2024 Olympic Sailing Competition

Olympic Events & Equipment

A submission from the French Sailing Federation

Purpose or Objective

To propose a slate of Events for the 2024 Olympic Games that is congruent with the guidelines made by Council in November 2017 and 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,
- Universality and Appeal to Youth

The slate also showcases the wide diversity of the sport of sailing while keeping within the current quota and medal allotment

Proposal

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Event &amp; Equipment</th>
<th>2024 Event Proposal</th>
<th>2024 Equipment Proposal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Men’s One Person Dinghy – Laser</td>
<td>Retained</td>
<td>Retained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s One Person Dinghy - Laser Radial</td>
<td>Retained</td>
<td>Retained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men’s Skiff - 49er</td>
<td>Retained</td>
<td>Retained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s Skiff – 49erFX</td>
<td>Retained</td>
<td>Retained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mixed Two Person Multihull – Nacra 17</td>
<td>Retained</td>
<td>Retained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men’s Windsurfer - RS:X</td>
<td>Retain</td>
<td>Retain – subject to anti-trust review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s Windsurfer – RS:X</td>
<td>Retain</td>
<td>As above</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heavyweight Men’s One-Person Dinghy – Finn</td>
<td>Mixed Two Person Offshore Long Distance (“Marathon”) Race</td>
<td>New Equipment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men’s Two Person Dinghy – 470</td>
<td>Mixed Two Person Dinghy</td>
<td>Retain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s Two Person Dinghy – 470</td>
<td>Mixed Kite – Two Person Team</td>
<td>New Equipment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Suggested
Criteria for Mixed Two Person Offshore Keelboat for consideration by Equipment Committee:

OSR Category 1 or 2 offshore keelboat, between 9 and 12m hull length, suitable for 3 day and 2 nights race offshore. Short-handed enabled for 2 or more persons, high performance (Asymmetric spinnaker etc.), reasonable cost, simple restricted sail inventory, reasonable base electronics package, strictly one design, global (worldwide) distribution.

Suggested Criteria for Mixed Kite – Two Person Team - for consideration by Equipment Committee:

- 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.

Current Position

As above.

Reasons

1. Gender equality and mixed events are key recommendations of the IOC’s Olympic Agenda 2020. The above slate moves from 1 mixed event in 2020 to 4 events in 2024, which is also in keeping with the recommendations of World Sailing Council in November 2017. This submission ensures sailing has gender equality at both an athlete and event level. Mixed teams will not only mean gender equality at the Olympic Games, but will also drive more female participation in sailing, particularly in the pathway to Olympic events.

2. The above slate keeps sailing at 10 events and 350 Athletes for 2024 yet incorporates the “new” disciplines of Offshore racing and Kiting. It also moves sailing from a “sport based” to “event based” focus.

3. Introducing Offshore would allow World Sailing:

   (i) to introduce at the Olympic program the largest part of the sport of sailing,

   (ii) to generate media and sponsors interest as Offshore racing has a very strong exposure worldwide (see Volvo Ocean Race, Vendée Globe etc),

   (iii) to obtain the participation of the Offshore elite sailors and potentially allow Olympic sailors to get a second medal opportunity with this event (options with 2 to 4 mixed sailors with 2 of the sailors coming from the other events),

   (iv) to engage fans with following worldwide 24h/day (camera on board, tracking) and esailing the longest event of the Olympic program (3 days – 2 nights) and
generate greater interest for sailing, easy to understand (first crossing the line is Olympic Champion),

(v) this event would be supplied equipment at the OG and World Sailing will develop a plan to manage the challenges of the costs by creating training centers on all continents.

(vi) to encourage women’s participation (strong in Offshore sailing) and facilitate the pathway to professional sailing for women.

4. Reasons for the introduction of Kiteboarding:

(i) 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).

(ii) 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.

(iii) Kiteboarding offers a wide range of formats, and in combination with high performance foiling equipment highlights the innovation in our sport.

(iv) 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.

(v) 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.

(vi) Many of the newly added sports to the Winter Olympic Games are mixed relay events.

(vii) A mixed team of one male and one female would compete would for example in a short track relay style event 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.

(viii) A mixed team event would encourage women’s participation as MNAs would need to invest in female sailors the same way as in male sailors.

(ix) 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.

(x) 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.

(xi) 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.

(xii) 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.

(xiii) Kiteboarding has the potential to become for the Summer Olympics what snowboarding has become for the Winter Olympics.

5. We eliminate the perceived duplication of the Men’s Two Person Dinghy and Women’s Two Person Dinghy with the Men’s and Women’s Skiff. By making the Two Person Dinghy a mixed event we retain the event (albeit mixed and from 2 events to 1 event) with the potential to explore new racing formats

6. We retain the “universality” events of Men’s and Women’s Windsurfer and Men’s and Women’s One-Person Dinghy ensuring that we achieve further MNA/ NOC participation at the Olympic Games themselves as well as in the qualification process

7. We retain the high performance and “media attractive” events of Skiffs and Multihull and add Kites to this category.