

2021 Equipment Committee report to Council

27 October 2021

2021 was a challenging year, combining the delivery of the Tokyo 2020 sailing competition amid the Covid19-pandemic with the start of the new committee term.

Several Equipment Committee and Equipment Rules Sub-Committee members, as well as almost the entire Technical & Offshore staff were involved in the Olympics in varying roles (from ITO to coach or support team member). This practically means that most of the available time in the period March – August was dedicated to the delivery of that pinnacle event.

The few who weren't involved actively took part in the Regulation 23 discussions and the Events Review. Their feedback was noted and a number of submissions linked to the outcome of discussions currently is presented to you for consideration.

We unfortunately also had to note a resignation from an Equipment Committee member due to professional reasons (career evolution).

Overall, we can nevertheless say that at the time of this report all working parties have been defined and either are already in full swing or ready to kick off. The only working party still to be officially approved is the joint RRS-ERS WP to progress the tasks assigned as a result of Submission 269-15.

The Class Applications WP reviewed information provided from the applicants (International Wingfoil Class, GWA Wing Foil Race Class, Techno Wind Foil 130 Class, L30 class) and together with the Sub-Committee's Class Rules review came to the conclusion that most applications were to be deferred to the 2022 Mid-Year-Meeting because of a lack of representative events to proof sufficient 'activity' and meet the regulatory minimum global distribution requirements, the sub-committee further recommended that all class rules required changes.

As previously agreed this term the existing World Sailing Classes will be subject to status review. At this year's Annual Conference input for the order of such a review has been collected. The order will be finalised in the coming weeks. Objective is to report on this at subsequent annual conferences.

Safety being a top priority took the spotlight in different ways this year:

- the safety panel feedback was provided by the Executive Office;
- the newly created personal safety equipment working party will look further into rules about helmets and high visibility, and rules about impact vests. This both in terms of requirements and uniformity among classes.
- in order to get to a more pro-active approach on safety (in class rules, building specifications, etc.) a submission (009-21) was drafted. Discussions however showed that the wording needed further nuancing and clarification. Therefore, the Committee withdrew the submission but noted the inclusion of an extra point on safety for the Class Rules / Class Status review.

Following the IOC's decision to not include the offshore event in the Paris 2024 programme and to split the mixed kiteboard event, the Paris 2024 equipment is now defined. As part of the preparations the Equipment Committee and the Technical & Offshore department of the Executive Office discussed the Olympic Equipment Policy, Quality Control and the monitoring of the changes to building specifications. The staff provided a progress report on iQFOiL and IKA-Formula Kite. They also gave an update on the In-House Certification programme noting the need to re-launch audits following the pandemic restrictions and the Board registration scheme.

Jurgen Cluytmans, Equipment Committee Chair