

LA28 Sailing Qualification System Amendment: Continental Quota Roll-Down

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Events Committee submits this recommendation to Council, recommending one improvement to the LA28 qualification process: to insert a new first step in Section F.1.2 so that a continental boat quota place that is not accepted rolls down to the next-eligible NOC at the same Continental Qualifier, before the boat quota place can leave the continent.
- 1.2 This recommendation was approved without objection by the Events Committee at its meeting on 26 August 2026, and it is put to Council on that basis.
- 1.3 The Qualification System is approved by the IOC Executive Board, based on the proposal from World Sailing. The current version can be found on the World Sailing website ([sailing.org/la28](https://www.sailing.org/la28)) or the IOC website ([LA28 Qualification System](#)), in English and French.

2. Background

- 2.1 The LA28 Qualification System sets out three qualification stages plus separate host country, universality and Emerging Nations allocations: the 2027 World Sailing Championships (Fortaleza, one-person events, and Gdynia, two-person events), the Continental Qualification Events, and the 2028 Last Chance Regatta (“LCR”).
- 2.2 Section F.1 governs what happens if an NOC does not confirm or declines an allocated quota place. For Continental Qualification Events, the current process (F.1.2) has two steps:
 - (a) Step 1: the place is reallocated to the event’s next-highest-ranked “Developing Nation” not already qualified, at the 2028 LCR. A Developing Nation is defined as an NOC that did not qualify — regardless of whether it accepted the place offered — at either of the last two Olympic Sailing Competitions, per the Developing Nations supporting document.
 - (b) Step 2: if no eligible Developing Nation exists, the place is simply added to the event’s 2028 LCR quota.
- 2.3 In practice, a declined continental place currently leaves its continent of origin immediately, and is redirected either to a Developing Nation (which may sit on any continent) or into the global LCR pool.

3. Issue: Continental Roll-Down

- 3.1 As drafted, a declined continental boat quota place exits its continent immediately, with no opportunity for another NOC from the same continent to take it up. This works against the IOC’s Fit for the Future assessment, under which retaining quota places within the continent of qualification is a tracked metric, and it removes any incentive for lower-ranked NOCs to enter a Continental Qualification Event, since there is currently no mechanism by which their result could still yield a place.
- 3.2 Proposed change: insert a new Step 1 so the boat quota place rolls down within the same Continental Qualification Event, to the next-highest-ranked eligible NOC from that continent not already qualified, before the existing Developing Nation step.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 The Events Committee recommends that the Council:
 - (a) Approve a new Step 1 in Section F.1.2 (Continental Qualification Events) of the LA28 Qualification System reallocation table, such that an unconfirmed or declined continental quota place is first reallocated to the next-highest-ranked eligible NOC in the same event at the same Continental Qualification Event, not already qualified (respecting the maximum quota per gender and per NOC), before any existing step is applied.