

Joint Final Report Events Decision Regulation 11.5

to

Events Committee & Equipment Committee

Wolfgang Mayrhofer (Chair Events Committee)
Glen Stanaway (Chair Equipment Committee)

Editorial Advisors

Aiko Saito (Vice-Chair Events Committee)
Matteo Plazzi (Vice-Chair Equipment Committee)
Shevaun Bruland (Working Group Leader Events Review Reg. 11.4)
Laura Marimon Giovannetti (Working Group Leader Events Decision Reg. 11.5)
World Sailing Staff (David Graham, Scott Dougal, Jaime Navarro, Michael
Downing)

Events Committee & Equipment Committee

October 2026

1 Contextualization

Events Review Reg. 11.4 and Events Decision Reg. 11.5 are conducted against the backdrop of Sailing wanting to improve as part of the Olympic program. While being an established part of the Games with many attractive features, it is looking for opportunity and managing risks. Main reasons for this include being complicated to understand in the way it is currently presented, costly for athletes, MNAs, and local organizers, and among the least popular sports when it comes to broadcast. Consequently, World Sailing needs to take an evaluative look, transfer what has demonstrated to be valuable, leave behind what has run out of its usefulness, and introduce new elements.

The current slate of Events and their Equipment only partially contributes to increasing broadcast attractivity and growing this part of the high-performance segment of sailing, both north stars of this process and aligned with major strategic points of reference such as World Sailing's Olympic Vision. Events and Equipment are by far not the only and arguably not even the most important pieces of the overall picture when one thinks, e.g., about Format, broadcast technology, social media appearance, or continuous storytelling. Yet, they are crucial. Change, therefore, is necessary. The extent and focus of that change remain open to debate, and unsurprisingly, views differ.

This situation offers an opportunity to critically assess existing Events and Equipment and explore potential new ones. Both the Joint Final Report and its Supplementary Volume serve this purpose. The latter offers an in-depth view of different aspects during various phases of the process of Events Review Reg. 11.5; the former contains recommendations that call for different degrees of change while also offering continuity. Admittedly, none of these recommendations fully meets the legitimate but partly conflicting expectations of stakeholders within and outside World Sailing. Each strikes a different balance by prioritizing the underlying goals and criteria differently. Overall, however, each offers a distinct package that advances sailing in the Olympic movement.

2 Recommendations

In intensive collaboration the authors of this report have discussed the Joint Working Group Report, the Update Report, and the Task Area Reports¹ with the Editorial Group. We have identified the following recommendations that in different ways serve the two North Stars of the Events Decision Regulation 11.5, i.e., increasing broadcast attractivity and contributing to the global growth of the high-performance segment of sailing², as well as meet the Level 1 and Level 2 criteria³ in adequate form. They are the result of substantial work on the various Events ('building blocks')⁴, careful weighing of pros, cons, and trade-offs for each of the recommendations⁵, and various additional explorations, robustness checks, and consultations with major stakeholders⁶.

¹ See also Supplementary Volume Parts 1, 2 and 3.

² See also Supplementary Volume Part 3, Section 3.

³ See also Supplementary Volume Part 3, Section 7.3.

⁴ See also Supplementary Volume Part 3, Section 7.4.

⁵ See also Supplementary Volume Part 3, Section 5.

⁶ See also Supplementary Volume Part 1.

Recommendation WHITE combines continuity with evolutionary change by replacing Men's and Women's Kite with Wingfoiling and strongly suggests substantial changes in Mixed Multihull format and equipment. Recommendation BLUE reacts to further explorations and consultations after the Update Report, in particular with Council and the Board. It introduces more courageous approach by including the Mixed Team Tournament and offers a choice without (BLUE A) and with (BLUE B) Mixed Multihull. Based on the upcoming conversations in the two Committees, it is planned to send a ranked set of recommendations to Council.

Recommendation WHITE

- MX Dinghy: retain Event; retain Equipment
- MX Multihull: retain Event; retain Equipment*
- Men's and Women's Kite: new Event; new Equipment
- New Event: Men's and Women's Wingfoiling

Recommendation BLUE A

- Mixed Dinghy: retain Event; retain Equipment
- Mixed Multihull: new Event; new Equipment
- Men's and Women's Kite: new Event; new Equipment
- New Event: Men's and Women's Wingfoiling
- New Event: Mixed Team Tournament**

Recommendation BLUE B

- Mixed Dinghy: new Event; new Equipment
- Mixed Multihull: retain Event; retain Equipment*
- Men's and Women's Kite: new Event; new Equipment
- New Event: Men's and Women's Wingfoiling
- New Event: Mixed Team Tournament**

* **Important:** Retaining Mixed Multihull both as Event and Equipment is conditional to format change and part of the equipment being supplied. The detailed commentary included in Part 3 Section 7.4.3 in the Supplementary Volume can be summarised as:

1. The format and presentation of the event must be substantially reformed to achieve its broadcast potential.
2. The cost of campaigning must be significantly reduced, at the minimum by using a pool of supplied foils controlled by the contracts between the class and/or manufacturer as well as other relevant stakeholders as deemed necessary.

** **Important:** Inclusion of the Mixed Team Tournament assumes satisfactory World Sailing financial due diligence of the proposed funding arrangements and agreement of an appropriate contractual and governance framework with the relevant delivery entity.

Furthermore, we make a **Recommendation to apply for an 11th Medal**. Mixed Team Racing as new Event without extra quota should be presented to the IOC as additional Event.⁷

⁷ See also Part 3 Section 7.4.6 Supplementary Volume.

3 Characteristics of Recommendations

3.1 Recommendation WHITE

3.1.1 Events Configuration

Recommendation WHITE comprises the following Events recommendations:

- MX Dinghy: retain Event; retain Equipment
- MX Multihull: retain Event; retain Equipment
- Men's and Women's Kite: new Event; new Equipment
- New Event: Men's and Women's Wingfoil

For more detail on the Events and the conditions for retaining the Event and Equipment see the respective sections in Supplementary Volume Appendix 7.4, for details on the Equipment Criteria for the new event's equipment see Supplementary Volume Appendix 7.5.

3.1.2 Condensed SWOT-Assessment of Recommendation WHITE

Strengths

- Represents the lowest-disruption option, retaining two established Events and their Equipment and thereby protecting existing investments of athletes and MNAs into pathways and expertise.
- Maintains a broad range of racing types and athlete profiles and brings a Wingfoiling as new event with scope for expression elements, strengthening the Unique Selling Proposition (USP) of this Recommendation when considering the six Events not under review.
- Contributes to simplicity, and cost-effectiveness through Wingfoiling.

Weaknesses

- Represents an incremental rather than transformational change to the Olympic programme and will therefore deliver a smaller increase in overall progress than other recommendations.
- Wingfoiling formats, equipment and athlete pathways are relatively immature, particularly in relation to reliable racing in lighter winds.
- Retaining the Mixed Multihull with current equipment preserves existing concerns regarding concentration of competitiveness among better-resourced MNAs.
- The detail of how the recommendation to supply and manage components of the Nacra 17 is complex and implementation of this policy may prove impractical.

Opportunities

- Wingfoiling can be developed around short-duration, close-to-shore racing incorporating different racing and expression elements, creating content that is visibly different from the remainder of the Olympic sailing programme.
- The relative continuity of this recommendation allows World Sailing, Classes, MNAs and athletes to concentrate capacity on format, presentation, digital technology, storytelling and the introduction of Wingfoiling, rather than managing multiple new Events simultaneously.
- Equipment selection will be guided to reduce costs both for the organising committee (with supplied equipment and compactness of the fleet ashore as well as reduction of support vessels/coach boats allowance) and for MNAs and athletes with strict

boundaries on technological advancements to allow a clear maximum limit of equipment cost.

- The format and presentation of the Mixed Multihull can be developed to maximise broadcast interest and results.

Threats

- Wingfoiling may not be able to establish adequate light-wind reliability, international pathways and equipment maturity.
- The intended cost benefits of Wingfoiling remain uncertain until equipment and provision model is determined, and the target wind range is matured Continued growth in faster and more visually distinctive disciplines could make the retained Events of the programme appear increasingly traditional to athletes and audiences.
- Changing the format and presentation of the Mixed Multihull event requires a political decision at World Sailing which will depend on committee, class, athletes, and stakeholder support.

3.2 Recommendation BLUE A

3.2.1 Events Configuration

Recommendation BLUE A comprises the following Events recommendations:

- Mixed Dinghy: retain Event; retain Equipment
- Mixed Multihull: new Event; new Equipment
- Men's and Women's Kite: new Event; new Equipment
- New Event: Men's and Women's Wingfoiling
- New Event: Mixed Team Tournament

For more detail on the Events and the conditions for retaining the event and equipment see the respective sections in Supplementary Volume Appendix 7.4. For details on the Equipment Criteria for the new event's equipment see Supplementary Volume Appendix 7.5.

3.2.2 Condensed SWOT-Assessment of Recommendation BLUE A

Strengths

- Contributes to accessibility, simplicity, and cost-effectiveness through Wingfoiling and Mixed Team Tournament.
- Mixed Team Tournament constitutes a two-way route between Olympic campaigning of female sailors and the professional keelboat circuits.
- Mixed Team Tournament creates a link between grassroots sailing, national selection, keelboat sailing, professional circuits, and Olympic participation.

Weaknesses

- Removal of the Mixed Multihull loses a proven and seasoned Event after more than a decade of development, while the potential benefits of both Wingfoiling and the Mixed Team Tournament remain to be fully validated.
- Substantial departure from the existing Olympic programme since Wingfoiling and the Mixed Team Tournament remain relatively immature as Olympic Events.
- The eight-person team of Mixed Team Tournament requires materially greater athlete coordination and quota than any current Olympic Sailing Event.
- The suggested equipment for Mixed Team Tournament currently requires 8-10 sailors onboard weighing a maximum of 730kg. This signals heavy crew weight to reach the

necessary righting moment. While indicated reduction of crew weight in parallel with adjusted smaller sail plan might partially help, this is little, if any progress in terms of creating Events suitable for light weight athletes.

Opportunities

- Combining the national-team proposition with innovative Wingfoiling formats substantially broadens the range of stories, athletes and competition styles presented at the Olympic Sailing Competition.
- The qualification pathway for the Mixed Team Tournament has established a multi-year national-team narrative that can be further exploited, extending Olympic sailing engagement beyond the Olympic Games themselves and creating opportunities for developing MNAs.
- The supplied-equipment and funding model for the Mixed Team Tournament significantly reduces equipment-ownership barriers and provides access for a large number of nations willing to participate in the funded circuit that cannot sustain conventional Olympic-class campaigns.

Threats

- The intended cost benefits of Wingfoiling remain uncertain until equipment and provision model is determined, and the target wind range is matured.
- Without effective controls, MNAs may establish their own eight-athlete keelboat programmes and acquire equipment for extensive training, creating significant cost differences and undermining the intended accessibility of the Event.
- Mixed Team Tournament depends on a contract being agreed to codify the relationship which will depend on good governance with WS involvement, availability and long-term sustainability of the proposed third-party funding, as well as the still to be tested supplied-equipment model and Olympic-delivery arrangements.
- Due to the individual MNAs internal qualification systems, athletes for the rest of the slate's Events might not be selected once a National Team is selected for the Mixed Team Tournament. This is a threat to the broadcasting storytelling if the athletes onboard a particular National Team are changed throughout the regattas.

3.3 Recommendation BLUE B

3.3.1 Events Configuration

Recommendation BLUE B comprises the following Events recommendations:

- Mixed Dinghy: new Event; new Equipment
- Mixed Multihull*: retain Event; retain Equipment
- Men's and Women's Kite: new Event; new Equipment
- New Event: Men's and Women's Wingfoil
- New Event: Mixed Team Tournament

For more detail on the Events and the conditions for retaining the event and equipment see the respective sections in Supplementary Volume Appendix 7.4. For details on the Equipment Criteria for the new event's equipment see Supplementary Volume Appendix 7.5.

3.3.2 Condensed SWOT-Assessment of Recommendation BLUE B

Strengths

- Contributes to accessibility, simplicity, and cost-effectiveness through Wingfoiling

and Mixed Team Tournament.

- Mixed Team Tournament constitutes a two-way route between Olympic campaigning of female sailors and the professional keelboat circuits.
- .
- Mixed Team Tournament creates another link between grassroots sailing, national selection, keelboat sailing, professional circuits, and Olympic participation.

Weaknesses

- Removal of the Mixed Dinghy loses a proven pathway and known lighter-athlete Event that covers a broad range of conditions while the optimal athlete profiles for Wingfoiling and the Mixed Team Tournament remain to be fully validated.
- Retaining the Mixed Multihull with current equipment preserves existing concerns regarding concentration of competitiveness among better-resourced MNAs.
- Substantial departure from the existing Olympic programme since Wingfoiling and the Mixed Team Tournament are relatively immature as an Olympic Event concept.
- An eight-person team requires materially greater athlete coordination and quota than any current Olympic Sailing Event.
- The suggested equipment for Mixed Team Tournament currently requires 8-10 sailors onboard weighing a maximum of 730kg. This signals heavy crew weight to reach the necessary righting moment. While indicated reduction of crew weight in parallel with adjusted smaller sail plan might partially help, this is little, if any progress in terms of creating Events suitable for light weight athletes.
- The detail of how the recommendation to supply and manage components of the Nacra 17 is complex and implementation of this policy may prove impractical.

Opportunities

- Combining the national-team proposition with innovative Wingfoiling formats substantially broadens the range of stories, athletes and competition styles presented at the Olympic Sailing Competition.
- The qualification pathway for the Mixed Team Tournament has established a multi-year national-team narrative that can be further exploited, extending Olympic sailing engagement beyond the Olympic Games themselves and creating opportunities for developing MNAs.
- The supplied-equipment and funding model for the Mixed Team Tournament significantly reduces equipment-ownership barriers and provides access for a large number of nations willing to participate in the funded circuit that cannot sustain conventional Olympic-class campaigns.
- The format and presentation of the Mixed Multihull can be developed to maximise broadcast interest and results.

Threats

- The intended cost benefits of Wingfoiling remain uncertain until equipment and provision model is determined, and the target wind range is matured. .
- Without effective controls, MNAs may establish their own eight-athlete keelboat programmes and acquire equipment for extensive training, creating significant cost differences and undermining the intended accessibility of the Event.
- Mixed Team Tournament depends on a contract being agreed to codify the relationship which will depend on good governance with WS involvement, availability and long-term sustainability of the proposed third-party funding, as well as the still to be tested supplied-equipment model and Olympic-delivery arrangements.
- Due to individual MNAs internal qualification systems, athletes for the rest of the

- 252 slate's Events might not be chosen once a National Team is selected for the Mixed
 253 Team Tournament. This weakens the broadcasting storytelling if the athletes onboard
 254 a particular National Team are changed throughout the regattas.
 255 • Changing the format and presentation of the Mixed Multihull event requires a political
 256 decision at World Sailing which will depend on committee, class, athletes, and other
 257 stakeholder support.

4 Recommendation: Mixed Team Racing as 11th Medal

259 The Committees propose Mixed Team Racing as an additional 11th Olympic medal Event at
 260 the Brisbane 2032 Olympic Sailing Competition. Team Racing is exciting to watch for both
 261 online and live viewership, allows constant action and quick turnaround, and offers a low-cost
 262 variant of Olympic campaigning for athletes and MNAs. It should be contested as second
 263 medal option in mixed 2v2 format with two boats and four athletes per nation, one female and
 264 one male helm. Teams must be drawn from athletes already qualified at the Games (38 of the
 265 65 nations had four or more Athletes in the Olympic Sailing Competition in Paris 2024).
 266 While this Event requires extra days after the other sailing Events resulting in additional cost
 267 to the Organizing Committee of the Olympic Games, supplied, simple, and non-foiling boats
 268 and a condensed schedule contain cost.⁸

5 Event Contributions to IOC's Fit for the Future

270 The Events put forward in these Recommendations together with the Events not under review
 271 form an overall slate where each Event has the potential to make unique contributions to
 272 Sailing at the Olympic Sailing Competition (Figure 2).

<i>Event</i>	<i>Primary role</i>
M & W Windsurfing	Universality (athlete participation) and global appeal through its different race types (slalom & course)
M & W Dinghy	Universality (athlete participation) and global appeal through its direct representation of grassroots dinghy sailing
M & W Skiff	Global appeal through its fast and colourful presentation, and dynamic and athletic boat handling
Mixed Dinghy	Global appeal through its regional representation and reliability
Mixed Multihull	Global appeal through its unique imagery, simple format (newly to be introduced), and its presentation similar to major sailing professional leagues
M & W Wingfoiling	Global appeal through its unique racing type (slalom free fly) and simplicity to sail (recreationally)
Mixed Team Tournament	Global appeal through its unique imagery (keelboats) and clear connection to grassroots keelboat sailing
Mixed Team Racing	Global appeal through its unique racing type (team racing, don't come last) and unique imagery (teamwork between boats)

273 *Figure 1: Unique Event contributions – overall slate*

⁸ For additional information see Supplementary Volume Part 1 Section 1.1 and Part 3 Section 7.4.6.

274 The realization of this potential depends also – and some might even argue: more – on
275 progress in other areas beyond Event and their Equipment. In particular, this refers to format,
276 technology, broadcast and storytelling which are indispensable, too, for advancing our sport at
277 the Olympic Sailing Competition and our standing in the Olympic movement.