

FORMAT WORKING PARTY REPORT

REVISED 22 OCTOBER 2021

1. WORKING PARTY MEMBERS

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2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

- 2.1. Take forward the Format Working Party report from the 2020 Annual Conference and make final recommendations on the Event formats for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games;
- 2.2. Review the medal race format and make any recommendations for change;
- 2.3. Review the success of formats at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games and make any recommendations for the future; and
- 2.4. Engage with the Race Officials Committee, the Olympic Classes and the Oceanic and Offshore Committee on implementing new formats.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1. The Format Working Party started its work in 2018, under the prior Events Committee. This Working Party has moved forward with their work, taking over where it was left. Under the previous WP, Event names for all 10 Events were approved, as well as formats for the M & W Kite Event, previously mixed which has been now opened by gender but no changes to format are deemed necessary, and the M & W Windsurfing Event.
- 3.2. In 2020 this new Format WP was appointed and since then has worked in determining the format for the remaining six Events, which is the objective of this Working Paper.

4. EVENTS AND EQUIPMENT FOR THE 2024 OLYMPIC GAMES

Women's Windsurfing – iQFoil	Women's Dinghy – ILCA 6	Mixed Dinghy – 470
Men's Windsurfing – iQFoil	Men's Dinghy – ILCA 7	Mixed Multihull – Nacra 17
Women's Kite – IKA Formula Kite	Women's Skiff – 49erFX	
Men's Kite – IKA Formula Kite	Men's Skiff – 49er	

5. SUMMARY

- 5.1. The WP was hampered by COVID and unable to substantially build on the existing work of the Events Committee's previous WP. The WP clearly recognized that current fleet race format for all Events doesn't advance sailing at the Olympic Games and these recommendations are the first steps to improving what World Sailing offers the Olympic Games but further work must be undertaken.
- 5.2. The Recommendations of this WP are:
 1. The specific Formats for each Event as per Addendum A, the include:
 - a. 10 boat Medal Race for fleet racing Events
 - b. 2 reserve days per Event
 - c. Scheduling an additional race on day 1 of the fleet racing Events
 2. Recruiting and equipping commentators before and during the Olympic Sailing Competition
 3. Research and testing of possible alternative formats is conducted in 2022 and 2023
 4. Endorsement of the Format WP recommendations previously approved by the Events Committee

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6. CONSIDERATIONS FOR FORMATS NOT YET APPROVED FOR THE 2024 OLYMPIC GAMES

- 6.1. The Format Working Party has noted that 4 out of the 10 Events (M & W Kite and M & W Windsurfing) have new, innovative formats for Paris 2024 with unique signatures.
- 6.2. With that in mind and the inability to conduct any testing due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the shortened time of this Olympic Cycle due to the postponement of Tokyo 2020, the Format Working Party was unanimous in recommending minimizing change for the six remaining Events.
- 6.3. The WP noted that format proposals that implement minor changes to that of Tokyo 2020 whilst appropriate due to the circumstances still need further work for the upcoming cycles in order to enhance the uniqueness of each event.
- 6.4. The following points were brought for consideration:

6.4.1. MEDAL RACE

- 6.4.1.1. The WP recommends keeping the 10 boat Medal Race. While considering an 8 boat Medal Race as an option, we believe a 10 boat Final is more attractive and will appeal to a larger number of MNAs and, overall, to a larger audience.
- 6.4.1.2. The WP strongly believes more detailed work, including comprehensive testing, is needed to evaluate the Medal Race concept and explore alternatives with all stakeholders.

6.4.2. RESERVE DAYS

- 6.4.2.1. The WP recommends reducing reserve days throughout the opening series. This will reduce the length of the program in line with the current Class World Championship Format as well reducing costs.
- 6.4.2.2. Additionally, it was brought into consideration to reduce one further reserve day, currently before the Finals, which will shorten the program further and will increase second opportunities for athletes as well as optimizing the use of competition Management resources with consecutive Events. The WP feels the option to reduce to only 1 reserve to be too risky, as it becomes very weather dependent and without comprehensive weather data available, recommends each Event to have 2 reserve days.

6.4.3. RACE SCHEDULE

- 6.4.3.1. The WP proposes to have one extra race scheduled on Day 1 of the event, to make sure that as many races as possible are completed throughout the opening series.
- 6.4.3.2. The WP notes that it is possible under the current Race Management Policies to run up to 1 race ahead of schedule if needed and recommends further detail is defined on when and how to use this ability fairly to improve the ability to complete the full racing schedule.
- 6.4.3.3. Therefore the maximum amount of races to be run daily should be reviewed taking this into consideration.

6.4.4. MEDIA

- 6.4.4.1. The WP believes that the strongest improvement to the current fleet racing format can be done not by drastically altering the current fleet racing format, but by improving the media coverage of the race. Live broadcast transmission and image quality has improved but this format relies on good audio commentary. This was deficient in many regions during the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, particularly because it failed to reflect who was winning but also why.
- 6.4.4.2. Better broadcast graphics and a live leader board graphic will assist, however the most value can be gained from aids provided to commentators and utilizing 'second screen' information such as SAP analytics. This will dramatically improve the presentation of the sport as well contributing to a much better understanding of the sport.

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6.4.4.3. This WP will further engage to improve the sport presentation and how the story should be told and recommends World Sailing, through its MNAs, to better equip Olympic Rights Holding Broadcasters (RHBs) and commentators with information and resources both before and during the Olympic Sailing Competition.

6.4.4.4. The WP suggests the follow being invested in:

- formal pre-Games and daily commentator briefings,
- online athlete profiles and interesting facts with translations,
- talent identification with MNAs
- introductions between MNAs, potential talent and RHBs
- training on SAP Analytics as a commentator 'second screen'
- provision of a live commentator aid with additional race facts and statistics (i.e. current overall leader and gaps)
- introductions to home athletes for interviews and explainers

6.4.5. COURSES

6.4.5.1. It is recommended that Classes and regatta organisers work on testing new courses during 2022 so that new alternatives can be firmly considered in 2023 ahead of the 2028 format decisions.

6.4.5.2. Testing is to be done for Olympic specific formats as fleets are smaller and athlete quality is high at the Olympic Games.

7. SPORT PRESENTATION

7.1. The WP takes this opportunity to remind Events Committee of the recommendation that it approved in October 2020 to enhance the sport presentation component of the Olympic Sailing Competition that has not be implement yet.

7.2. The approved recommendation is:

- a) Current Olympic, World and Continental Champions competing in the Olympic Sailing Competition shall be recognised by appropriate marks on their bibs and their mainsail or kite
- b) An athlete's helmet shall display their national flag and code
- c) An athlete's board shall display their national flag
- d) A boat's spinnaker shall be entirely representative of their national flag
- e) A board's kite shall be a predominately representative of their national flag and should contain the national code
- f) A boat's national flag and the Games look shall be displayed from the mast to the leach

7.3. The WP notes the concerns that were raised during Equipment Inspection at Tokyo 2020 and urges each Class, sailor and MNA in partnership with their NOC to be proactive in implementing each element of the above recommendation.

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8. ADDENDUM A – RECOMMENDED FORMATS FOR 2024 OLYMPIC GAMES

8.1. MEN'S AND WOMEN'S DINGHY

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S DINGHY OLYMPIC FORMAT

OPENING SERIES	5 Days of fleet racing 10 races – 2 races per day, 3 races on the first day Maximum 3 races per day Target time: 45 minutes
FINAL SERIES	One race – 10 boat Medal Race Double points, not discardable Target time: 20 minutes 2 Reserve days

8.2. MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SKIFF

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SKIFF OLYMPIC FORMAT

OPENING SERIES	4 Days of fleet racing 12 races – 3 races per day, 4 races on the first day Maximum 4 races per day Target time: 30 minutes
FINAL SERIES	One race – 10 boat Medal Race Double points, not discardable Target time: 20 minutes 2 Reserve days

8.3. MIXED DINGHY

MIXED DINGHY OLYMPIC FORMAT

OPENING SERIES	5 Days of fleet racing 10 races – 2 races per day, 3 races on the first day Maximum 3 races per day Target time: 45 minutes
FINAL SERIES	One race – 10 boat Medal Race Double points, not discardable Target time: 20 minutes 2 Reserve days

8.4. MIXED MULTIHULL

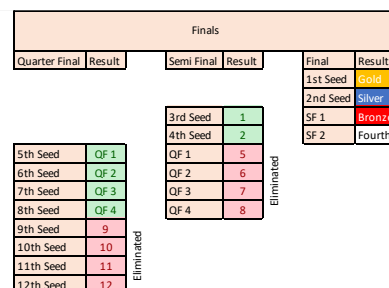
MIXED MULTIHULL OLYMPIC FORMAT

OPENING SERIES	4 Days of fleet racing 12 races – 3 races per day, 4 races on the first day Maximum 4 races per day Target time: 30 minutes
FINAL SERIES	One race – 10 boat Medal Race Double points, not discardable Target time: 20 minutes 2 Reserve days

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9.1. MEN'S AND WOMEN'S WINDSURFING

OPENING SERIES	5 Days of racing 18 races – 6 races per day Maximum 7 races per day 1 Long Distance race If the wind is under 15 knots then slalom races may be sailed. If the wind is over 10knots then course races may be sailed. If the conditions are over lapping (i.e. 10-15knots), then the race type shall be selected to ensure the ratio between the race types does not exceed 2 slalom races to 1 course race. Course race target time: 15 minutes Slalom heat target time: 6 minutes Long Distance race target time: 90-150 minutes 1 Reserve day
FINAL SERIES	1 Day of racing, winner takes all Quarter Final: Boats ranked 5 to 12 in the Opening Series with the last 4 eliminated Semi Final: The first 4 from the Quarter Final plus 3rd and 4th ranked in Opening Series Grand Final: The first two from the Semi Final plus 1st and 2nd ranked in Opening Series Target time: 6 minutes 1 Reserve day

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9.2. MEN'S AND WOMEN'S KITE (REVISED)

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S KITE OLYMPIC FORMAT

OPENING SERIES	4 Days of fleet racing 16 races – 4 races per day Maximum 6 races per day Target time: 12 minutes
FINAL SERIES	1 day of fleet racing Up to 8 races Semi Final A & B: Equally split Boats ranked 3rd to 14th in the Opening Series into each Semi Final 3 races – a boat's rank relative rank is her score for the first race Target time: 6-9 minutes per race Final: First in each Semi Final and boats ranked 1st and 2nd in the Opening Series The Final is a first to 3 wins, with the 1st and 2nd ranked boats having 2 wins and 1 win respectively credited to them prior to the start of the first race. Up to 6 races – first to 3 wins with the remaining boats ranked according to those with the highest number of wins, any ties are sorted by the finishing order in the last race Target time: 7-10 minutes per race 1 Reserve day

Full technical details are defined in Paris 2024 Competition Format Details.

	Opening Series																		Nett Total	Seed
	Race 1	Race 2	Race 3	Race 4	Race 5	Race 6	Race 7	Race 8	Race 9	Race 10	Race 11	Race 12	Race 13	Race 14	Race 15	Race 16	Race 17	Race 18		
Boat 1																			1	
Boat 2																			2	
Boat 3																			3	
Boat 4																			4	
Boat 5																			5	
Boat 6																			6	
Boat 7																			7	
Boat 8																			8	
Boat 9																			9	
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Boat 19																			19	
Boat 20																			20	
Boat 21																			21	
																			22	

Finals Series															
Semi Final	CF Rank	Race 2	Race 3	Total	Result	Final	CF Wins	Heat 1	Heat 2	Heat 3	Heat 4	Heat 5	Heat 6	Total	Result
3rd Seed	1				SFA 1	1st Seed	XX								Gold
6th Seed	2				5	2nd Seed	X								Silver
7th Seed	3				7	SFA 1									Bronze
10th Seed	4				9	SFB 1									Fourth
11th Seed	5				11										
14th Seed	6				13										
Eliminated															
4th Seed	1				SFB 1										
5th Seed	2				5										
8th Seed	3				7										
9th Seed	4				9										
12th Seed	5				11										
13th Seed	6				13										
Eliminated															