

EVENTS REVIEW WORKING PARTY REPORT

1. WORKING PARTY MEMBERS

Piotr Oleksiak (Chair)

Jo Aleh

Daniel Belcher

Saskia Clark

John Derbyshire

David Hughes

Aiko Saito

2. SCOPE

- 2.1. The Terms of Reference for the Working Party (WP) aligned with Regulation 23.1.3 (b) and decisions of Council in May 2021:
“Council shall decide by 31 December of the year of the Olympic Games which of the Events selected for the next Olympic Sailing Competition (in four [3] years’) to review for possible change for the Olympic Sailing Competition in eight years’ [7]. There shall be a minimum of four such Events. All Events and their associated Equipment which are not selected for review shall be included in the Olympics in eight years’ [7]”
- 2.2. Following the Council decision to include Men’s and Women’s Kite in the 2024 Event slate, both these Events are automatically to be reviewed.
- 2.3. The WP takes particular note of the regulation where it states ‘to review for possible change’ noting that change is not mandatory but just one of the outcomes “retain, evolve or replace.

3. SUMMARY

- 3.1. The Working Party, made up of appointed members from both the Events and Equipment Committees, conducted an analytical assessment of the Olympic slate based on previously approved criteria. This analysis highlighted several areas within each Event within the overall slate need attention and it raises Action points to address these weaknesses in the Events and Equipment.
- 3.2. Without an overall strategy that defines World Sailing’s Olympic objectives, there is no benchmark or goal to compare to and thus success or improvement is subjective and open to interpretation. The WP believes the Board should take the lead to facilitate a clearly defined vision and measure of success for Sailing at the Olympic Games so that World Sailing can make its reviews and decisions towards an agreed end.
- 3.3. The Working Party strongly noted that conducting a formal review of an Event does not automatically lead to a conclusion the Event will change. The Working Party sees a formal review as the process to delve deeper into the Event and it’s Equipment to identify where they can be improved to better achieve World Sailing and the IOC’s objectives for the Olympic Games. Changing an Event or Equipment can then be considered once the strengths and weakness of the incumbent and potential alternatives are known.
- 3.4. The analysis indicated that no Event was “100%”. Events and their stakeholders not considered for review at this time, would benefit from completing actions across a variety of areas ahead of the next Olympic Event review in 2023. The key actions are summarised in Recommendation 3.
- 3.5. With this in mind, the WP’s analysis led to a unanimous recommendation that the Mixed Multihull and Mixed Dinghy should be reviewed. The Men’s and Women’s Kite Events must be reviewed as stipulated by the regulations and the WP felt reviewing further Events was not beneficial at this time.

4. RECOMMENDATION 1

The following Events to be reviewed:

- M & W Kite - IKA Formula Kite
- MX Multihull - N17
- MX Dinghy - 470

5. RECOMMENDATION 2

WS Board to establish a clearly defined vision and measure of success for Sailing at the Olympic Games.

EVENTS REVIEW WORKING PARTY REPORT

6. RECOMMENDATION 3

Each stakeholder (Committee or Class) to address each Action below, ahead of the next Olympic Event review in 3 years.

6.1. Summary of Actions for Events not recommended for Review (Details below)

- a) Each Class, Events Committee and Equipment Committee to take actions to meet their relevant commitments and requirements as stated in the World Sailing Sustainability Agenda 2030.
- b) iQFoil Class to implement a plan to deliver worldwide growth, particularly in women's participation, is evident at regional and international regattas.
- c) The iQFoil Class and Equipment Committee to review and evolve the Class Rules to bring them to maturity ahead of the Games
- d) iQFoil Class to implement measures to ensure foil development costs remain appropriate for a universal Event.
- e) The Events Committee and the Board to ensure that the Men's and Women's Dinghy Event remains valuable to the IOC.
- f) ILCA Class to evolve the current Equipment to maintain its value to the IOC.
- g) The Events Committee and Classes Committee to form a joint Working Party to review the Olympic slate to ensure each Event is distinct and has a unique signature that provides compelling media engagement.
- h) The 49er Class to evolve its Equipment to ensure it is best suited for the Skiff Event.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1. The individual results of each WP member were kept confidential, even to other members of the WP as it was felt that average scores would be better to show trends of interest rather than individual views.

7.2. OVERALL

7.3. The average overall score of each Event.

	M & W Windsurfing	M & W Kite	M & W Dinghy	M & W Skiff	MX Dinghy	MX Multihull
Overall	84%	80%	91%	79%	76%	69%
Rank	2	3	1	4	5	6

7.4. The average score of each Event by grouped criteria.

M & W Windsurfing	M & W Kite	M & W Dinghy	M & W Skiff	MX Dinghy	MX Multihull
Slate Questions					
91%	88%	100%	87%	80%	76%
World Sailing Olympic Sailing Vision					
82%	78%	85%	72%	72%	65%
Impact on stakeholders					
65%	57%	88%	72%	75%	60%
IOC Questionnaire criteria					
83%	82%	79%	75%	67%	67%

EVENTS REVIEW WORKING PARTY REPORT

7.5. RECOMMENDATION 1

- 7.6. Based on the Evaluation Scorecard results and further discussion the Working Party unanimously agreed to recommend the following Events to be reviewed:
- M & W Kite - IKA Formula Kite
 - MX Multihull - N17
 - MX Dinghy - 470
- 7.7. The WP did debate whether to review additional Events, however it was felt the shortened period of time to make decisions and the volume of change since Tokyo 2020 outweighed the risk of leaving those other poor scoring Events without a formal review.

7.8. RECOMMENDATION 2

- 7.9. The WP noted that without an overall strategy that defines World Sailing's Olympic objectives, there is no benchmark or goal to compare the Olympic slate to and thus success or improvement is subjective and open to interpretation. The WP believes the Board should take action to establish a clearly defined vision and measure of success for Sailing at the Olympic Games so that World Sailing can make its decisions towards an agreed end.

7.10. RECOMMENDATION 3

- 7.11. The work of the WP quickly identified that no Event on the Olympic slate is a perfect fit to all the criteria and that all Events must continue to improve and evolve to ensure strength in the Olympic slate. It is the WP's view that Events that don't improve should be actively considered for review to avoid complacency and ensure that the sport is providing the best slate to the Olympic Games.
- 7.12. Addendum A sets out nine (9) Actions that the WP recommends each stakeholder (Committee or Class) address each Action ahead of the next Olympic Event review in 3 years.

8. RATIONALE

- 8.1. The M & W Kite Events must be reviewed as required by the Regulations. The WP acknowledges there are some costs concerns and has set an action for the Equipment Committee to determine if this is just related to the Class entering the Olympic Sailing Competition for the first time or if this is a systemic issue. The WP notes the Event scores well from an IOC perspective and has a unique signature for the Olympic slate and the WP believes this warrants the retention of the Event on the Olympic Slate.
- 8.2. The Mixed Multihull scored the lowest across all but 1 criterion, with the WP identifying considerable concerns across a range of issues. Many of the concerns revolved around the Equipment or stemmed from the Equipment limiting growth and the WP believes a review focusing on the Equipment for this Event is needed.
- 8.3. The Mixed Dinghy scored second lowest across all but 1 criterion. The WP noted that the Equipment is mature and readily available, however the Class hasn't seen noticeable growth in the number of nations participating internationally across recent Olympiads and this warrants a review of the Event.

EVENTS REVIEW WORKING PARTY REPORT

9. ADDENDUM A - EVENT FEEDBACK FOR RECOMMENDATION 3

- 9.1. The WP would like to re-emphasize the need for all Events to reduce their environmental footprint both at Event and Equipment level in order to meet the previously agreed WS Sustainability Agenda 2030. Each Class, the Events and the Equipment Committees need to be proactive in taking action to meet their relevant commitments and requirements as stated in the World Sailing Sustainability Agenda 2030 (Action a).
- 9.2. In addition to a quantitative scorecard, the WP also conducted a qualitative review of the Events. Findings from this review are in line with the Evaluation Scorecard and the WP takes the opportunity to provide the following actions from its findings to assist each Event to progress ahead of the next review that must start in 2 years so it can be presented following the Paris 2024 Olympic Sailing Competition.

9.3. M & W WINDSURFER – IQFOIL

- 9.4. Event: the WP recognised that the new Format and new Equipment for this Event has dampened participation in Asia and Africa. To retain its status as a universal Event, the WP encourages the Class and manufacturer to take action to implement a plan to deliver worldwide growth, particularly in women's participation, is evident at regional and international regattas (Action b).
- 9.5. Equipment: the WP noted the iQFoil Class is new to the Olympic Games and urges the Class and Equipment Committee to take action to ensure that the Class rules are reviewed and developed to reach maturity ahead of the Games (Action c); the WP noted concern that athlete/MNA costs for the optimisation of foils was high and the Class needs to take action to ensure equipment costs remain appropriate for a universal Event (Action d).

9.6. M & W KITE – IKA FORMULA KITE

- 9.7. Event: the WP noted that reviewing this Event within 6 months of its Olympic selection and before it has completed an Olympiad isn't likely to provide any new information compared to its initial application. The WP sees considerable potential for this Event to be a universal Event due to interest from new sailing nations and regions however female participation rates must show growth and demonstrate significant fleet depth.
- 9.8. Equipment: the WP observed concerns about the potential for large equipment research costs as athletes searched for the best combination of equipment from the multiple suppliers. The WP suggests the Equipment Committee and Class take action to monitor the evolution of the Equipment's retail market costs against campaigning costs to understand if concerns are only related to entering the Olympic Sailing Competition and not a recurring trend.

9.9. M & W DINGHY – ILCA 6/7

- 9.10. Event: the WP observed that this Event will likely be a core part of the Olympic slate for the long term as it meets many of World Sailing's objectives, primarily universality and wide participation, however the Event scores poorly on adding value to the IOC. The Events Committee and the Board need to take action to ensure that the Event remains valuable to the IOC, particularly through audience engagement, through attractive formats and media value (Action e).
- 9.11. Equipment: the WP noted the outcome of the previous antitrust Equipment review for this Event. Many of the wider questions raised at that time remain valid and the sport would be well placed to ensure it has a succession plan in place to ensure a smooth transition to the next piece of Equipment for this Event when the time comes, as preserving the universality and participation rates are fundamental to the slate. The Class should take steps to begin this process as the WP sees an opportunity for the Class to take action to evolve the current Equipment to maintain its value to the IOC (Action f).

9.12. M & W SKIFF – 49ER/FX

- 9.13. Event: the WP recognised this Event has not been reviewed since its introduction to the Olympic slate and this was apparent in its low scores in the Evaluation Scorecard. The WP sees this Event overlapping

EVENTS REVIEW WORKING PARTY REPORT

with elements of other Events in the Olympic slate although it was noted that athletes appear to be moving into this Event and there is some growth in nations participating. The Classes Committee and Events Committee to form a joint Working Party to ensure a unique signature for each Event on the Olympic slate and ensure each Event provides compelling media engagement (Action g).

- 9.14. Equipment: the WP acknowledged that the Equipment for this Event will undergo an antitrust review should the Event not be placed under review however the WP encourages the Class to take action to evolve the Equipment to ensure it best suited for the Skiff Event. The WP noted concern that athlete/MNA costs for equipment are high due to their short competitive lifespan and the Class needs to take action to ensure equipment costs are not a barrier to growth (Action h).

9.15. MX DINGHY – 470

- 9.16. Event: the WP noted that reviewing this Event within 6months of its Olympic selection and before it has completed an Olympiad isn't likely to provide any new information compared to its initial application. The WP sees this Event overlapping with elements of other Events in the Olympic slate and it was noted that the selection of the MX Dinghy Event is very recent and therefore it is too early to make conclusions as to the athlete trend towards or away from this event.
- 9.17. Equipment: the WP acknowledged the maturity of the Equipment and the existing investments that have been made, however this maturity has discouraged new participation due to the perceived barriers to being successful.

9.18. MX MULTIHULL – NACRA 17

- 9.19. Event: the WP noted this Event has not been reviewed since its re-introduction to the Olympic slate although there has been a fundamental change to the Equipment since then with the introduction of foiling. The WP sees this Event overlapping with elements of other Events in the Olympic slate although it was noted that athletes appear to be moving into this Event but there doesn't appear to be significant organic growth.
- 9.20. Equipment: the WP observed considerable dissatisfaction with the Equipment for this Event, particularly around costs, supply and measurement practices as well as safety risks. These issues appear to be limiting the growth of the Equipment amongst existing and new nations and require a review to ensure the potential of the Event and Equipment can be realised.

EVENTS REVIEW WORKING PARTY REPORT

10. ADDENDUM B – METHODOLOGY

- 10.1. The Working Party looked to previous Olympic cycles for a precedent to guide its methodology and following a fruitful discussion it was decided that a qualitative approach was preferred. It was accepted that setting only statistical criteria for a consideration would not address the primary purpose of reviewing the Olympic Event slate so a level of subjective judgement was to be required.
- 10.2. The WP noted the work of the Regulation 23 WP and endorses its objective to have clearly defined process and criteria for the review of Events and Equipment for the Olympic slate. Being able to consistently compare the same variables across Events or Equipment will enable the sport to make evidence based decisions.
- 10.3. To minimise the risk of bias and subjectiveness in the methodology, the WP agreed to limit the criteria to those that have previously been documented and agreed upon by Council or the IOC. Therefore the following criteria were drawn from:
 - Regulation 23
 - 2024 Events & Equipment Working Party Report
 - IOC Questionnaire for Olympic Sports
- 10.4. To make the criteria manageable and remove duplication, the various points were grouped to enable the appropriate wider view for criteria about the overall Olympic slate and a detailed assessment for each Event.
- 10.5. Criteria 1-6 focus on the Event's place in the overall Olympic slate and scores for these questions are direct comparisons between the Events.
- 10.6. Criteria 7-28 focus on the particulars of the Event against the criteria and are not comparisons to other Events.
- 10.7. Each criterion was scored on a 1-5 basis (5 high) with those Y/N criteria being scored 1 or 5. There was no weighting applied.
- 10.8. There is one criterion that applies only to mixed Events and the total possible scores are reflective of this.
- 10.9. The individual scores from each WP member to each criterion were tallied and averaged based on the number of responses to create an Evaluation Scorecard.
- 10.10. The individual criteria averages were then averaged by grouping and overall; this average was then compared to the maximum theoretical score (by group and overall) to create the percentages presented.
- 10.11. The percentages were then ranked highest to lowest.

11. CRITERIA

Slate Questions

- 1 Does the Event support or enhance the existing (Paris 2024) slate?
- 2 Does the Event positively impact quota?
- 3 Does the Event demonstrate the diversity of skills required to race various types of boats, and minimise the overlap between Events?
- 4 Is the Event easy to maintain and support for MNAs?
- 5 Does the Event maintain gender equity (at an Event level)?
- 6 Does the Event maintain two or four mixed Events?

Event Questions

World Sailing Olympic Sailing Vision

- 7 Does the Event have a unique signature?
- 8 Does the Event maximise universality?

EVENTS REVIEW WORKING PARTY REPORT

- 9 Is the Event format understandable for non-sailors?
- 10 Is the race format understandable for non-sailors?
- 11 Does the Event have a minimal environmental impact?
- 12 Does the Event maximise the participation of the world's best sailors and showcase the diversity of the sport?
- 13 Does the Event maintain gender equity (at an athlete level)?
- 14 Does the Event provide suitable Events and Equipment for Regional Games and other regattas?
- 15 Does the Event place an emphasis on sailor skill rather than equipment development and limit the impact of equipment on performance?
- 16 Does the Event demand a high level of athletic ability as well as excellent sailing skills?
- 17 Within the mixed Events does the Event showcase gender equality across roles (ie. equally as likely that male or female could be helm or crew)?

Impact on stakeholders

- 18 Does the Event offer continuity of Events and evolution of Equipment to give MNAs and sailors a dependable pathway into Olympic competition with continuity of investment?
- 19 Does the Event avoid unnecessary or excessive equipment costs, development costs, measurement costs, and coaching costs?
- 20 Does the Event avoid unnecessary or excessive race organisation and race official costs?
- 21 Is the Event attractive and accessible to young athletes from all continents, and of different size and weight?
- 22 Does the Event have a clear pathway from World Sailing Youth to Olympic Events and Equipment?

IOC Questionnaire criteria (these questions are considered from the perspective of the IOC)

- 23 Does the Event utilize the same Field Of Play and resources ?
- 24 Does the Event avoid unnecessary or excessive television broadcast and other media costs?
- 25 Does the Event add value to the Olympic Programme by IOC definition of Universality?
- 26 Does the Event add value to the Olympic Programme by IOC definition of Youth-focused?
- 27 Does the Event add value to the Olympic Programme by IOC definition of Uniqueness of the Olympic Games?
- 28 Is the Event potentially appealing to media?