

## Mixed two Persons Offshore Keelboat

### Equipment discussions

#### 1. Background

Submission 037-18, approved at the 2018 Annual Conference, confirmed the introduction of the Mixed Two Person Keelboat Offshore event and stated:

- *With an Olympic events slate which includes offshore keelboat, World Sailing is definitely showing the diversity of our sport.*
- *Historically, keelboats have a long legacy of being raced in the Olympic Games. Adding an offshore keelboat will restore this important tradition.*
- *Over 50% of the sailors in the world compete in offshore keelboats. This event would attract competitors who do not normally sail Olympic classes and athletes could be a great range of size and weight.*
- *This new event will draw large spectator interest. We only have to note the appeal of Vendee Globe and Volvo Ocean Race to see this.*
- *Supplied equipment at the Games will reduce costs and World Sailing can look at different models for ensuring participation costs are as low as possible.*
- *The next two Olympic Games hosts, Paris 2024 and LA 2028, are supportive of an offshore keelboat event in their Games.*
- *An offshore keelboat offers a unique broadcast opportunity with a long-distance race as a part of the race format. An offshore keelboat will provide a good media platform for broadcast equipment (both current and what will be available in 2024).*

Following the 2018 Annual Conference 4 Working Groups (WG) were established to provide some key guiding principles for the event: Equipment, Qualification, Field of Play / Format and Broadcast & Technology.

Regarding Equipment, the topics in the following section were debated by the WG and recommendations are made to the Equipment Committee and Offshore & Oceanic Committee to be used to develop criteria for evaluation of nominations from manufacturers and MNA's.

#### 2. Working Group Equipment considerations:

2.1 Submission 058-18 confirmed the key equipment criteria for the Mixed Two Person Keelboat Offshore event:

- *Boat concept: Displacement mono-hull (non-foiling), short-handed deck layout*
- *Length: 6 – 10 metres hull length*
- *Performance: Good all-round performance in 4 to 40 knots*
- *Sails: Proper sail inventory for all conditions. Sloop rig with spinnaker*
- *Supplied equipment*

2.2 The following key guiding principles have been adopted by the Equipment Working Group & Qualification Working Group:

- a) *The Mixed Two Person Keelboat Offshore event has to be an event aimed at testing the Offshore sailing skills of the athletes and should not allow an equipment arms race*
- b) *A 'long list' of equipment that meets the equipment criteria for the Mixed Two Person Keelboat Offshore event should be approved at the 2019 Annual Conference in November*
- c) *By approving a long list of equipment that meets the equipment criteria World Sailing will be able to ensure that the most diverse number of MNAs and the largest possible group of sailors will be able to train and plan for the Olympic Games*
- d) *The approved long list of equipment will provide event organizers, MNAs and sailors with opportunities to train, compete at events and host Olympic Qualification Events in equipment that is readily available and affordable in their continent*
- e) *The equipment selected for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, in accordance with the equipment criteria, should be selected as late as possible in 2023*
- f) *There should be a quota of between 14 and 20 boats for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games*

### *2.3 Olympic Equipment Decisions:*

*Rather than select a specific piece of equipment at the November 2019 Annual Conference, World Sailing should select an approved long list of existing equipment that matches the key criteria for the Mixed Two Person Keelboat Offshore event. Boats that are included on this list can then be used for training and qualification opportunities.*

*The supplied equipment for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games should then be selected as late as is possible in 2023. This will ensure that the event does not become an equipment arms race.*

*The Equipment Committee and the Offshore and Oceanic Committee will develop the process for finalising the equipment options in line with World Sailing Regulation 23. In order to ensure the widest possible range of boats can be approved at the 2019 Annual Conference an open tender process will be run allowing manufacturers and MNAs to propose boats that meet the equipment criteria to be included.*

### *2.4 Supplied Equipment at the Olympic Games:*

*The equipment finally selected for the Olympic Games should be approved as late as possible. For the Paris 2024 Olympic Games this decision should be made in 2023. There is an opportunity for the Paris 2024 Organising Committee to sign a value in kind deal with the chosen manufacturer which may provide a sustainable financial model for the supplied equipment and possibly provide a legacy for the sport in that region. Alternatively, an open bid process would be run to finalise a*

*contract with a manufacturer to supply the equipment for the Olympic Games, in accordance with the equipment criteria and other World Sailing requirements.*

#### *2.5 Olympic Qualification- equipment related considerations:*

*The key IOC criteria for Olympic Qualification affecting equipment were noted as:*

- To focus the integrity of this 'Offshore' event ensure that athletes are able to train and qualify on different boats. It is the 'Offshore' skills that should be tested rather than knowledge of a specific piece of equipment.*
- There should be a series of Continental Qualification Regattas with supplied equipment where the equipment used is widely and readily available in those continents. This will maximise MNA opportunities to qualify and reduce costs.*
- Fleets of boats will need to be equalised and the options for achieving this are being considered.*

#### *2.6 Training Opportunities:*

*Training opportunities should not be viewed as being restricted to strict one design equipment. There are event opportunities for training athletes in the rating system classes – such as IRC, ORC, etc. This opens up the list of possible boats available for training around the world.*

*However, only one-design approved equipment would be used for qualification.*

*There are many established Offshore events that athletes and MNAs can target in order to gain the necessary experience for competing in the Mixed Two Person Keelboat Offshore event at the Olympic Games. A full analysis of existing Offshore events is being undertaken to provide a list of events identified as suitable.*

#### *2.1 Safety Considerations*

*World Sailing should ensure strict rules around first aid training requirements, survival at sea training, and experience levels defined through minimum number of miles sailed by athletes, etc. These are to use the OSR as guidance but may be modified to meet the goals of the Olympic event.*

### **3. Equipment Committee discussions**

Following the considerations from the Equipment and Qualification Working Groups, a Working Party composed with members from the Equipment Committee and the Oceanic and Offshore Committee is working to define the criteria against which manufacturers and MNA's equipment nominations shall be evaluated.

The Equipment Committee shall discuss and make recommendations at the mid-year meeting on the areas to be considered for the criteria:

1. Compliance with Submission 058-18 key equipment criteria for the event.
2. Design safety related requirements.
3. Certificates and other documentation requirements.
4. Offshore Special Regulations considerations.
5. Required safety equipment on board.
6. Other portable equipment on board.
7. Cost considerations.
8. Sail types limitations
9. Water ballast considerations.
10. Autopilot considerations.
11. Engine considerations.
12. General arrangement and outfit requirements for systems on board.
13. One-design considerations.
14. Appeal considerations.
15. Broadcasting considerations.
16. Existing events to be considered suitable for qualifiers.
17. Existing events and respective equipment to serve as reference and as proven equipment.