

2016 Olympic Sailing Competition

Events and Equipment

A submission from the Danish Sailing Association

Purpose or Objective

To amend the provisional slate of the Olympic Events as stated in 23.1.4

Proposal

Danish Sailing Association supports the decision taken by ISAF Events Committee and ISAF Council in November 2011. That the following events and equipment are selected for the 2016 Olympic Sailing Competition 2016:

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

Total Athletes in full team: 16
Events Open to Each Gender: 6 for Men / 5 for Women
Matched Events: 3

Current Position

Provisional Decision taken in November 2010 as per Regulation 23.1.4

Event	Men	Women	Mixed
Board or Kite Board	Evaluation	Evaluation	
One-Person Dinghy	Laser Standard	Laser Radial	
2 nd One-Person Dinghy	Finn		
Two-Person Dinghy (Spinnaker)			470
Skiff	49er	Evaluation	
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Matched Events:	3

Reasons

Faster, higher, stronger

Given the limitations, the Olympic Sailing Competition has developed as a small boat regatta. This type of sailing requires a high level of athletic ability as well as excellent racing skills. The physical attributes have become more significant in the recent years with the development of modern dinghies and windsurfers and Kiteboarding.

The Olympic motto, “**Citius, Altius, Fortius**” indicates a focus on human performance, not technical superiority. The Olympic Sailing Competition must in the future be about the athlete and not the equipment.

The Olympic Games must be attractive to the youth of today, both from the point of view of participation and audience interest. (“Youth” is understood as sailors in the range from 20 to 40 (approximately)).

Younger sailors are attracted by sailing fast, modern equipment.

Fast, modern equipment also have the most spectator appeal.

Our choices of Olympic Events and Olympic Equipment must reflect this.

Matched events

The diversity of sailing is acknowledged as a benefit and this diversity should be reflected in the Olympic Program. Similarly the need to have ‘matched’ events for Men and Women is clear. This proposal allows for 6 matched events form Men and Women out of 10 events, which is a good balance and leaves room for 4 ‘speciality’ events, which may be adjusted from time to time in order to reflect the latest developments in sailing.

Events should be chosen primarily to offer a range of options to younger athletes. And athletes should be encouraged to participate in Olympic Sailing in equipment which does not offer possibilities for technical advantages due to high investments.

Sailing heroes should be those, like Paul Elvström and Ben Ainslie, who are so exceptionally good that they can continue to compete and win in events and equipment more suited to younger athletes.

Mixed Sailing

Mixed sailing is very common in parts of our sport, especially amongst younger people. The inclusion of mixed events in the Olympic Sailing Programme allows more different types of sailing to be included, so better reflecting the diversity of our sport. Mixed events are the only events in which gender balance in terms of number of athletes are guaranteed.

There are several mixed events on the Olympic Programme and the IOC recently supported the introduction of mixed doubles in tennis. It is understood that there would be no objection to the inclusion of mixed events in sailing.

Mixed sailing would be another point of interest and distinction for our sport.

Cost and Accessibility of Equipment

Olympic Games are about athletes and not equipment. Equipment should not be more expensive than necessary. The cost for equipment should in the future be reduced by:

- The use of more one-design, 'out of the box' equipment
- Tight controls on this equipment at the events
- The supply of this equipment at major events, whenever possible

Selecting Equipment, and making decisions to change it, ISAF must consider as major factors cost, in terms of capital and development, and availability around the world.

Building popularity

The choice of Olympic Events & Equipment must support the ISAF strategy to ensure that sailing in the future can deliver better television and spectator opportunities during the Olympic Games, ISAF Sailing World Championship, ISAF World Cup, Continental Championships in Olympic Events, Games etc.

Sailing must add more value to the Olympic Programme, and Danish Sailing Association supports the vision and strategy in the ISAF Olympic Commission report.

In order to build popularity and be able to deliver a better "product" at the Olympic Games, we must have fast, modern Equipment, which have spectator appeal for both television and live audience.

The competitions must create excitement and be easy to understand for non-sailors, which mean that ISAF has to develop the competition formats for all events accordingly.

The submission offers events and equipment which are dynamic, fast 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 has 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.
