

2016 Olympic Sailing Competition

Events and Equipment

A submission from the San Marino Sailing Federation

Purpose or Objective

To approve a slate of Olympic Events which represents the best interests of the sport of sailing

Proposal

That the following events and equipment are selected for the 2016 Olympic Sailing Competition, which compared to the provisional decision in November 2010 reinstates two separate events for the two-person dinghy (symmetric) and removes the match racing women event from the Olympic Programme:

Event	Men	Women	Mixed
Board	RS:X	RS:X	
One-Person Dinghy	Laser Standard	Laser Radial	
One-Person Dinghy - heavyweight	Finn		
Two-Person Dinghy - symmetric	470	470	
Skiff	49er	Evaluation	
Two-Person Multihull			Evaluation
Total Events	5	4	1

Total Athletes in full team: 15
Male / Female Gender balance in full team: 8 Male Athletes / 7 Female Athletes
Events Open to Each Gender: 6 for Men / 5 for Women
Matched Events: 4

Current Position

Provisional Decision Taken in November 2010

Event	Men	Women	Mixed
Board or KiteBoard	Evaluation	Evaluation	
One-Person Dinghy	Laser Standard	Laser Radial	
2 nd One-Person Dinghy	Finn		
Two-Person Dinghy (Spinnaker)			470
Skiff	49er	Evaluation	
Keelboat Match		Elliott 6m	
Multihull			Evaluation
Total Events	4	4	2

Total Athletes in full team:	16
Male / Female Gender balance in full team:	7 Male / 9 Female Athletes
Events Open to Each Gender:	6 for Men / 6 for Women
Matched Events:	3

Reasons

It is critical that the criteria put forward by the Olympic Commission for the Olympic Sailing Competition is accurately applied and the events/equipment as proposed are the best selection to meet the criteria approved by the ISAF Council in November 2010. Reasoning supporting this submission includes:

1. Gender and Participation

- This submission supports ISAF's strategic move towards gender equality, matched pairs of events and clear equipment pathways.
- This submission delivers a more balanced gender ratio for a "full team" of 8 Male / 7 Female athletes which is more representational of global participation in sailing, than the provisional decision of 7 Male / 9 Female athletes.
- The submission increases the number of events available for participation by women to 5 events, up from 4 events at the 2012 Olympics which meets the requirements of ISAF Regulation 23.1.2(g) to "progress towards an equal number of Events for men and women to participate in."
- The total number of athletes in a "full team" is 15 athletes, reduced from the 16 in the "provisional decision" in November 2010 and the existing 2012 Olympics. This reduction in athletes directly increases the number of nation slots across the ten events, which will reflect in increasing the number of nations able to participate at the Olympic Games.
- This submission supports the introduction of "mixed sailing" but believes that the rate of change is better if in 2016 this is restricted to a single event, multihull, which is also reflects its status as an open event in the ISAF Youth Worlds.

2. Events and Styles of Sailing

- The submission represents events which will flourish inside the Olympic programme.
- The submission offers diversity in terms of weight and size of the athlete, enabling a broad range of physiques and weights to compete.
- The submission represents the diversity of styles and skills required in sailing which are participated in around the world. The equipment can readily be sailed by sailors in developing nations, while at Olympic level they represent excellence in a wide range of sailing skills to challenge sailors and showcase our sport.
- The submission notes the growth of non-technical high-performance dinghies and believes that ISAF should preserve a technical dinghy within the Olympic events for both men and women.

3. Continuity and Evolution

- The "provisional decision" approved by ISAF in November 2010 proposed potentially five new events (kiteboard men, kiteboard women, skiff women, 470 mixed, multihull mixed) for the 2016 Olympic Sailing competition – a change of 50% of the current events. Such a significant change will have a major impact on sailing around the world and may affect the investment on current equipment and the nation's/athletes' ability to purchase the new equipment and acquire the expertise to compete at world class level on the new equipment.
 - The submission achieves the right balance between ensuring continuity in existing events/equipment and encouraging evolution with new events/equipment. Using proven
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equipment and protecting a nation's investment for the majority of events is critical for the success of Olympic Sailing and sailing at the broad base.

- The submission delivers the pathway between youth events, the ISAF World Youth Sailing Championships and the Olympic Games. The importance of a pathway was highlighted by the Olympic Commission as a requirement, and that events and equipment selected are appealing and accessible to youth and deliver a single-step pathway from youth to Olympic competition.

4. Universality

- Sailing is strong in some regions, but is much weaker in emerging areas and developing nations. The proposed slate reflects the events and equipment which are already spread most around the world, but which are also most easily accessible to developing and emerging MNAs. They also reflect the events and equipment which have high global participation and a diverse and broad range of nations currently participating.
- The proposed equipment is easily available around the world, reflects the equipment primarily used in sailing at Regional Games and multi-sports games, and reflects the current investment and popularity of equipment.

5. Cost

- The Olympic Commission highlighted cost as a “major factor” in deciding on the equipment and making decisions to change it, and that operational costs to the Organizing Committee was the reason the IOC reduced the number of sailing events and athletes on the Olympic Programme. The proposed slate will address the concerns of the IOC and help to contain the operational costs to the Olympic Games Organizing Committee.
- Cost is not just the cost of buying new equipment, but the cost of the current investment already made in equipment around the world, and the cost of campaigning. This events and equipment slate proposed enables equipment evolution, and yet will also contain the cost of Olympic participation to MNAs and athletes.
- The submission delivers matched events for up to 8 events, offering clarity to the sport and significant benefit to smaller sailing nations with less funding. Not only from the obvious cost advantage of sharing equipment and logistics, but also in the development of the specific skills required to race the boat and access to the technical know how, such as coaches.

6. Media Appeal

- The submission offers events and equipment which are dynamic, fast, colourful and provide media appeal. The athletes, key to the media mix, in these events represent the highest levels of physical fitness and athletic ability. It is imperative that ISAF selects events/equipment which have media appeal and, equally, it is important that ISAF, Olympic equipment, MNAs, athletes and event organizers work collectively to achieve and deliver a unified media strategy for Olympic sailing.
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