

## 2012 Olympic Sailing Competition - Events

A submission from Yachting New Zealand

### Proposal:

That appropriate and urgent representation is made by ISAF to the IOC to reinstate eleven events for the 2012 Olympic Regatta.

### Current Position:

Council decided in November 2007 to select the following 6 events for Men in the 2012 Olympic Regatta:

Windsurfer

- 1 person dinghy
- 1 person dinghy (heavy)
- 2 person dinghy
- 2 person dinghy (high performance)
- Keelboat

The multihull was eliminated in order to reduce these events from 7 to 6.

### Reason:

The requirement to eliminate one event from the slate for the 2012 Olympics was going to be an issue for the sailors in the event that was dropped, and this has proven to be the case for the multihull stakeholders. The situation would without doubt have been similar if the men’s keelboat had been dropped instead of the multihull. The differing conclusions reached by the Events Committee and Council have stretched confidence in both strategy and process around determining the right format of events for sailing in the Olympics.

It is our view that the men’s keelboat and multihull events equally represent large and vital sectors of the sailing landscape. The multihull is also the only open event in the repertoire. The removal of either of these events can only represent a major loss for sailing as a whole. The argument can keep revolving as to the respective merits of these events in meeting ISAF’s and IOC’s criteria, resulting in the ultimate sacrifice in the end executed by Council.

Our view is that a bolder approach is needed and a new initiative launched by ISAF’s leadership as proposed below.

The elimination of the multihull is not in the interest of our sport and is questionable in relation to Rule 16.1.5 (a). However we do not support the view that there should be a vote between the multihull and the keelboat, to determine which event is eliminated. Any action which resulted in the elimination of the men’s keelboat as an alternative to dropping the multihull would result in much the same arguments being advanced to defend a keelboat event remaining in the Olympics.

In order to make a major strategic change such as this - reducing events from 11 to 10 – the timing horizon needs to be at least out to 2016. A longer planning timescale may allow a strategic rather than a political view to prevail. Many MNA's have significant funding for their Olympic and High Performance development programmes from sources which require medal results as a condition for continued funding. Without this funding it would be impossible to ensure the depth of development of sailors, especially for MNAs like New Zealand where the sailors have to be funded to undertake Northern Hemisphere campaigns for regattas and training. This criteria for funding, results in a short term view by most MNAs when considering any event slate for the following Olympic Games. Given a longer lead time on the decision, particular events may assume less importance in this regard and a more strategic and 'overall good' approach may be taken. The focus can move from 'what is good for me' to 'what is good for the sport'?

Therefore Yachting New Zealand urges ISAF to take all possible steps to persuade the IOC to reinstate eleven events for the 2012 Olympic Regatta so that a more strategic approach to events can be taken towards 2016.