

2024 Olympic Sailing Competition

Olympic Events & Equipment

A submission from the International RS:X Class Association and Federacion Venezolana de Vela

Purpose or Objective

To select the Windsurfing Men and Windsurfing Women for the 2024 Olympic games.

To propose a slate of Events for the 2024 Olympic Games that is congruent with the recommendations of the IOC’s Olympic Agenda 2020. In particular the relevant recommendations that relate to:

- Move from a sport based to an event based programme,
- Foster gender equality,

Universality, Appeal to Youth and an Event (rather than Sport) based focus. The slate also showcases the wide diversity of the sport of sailing while keeping within the current quota and medal allotment.

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	Mixed Two Person Offshore Keelboat	New Equipment
Men's Two Person Dinghy – 470	Mixed Two Person Dinghy	Retain
Women's Two Person Dinghy – 470	Mixed Kiteboarding – Two Person Team	New Equipment

* Note the equipment for this event is under antitrust review

Suggested Criteria for Mixed Two Person Offshore Keelboat:

Trailerable, fits 40-foot container, high performance (Asymmetric kite etc.), reasonable cost, simple restricted sail inventory, reasonable base electronics package, one design, global distribution. To select equipment which shall suit a crew of two, one man and one woman, with equipment to be supplied at the Olympic Games at no cost to competitors. Outside of the Olympic Games itself, careful consideration needs to be given as to how to manage the procurement of equipment to ensure an accessible event for as many nations as possible. The equipment selected should be suitable for inshore, coastal and offshore racing. The equipment shall not be performance sensitive to crew weight, so as not to restrict the physiques of crew or offer a performance advantage to lighter or heavier crews. The equipment should enable athletes of different physiques to compete on an equal basis and be particularly able to accommodate heavyweight physiques, so as to embrace sailors who would have previously sailed the one-person dinghy men heavyweight event. The equipment should not require particular physiques to fulfil specific roles on board.

Suggested Criteria for Mixed Kite – Two Person Team:

Twin tip or foiling, suitable for multiple disciplines/ formats (slalom/ tricks/ course racing etc.). Reasonable cost, restricted number of kites.

Current Position

As above.

Reasons

1. The WS Regulation 23.1.2 is clearly stating that the Olympic Events and Equipment shall demonstrate the various type of boats, when Windsurfing is different from all boat sailing and also from Kiteboarding.
 2. Men's and Women's Windsurfing has been a major and successful part of the Olympic Sailing Competition since 1984 (Women 1992). The current Olympic Windsurfing Events enables more than 60 nations from 6 continents to compete on a level playing field using tightly controlled one design equipment, which is the second most spread class behind the Laser. Olympic Windsurfing has grown impressively since the introduction of the RS:X Class.
 3. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) Agenda 2020 goals are clearly stated as gender equality, universality, innovation and engagement with Youth, all these covered by Windsurfing Events.
 4. Continuity of Events is essential for the sustainability of the sport. The Olympic Events and Equipment shape the development of youth sailing and the future sailing pathways, and accessibility of Olympic Events enables countries to aspire to and achieve Olympic participation. Continuity is a key to accessibility.
 5. Olympic participation drives funding which in turn filters down to the pathway programme. The combination of Events/Equipment selected for the Olympic Sailing Competition must support a broad range of countries to have an access to choice of Olympic Events.
 6. The current Olympic Windsurfing equipment is a very successful as,
 - It delivers attractive sailing, different from 'standard' boat sailing, to the Olympics
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- From 4-30 knots of wind speed, the RS:X Windsurfing is the fastest Olympic Class and guarantees exhilarating racing in any wind and wave conditions where other classes are not suitable to race.
 - 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.
 - The new racing format with reaching starts and finishes in Medal Races offers much more excitement and clearness for spectators.
7. 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, what is perfectly done by Windsurfing.
 8. 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))
 9. 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.
 10. 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.
 11. We retain the "universality" events of Men's and Women's Windsurfer and Men's and Women's One Person Dinghy ensuring that we achieve further MNA/ NOC participation at the Olympic Games themselves as well as in the qualification process
 12. We retain the high performance and "media attractive" events of Skiffs, Multihull and Windsurfing applies here as well.
 13. Gender equality and mixed events are key recommendations of the IOC's Olympic Agenda 2020. The above slate moves from 1 mixed event in 2020 to 4 events in 2024. We also move sailing to full gender equality at both an athlete and event level. Mixed teams will not only mean gender equality at the Olympic Games, but should also drive more female participation in Sailing particularly in the pathway to Olympic events.
 14. We eliminate the perceived duplication of the Men's Two Person Dinghy and Women's Two Person Dinghy with the Men's and Women's Skiff. By making the Two Person Dinghy a mixed event we retain the event (albeit mixed and from 2 events to 1 event) with the potential to explore Team or Match racing formats.
 15. The Two Person Dinghy (470) is well proven as gender matched event bringing mainstream 3-sail small boat sailing to the Olympic Games. 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. It 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.
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16. 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.
17. 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.
18. Keelboat sailing is participated in around the world, and reflects the most highly populated discipline of “mixed sailing” already in existence, rather than “creating” or “forcing” a mixed event which may have limited appeal.
19. Keelboat sailing attracts many of the world’s big names – from Star sailors to TP52, Volvo Ocean Race to ORC – and will enable more established, high-profile and well-known sailors who regularly “front sailing to the global media” to have access to the Olympic Games. The media appeal in offshore sailing is high, and if this appeal can be replicated in a Mixed Offshore Keelboat Event the profile for Olympic Sailing will be heightened.
20. With no weight advantage for light or heavy crews, the event will ensure the broadest possible appeal to a wide range of physiques.
21. As a new Olympic event there is confidence that a Mixed Kite event format will deliver a natural fit to optimize the development of men and women kiteboarding athletes around the world. A Mixed Kite event will require one male and one female athlete to campaign as a “team”. Each nation will be required to nominate an athlete of each gender to make up the “team” for the Olympic Games. In its first inclusion as an Olympic event and based on current competition numbers, see Note 1 below, there is doubt that separate Kite Men and Kite Women events would meet IOC recommendation 1 of the IOC Gender Equality Review Project that:
- “For all individual events, the number of female and male participants should be equal per event and/or per discipline.”*
22. If separate men and women Kite events were introduced to the 2024 Olympic Games, there is no guarantee that there will be an equal number of female and male athletes selected to compete by their MNAs/National Olympic Committees. The introduction of a “mixed” event, will guarantee an equal number of male and female athletes.
23. Compared to other events, it is a realistic option to have a Mixed Kite event, as it will not discriminate any nations on cultural, religious and social grounds, particularly as the two athletes are competing on their own craft. As a new event there is no heritage which would impact on the legacy of how teams have previously competed. A Kite Mixed event is a natural fit for this new discipline and meets the IOC objectives to include more mixed gender events.

*Note 1:

	Entries (who competed)	Nations	Continent
2017 Formula Kite World Championship (raced as separate men and women fleets)			
<i>Men</i>	51	22	6
<i>Women</i>	6	5	3
2017 Formula Kite European Championship (raced as separate men and women fleets)			

<i>Men</i>	34	19	5
<i>Women</i>	5	4	2
2017 Kite Foil Gold Cup Final (raced as an open fleet)			
<i>Men</i>	36	15	3
<i>Women</i>	3	3	1

Source: <http://formulakite.com/results> and <http://kitefoilgoldcup.com/results>
