

2024 Olympic Sailing Competition

Olympic Events & Equipment

A submission from the International Funboard Class Association

Purpose or Objective

To propose a slate of Events for the 2024 Olympic Games that is congruent with the recommendations of the IOC's Olympic Agenda 2020. In particular the relevant recommendations that relate to:

- Move from a sport based to an event based programme
- Foster gender equality
- Create a unique signature or “look and feel” for every individual event
- Equipment for men and women as equal as possible

Proposal

Current Event & Equipment	2024 Event Proposal	2024 Equipment Proposal
Men's One Person Dinghy – Laser	Retained	Retained
Women's One Person Dinghy - Laser Radial	Retained	Retained
Men's Skiff - 49er	Retained	Retained
Women's Skiff – 49erFX	Retained	Retained
Mixed Two Person Multihull – Nacra 17	Retained	Retained
Men's Windsurfer - RS:X	Men's Windsurfer	New Equipment
Women's Windsurfer – RS:X	Women's Windsurfer	New Equipment
Heavyweight Men's One Person Dinghy – Finn	Mixed Two Person Team Kiteboard	New Equipment
Men's Two Person Dinghy – 470	Mixed Offshore	New Equipment
Women's Two Person Dinghy – 470	Mixed Two Person Dinghy	New Equipment

New Equipment Criteria

Windsurfer (Men's and Women's event)

- "Convertible" registered series production hull (multiple brands, multiple builders) with one registered series production hydrofoil system and two registered series production fins.
- Equipment to be suitable for both long distance, course racing and slalom course formats.
- Up to 3 registered series production rigs (multiple brands, multiple builders).
- Wind range: 6-30 knots.
- "Bring your own"
- Equipment "frozen" per Olympic cycle to ensure confidence and reliability in equipment investment while ensuring "state of the art" evolution between Olympic cycles.

Kiteboard

- High performance registered series production single mast hydrofoil system (multiple brands, multiple builders).
- High performance, high aspect ratio foil kites quiver (up to 4 kites) for a wind range of 6-40 knots (registered series production scheme, multiple brands, multiple builders).
- "Open" hull (as no implication on performance – hull never touches the water) enables "urban" look and feel. For the Games, hulls may be provided or "look of the games" branded.
- "Bring your own"
- Equipment "frozen" per Olympic cycle to ensure confidence and reliability in equipment investment while ensuring "state of the art" evolution between Olympic cycles.

Mixed Two Person Dinghy

- Two person centreboard boat
- single trapeze
- spinnaker or gennaker
- target weight significantly different to retained Two Person Dinghy
- equipment suitable for significantly different format than retained Two Person Dinghy

Mixed Offshore

- Offshore keelboat, suitable for 2, 4 or 6 persons sailed short-handed.

Current Position

As above.

Reasons

1. General

- 1.1 This proposal provides for a total of 4 single handed events (2 for men, 2 for women), 2 double handed events (1 for men, 1 for women), and 4 mixed events.
- 1.2 The proposal avoids duplication of events and ensures a “unique signature” already on the level of “sailing disciplines”, provided that the second Two-Person-Dinghy is significantly different in target weight and format to the retained Two-Person-Dinghy.
- 1.3 Regulation 23.1.2 is clearly stating that the Olympic Events and Equipment shall demonstrate the various types of boats. Windsurfing and Kiteboarding are different from all small boat sailing.
- 1.4 Both windsurfing and kiteboarding have low initial equipment costs and by far the least logistic costs as they can be taken as luggage on any plane, making both of these events especially suitable for emerging and developing countries, driving universality.
- 1.5 Both windsurfing and kiteboarding are “off-the-beach” events with multiple disciplines opening up opportunities to showcase parts of sailing as “urban” sports, especially attractive to youth and media.
- 1.6 Both windsurfing and kiteboarding equipment is mass production usually purchased in shops. A “registered series production scheme” for windsurfing and kiteboarding ensures that every sailor worldwide is able to purchase exactly the same equipment as the world champion “off the shelf”. It ensures strong competition between builders for the best product at the lowest costs to the benefit of the sailors and MNAs. A “registered series production scheme” meets all objectives of the Anti-Trust-Policy.

2. Kiteboarding

- 2.1 Kiteboarding meets the objectives of the IOC and especially Agenda 2020. It is the “youngest” discipline of sailing and potentially attracts a high number of youth (in sailing but especially a non-sailing audience).
 - 2.2 Kiteboarding is exercised worldwide and the recent Youth Olympic Games qualification have shown that small, developing and emerging countries have an excellent chance to qualify directly to the Olympic Games and are not disadvantaged as in other established events. This includes countries like Venezuela, the Dominican Republic, Antigua, Morocco, and the Philippines. At the recent Youth Olympic Games continental qualification events, the 12 available places (6 boys and 6 girls) have been claimed by 12 different countries. Kiteboarding therefore potentially increases the universality rating of sailing.
 - 2.3 Kiteboarding offers a wide range of formats, and in combination with high performance foiling equipment highlights the innovation in our sport.
 - 2.4 A clear differentiation in format and equipment appearance ensures a unique signature of the event(s) as required by the IOC for every single event.
 - 2.5 A mixed kiteboarding event opens up opportunities for a team event or relay event, a competition format that does not otherwise exist in Olympic Sailing and provides a unique signature for the event.
 - 2.6 Many of the newly added sports to the Winter Olympic Games are mixed relay events.
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- 2.7 A mixed team of one male and one female would compete for example in a short track relay style event close to shore, with short (10 minute) 4 lap courses (men and women alternating). One gender starts, does one lap, then after passing the leeward mark sails into a “change zone” and the other member of the team starts over the wake of the first sailor. Ideally the “change zone” is located right in front of a spectator grand stand.
- 2.8 A mixed team event would drive women’s participation as MNAs would need to invest in female sailors the same way as in male sailors.
- 2.9 Kiteboarding expands the audience of sailing “from the marina to the beach” and will likely open up the sport of sailing to a new group of competitors that is not grown up in a sailing environment, therefore strengthening participation.
- 2.10 Kiteboarding has been granted an additional medal for the Youth Olympic Games by the IOC, as the only sport on the program, to enable men’s and women’s separate events, highlighting the IOC’s interest in kiteboarding events.
- 2.11 Registered Series Production Equipment scheme with multiple brands / builders enable sponsorship from manufacturers for sailors and national teams. It is very common in kiteboarding that top sailors do not have to buy equipment but get it provided for free by competing manufacturers for publicity reasons.
It is likely that most higher ranked competitors (and their MNA’s) will not have to purchase equipment but are able to enter sponsorship agreements with manufacturers.
This model of equipment “supply”, together with “bring your own” is successfully implemented by other equipment sports like snowboarding, skiing, surfing, skateboarding and other “urban” sports and adds with its “look and feel” to the appeal to a younger audience as requested by the IOC.
- 2.12 The suggested registered series production equipment scheme (including “bring your own”) has already proven successful for the Youth Olympic Games. The same can be expected for windsurfing above.
- 2.13 Kiteboarding has the potential to become for the Summer Olympics what snowboarding has become for the Winter Olympics.

3. **Windsurfer**

- 3.1 Slalom is the most widely practiced format in Windsurfing and would connect Olympic windsurfing to “the roots of windsurfing” where every normal windsurfer around the world can actually identify himself with.
- 3.2 A new format (slalom) would significantly increase participation on Olympic but also non-Olympic level.
- 3.3 Together with the two kiteboarding events, windsurfing “off the beach” creates a second venue for sailing (beach venue) which potentially can be combined with other beach sports (beach volleyball etc) to increase spectator appeal and media attention.
- 3.4 Separate men’s and women’s events will encourage women’s participation and support universality.

4. **Mixed Two Person Dinghy**

- 4.1 A Mixed Two Person Dinghy event recognises existing investments and pathways by MNAs. New formats would allow for a clear differentiation to the other events.
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5. **Mixed Offshore**

- 5.1 Keelboat sailing represents a large part of the sport of sailing globally.
 - 5.2 A 24/7 event over several days would be the longest running Olympic event, with unique opportunities for media appeal and e-gaming.
 - 5.3 Keelboats cater for a wide range of physics.
 - 5.4 Offshore sailing requires additional skills like navigation and meteorology.
 - 5.5 Offshore sailing opens up commercial and sponsorship opportunities.
 - 5.6 To give the offshore event credibility with the offshore community and with media, it is important to include the stars of offshore sailing as skipper/navigator/tactician while the rest of the crew can provide second medal opportunities for sailors that have competed in other events.
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