

2024 Olympic Sailing Competition

Olympic Events & Equipment

A submission from the International Fireball Class Association

Purpose or Objective

To select the remaining five events for the 2024 Olympic Programme which comply with the requirements for the Olympic events and equipment as set out in World Sailing Regulation 23.1.2.

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	Retain	Retain
Women's Windsurfer – RS:X	Retain	Retain
Heavyweight Men's One Person Dinghy – Finn	Retain	Retain
Men's Two Person Dinghy – 470	Retain	Retain
Women's Two Person Dinghy – 470	Retain	Retain

Current Position

As above.

Reasons

1. Having already selected five events and equipment for the 2024 Olympic Programme, this submission supports World Sailing's strategic move towards gender equality, matched pairs of events, clear event and equipment pathways, youth engagement, innovation and media appeal.
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These remaining five events proposed for the 2024 Olympic Games offer attainable opportunities for nations to compete at the Olympic Games, are part of an established pathway, have worldwide spread, and reflect a broad range of sailing styles. These events also:

- (a) offer diversity in terms of weight and size of athlete, enabling a broad range of physiques and weights to compete;
 - (b) Represent the diversity of styles and skills required in sailing which are participated in around the world, and cover all areas of the sport. The equipment can readily be sailed by sailors in developing nations, while at Olympic level the sailors represent excellence in a wide range of sailing skills;
 - (c) Note the growth of non-technical high-performance sailing, yet reflect the importance of preserving technical dinghies within the Olympic events for both men and women, and heavy weight sailors.
 - (d) Achieve the right balance between ensuring continuity in existing events/equipment, adding the Two- Person Dinghy Men, Two-Person Dinghy Women, Windsurfer Men and Windsurfer Women to the list of retained events, and preserving the highly athletic heavy weight dinghy as well.
 - (e) The ten Olympic sailing events allow a range of size, weight and skill sets to be taken into account. By maximising the range of sailor skills and physiques catered for in the ten events, this also maximises the number of sailors and nations that can aspire to going to the Olympic Games;
 - (f) Use proven equipment for the matched events, thus protecting a nation's investment for the events which is critical for the success of Olympic Sailing and sailing at the broad base;
 - (g) Deliver the pathway between youth events, Youth Olympic Games, World Youth Sailing Championships, Regional Games and the Olympic Games, as highlighted by the Olympic Commission (see Olympic Commission Executive Summary at: [http://www.sailing.org/tools/documents/Item6OlympicCommissionReport-\[9505\].pdf](http://www.sailing.org/tools/documents/Item6OlympicCommissionReport-[9505].pdf) which was approved by Council in November 2010. Full report available from World Sailing Executive Office). This report required that events and equipment selected are appealing and accessible to youth and deliver a single-step pathway from youth to highly experienced Olympic competition;
 - (h) Recognize that sailing is strong in some regions, but much weaker in emerging areas and developing nations, and this submission reflects the events and equipment which are already spread most around the world, and which are also easily accessible to developing and emerging MNAs. This submission also reflects the events and equipment which have high global participation and a diverse and broad range of nations currently participating;
 - (i) Note that 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 submission enables equipment evolution, and yet will also contain the cost of Olympic participation to MNAs and athletes;
 - (j) Reflect how sailing is widely practiced during the 206 weeks outside of the Olympic Games, which is a balance of one-person and two-person events;
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- (k) Offer the best combination of events and equipment for guaranteed media appeal;
- (l) Meet World Sailing's own policy requirements as set out in Regulation 23.1.2.

Approving this submission will deliver 8 events, which will use the same hull equipment, (with just the 470 having the same spars and sails too) or similar equipment, 1 mixed event and 1 event for heavy weight men. This combination of events and equipment offers clarity and sustainability 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.

2. **Retain Windsurfing Men and Women / Retain RS:X** – Windsurfing is a long-established event on the Olympic programme since 1984 which has always offered equivalent events for men and women. The windsurfer men and windsurfer women enables many nations around the world to compete at the Olympic Games, and behind the Laser is the second most spread class with more than 70 different nations actively competing. Olympic Windsurfing has grown impressively since the introduction of the RS:X Class.
 - (a) The current Olympic Windsurfing equipment is a very successful as:
 - (i) It delivers attractive sailing, different from 'standard' boat sailing, to the Olympics
 - (ii) From 4-30 knots of wind speed, the RS:X Windsurfing guarantees exhilarating racing in any wind and wave conditions where some of the other Olympic classes are not suitable to race.
 - (iii) The RS:X Equipment offers the least expensive route into the Olympic Sailing Competition for small and emerging nations, both in terms of equipment and campaign costs.
 - (iv) The new racing format with reaching starts and finishes in Medal Races offers much more excitement and clearness for spectators.
 - (b) The Windsurfing Events fulfil all the goals and requirements the IOC requests for the Olympic Sailing Competition. It is the cheapest form of Olympic sailing, has great universality, high numbers of women competing, it is low risk, it is visual and has large numbers of Youth competing. The WS Regulation 23.1.2 is clear that the Olympic Sailing Competition Event shall be attractive and accessible to young athletes from all continents, which is perfectly done by Windsurfing.
 - (c) The Windsurfing youth development pathway with the Techno 293, as the feeder class for the RS:X, is booming with record entry numbers with over 400 young sailors competing at its Worlds (see Regulation 23.1.2)
 - (d) The Windsurfing Events are the most colourful in the Olympic Sailing family and most dynamic of all Olympic Sailing disciplines with athletes being some of the fittest at the Olympic Sailing Competition. It is both physically and tactically demanding with the emphasis being on the athlete's ability not his/her ability to buy the latest gear.
 - (e) Windsurfing deserves its place in the Olympic sailing program so to maintain high level competition and protect the investment in windsurfing development programmes made by MNAs.
 3. **Retain Two Person Dinghy Men and Women / Retain 470** – the Two Person Dinghy Men and Women events are well proven as gender matched events bringing mainstream 3-sail small boat sailing to the Olympic Games.
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- (a) **Matched Events** - they are the only matched events and equipment on the Olympic programme and therefore the only event and equipment choices which will comply fully with recommendation 4 of the IOC Gender Equality Review Project, which sets out as recommendation that:
“As much as possible, the sport-specific equipment apparatus for men and women should be the same.”
<https://www.olympic.org/~media/Document%20Library/OlympicOrg/News/2018/03/IOC-Gender-Equality-Review-Project-Recommendations-Overview-March-2018.pdf>
- (b) **Affordable** - the 470 is the most affordable two-person event at the Olympic Games, and particularly affordable for emerging nations which is critical for the ongoing development of sailing and aspiration to the Olympic Games. A ready to sail campaign –level 470 starts from €13,000. The average ready-to-race 470 price is 25% to 30% lower than the price of the other two-person Olympic classes, and about 2½ times the price of the current one-person dinghy men and women class
- (c) **Mainstream** - the 470 represents universal and mainstream sailing at the Olympic Games and is the proven flag-bearer for two-person dinghy sailing at the Olympics. As the only technical boat with symmetric spinnaker, the 470 challenges sailors to be fully accomplished in all aspects of sailing: tuning, tactics, strategy, technique, boat handling, agility and teamwork
- (d) **Physique** - the only events lightweight men and women can compete in at the Olympic Games are the two-person dinghy men and two person dinghy women, and it is critical to retain these events to offer equal opportunity for smaller sized athletes. In South America, and particularly Asia and Africa, where the sailing population is predicted to increase, there are a lot of small sized and light weight sailors whose only route to the Olympic Games is through the 470.
- (e) **Universal** - the 470 has worldwide popularity and offers a consistent and proven pathway from youth to Olympic, via the 420 to the 470, with both classes operating in partnership to support development initiatives around the world. Sailors can then transition onto other classes. The 470 has the largest nations spread across all continents, among all the WS dinghy classes except for the one-person Optimist and Laser.
- (f) **Accessible** - whether newcomer or elite, the 470 offers widespread participation and racing opportunities, and is flexible to different racing environments and formats, whilst offering a level field of tactical racing and high performance from 5-35 knots.
- (g) **Level Field** - The 470 is a well-controlled one-design class, with excellent rules and building specification, delivering a level playing field, with equipment provided by manufactures around the world. The 470 has been refined and upgraded through the years to become a modern, mature and proven racing machine.
- (h) **Media Appeal** – the 470 lends itself to multiple race format options, which can better present the style of sailing than the limitations of the current Olympic format. Better use of on board cameras, headcams and audio will better convey the intensity of racing, precision of team work and the range of skills needed to sail a 470.
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Please note the presentation at: <http://www.470in2024.org> and a more detailed presentation will be circulated to Member National Authorities, Council, Events and Equipment Committee members prior to the 2018 World Sailing Mid-Year Meeting.

4. **Retain the heavy weight One Person Dinghy retain the Finn** – the One Person Dinghy events are the only heavy weight sailing event documenting classic sailing at its best. The constant action of the heavy sailors in their individually tuned boats is an important aspect for our sport, the combination of athletic force with superbly balanced sailing technique.
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