Men's One Person Dinghy event. This can only be considered if Council agrees to 'unlock' the event under Regulation 23.1.6(b).

2. Proposal 1 will therefore require 75% of the votes cast to be in favour in order to pass.

3.   The IFA is raising several submissions in order to re-balance the Olympic events for 2024. These submissions will make it possible for men over 85Kg to compete. Under the current slate there is no event suitable for these athletes. It also provides greater opportunity for Lightweight women to compete. Taken together, these submissions retain complete gender equity across the Olympic events while allowing athletes with a larger range of bodyweights to compete. This is IFA submission IFA02.

4.   Proposal 2 retains the Finn as the equipment for the Heavyweight Men's One Person Dinghy event.

5.   Retaining the Finn as equipment helps to reduce the amount of change in the Olympic programme for 2024. This means less cost to the many MNAs with existing Finn programs whose investment over many years in development pathways, athletes, coaches and equipment can be retained.

6.   The Finn is the Pinnacle boat for Men over 85Kg. Olympic Sailing's Blue Riband, its Marathon, the boat that has delivered a succession of heroic Olympians and sailing legends over 17 successive Summer Games; Elvstrøm, Ainslie, Coutts, Lööf, Bertrand, Lemieux the list goes on.

7.   The Finn is the most seaworthy dinghy within the current Olympic Sailing Programme. This means that not only does it requires less coach support (and is therefore the most environmentally sustainable in that regard) but the event can be delivered in extreme conditions in which most of the other Olympic Sailing events would have to be held ashore This provides not only spectacular media opportunities but a more guaranteed Television schedule for the Olympic Broadcaster to distribute.

8.   The Finn allows sailors to use free kinetics that showcase extreme physicality and athletic ability in addition to the range of skills required by the other Olympic sailing events. It completely represents the Olympic ideals of strength and athleticism – Citius, Altius, Fortius.

9.   The Finn is a one design, measurement-controlled boat with builders across the world. Completely FRAND compliant, it meets strict rules refined over the years to ensure the evenness of competition. Slight changes within tolerances are allowed for masts and sails to ensure that sailors from a relatively wide weight range can find equipment that allows them to be competitive without needing the optimal body type that exists in many other boats. The result is a boat where the sailor makes the difference not the equipment.

10.   Finn hulls and masts last for many years and have a high resale value. This makes the investment in equipment a very small part of the overall cost of a multi-year Olympic Campaign.