

Q3. What are your views on the development of the Sailing's Olympic Events and Equipment?

Kim Andersen (DEN):

When I look at the development of Sailing's Olympic Events and Equipment, my view is that they should be as inclusive as possible, they should showcase our best in class and also our great diversity. Take for example the 2024 Summer Olympic Games, I am very proud of the selection made by Council. We made a clear decision, at the 2024 Paris Olympic Summer Games, Sailing will have equal gender and events representation and true universal diversity all while showcasing our best sailors.

This is greatly due to the slate of events and equipment selected which highlight the diversity of sailing. The line-up will include Kiteboarding, Foiling Windsurfing, Single and Doublehanded Dinghies, Skiffs and an Offshore Keelboat. This will showcase sailing, and its development, in the best possible way as there will be more nations participating in Olympic qualifiers, highlighting the universality of sailing and adding real value to the Olympic programme.

This slate of events will serve as a unique showcasing of sailing beyond 2024, because what makes this slate of events unique is that the events mirror what top sailors do. They take the audience through the ambition of youth, winning Olympic medals and exploring sailing skills within different disciplines. Very similar to the careers of our sailing legends: Olympics, offshore/big boats racing, Round the world, Americas cup, SailGP, etc.

But if we truly want to develop and grow sailing worldwide, we need to look beyond the Olympic Games. We need to look at items like nature and sustainability, e-sailing and address barriers blocking youth from sailing. We have made excellent progress the last four years in ensuring the involvement of youth in sailing and, I am happy to say that we have done a lot to accelerate things like gender equality / mixed sailing.

Quanhai Li (CHN)

The Olympic Games are great sporting events. Strive for the best is the shared dream and pursuit of all Olympic athletes. They are an important part of the development of sailing.

My view is we need to develop closer collaboration with the IOC, the host City of Olympic, the continental federations, the MNAs, and the organizing committees of major regattas, and to establish a more modern mechanism of publicity and media to amplify the impact of sailing.

WS must establish closer ties with sailing organizations in various regions and members of different groups. The establishment of a new normalized communication mechanism is very important for future development.

The selection of the Olympic level should meet the needs of the IOC. It should be focused on low cost (which includes the equipment), easy to popularize, close to cities, enjoyable and representative.

Scott Perry (URU)

I don't think the Olympics should be a testing ground for events, formats or equipment which have not proven to be successful at other sailing competitions. My single most important concern is that the classes and events we choose for the Olympics should be as "universal" as possible. By "universal" I mean that we should make sure that our events and equipment appeal to the greatest number of sailors from the standpoint of gender, physique, format and affordability.

The FRAND initiative (Fair Reasonable and Non-Discriminatory) commenced by this Board is unquestionably a good initiative as it attempts to make the manufacture of our sailing equipment open to as many builders as possible. As a result sailors benefit from competitive (lower) pricing.

I come from a small sailing nation. Affordability is of paramount importance to the very few Olympic hopeful sailors in my country. We should not allow the Olympic sailing program to become an arms race to be won by the sailors with the largest financial resources. The cost of equipment and the cost to host Olympic qualifying events must be kept as affordable as possible. As a businessman I can't accept that this is an impossible goal, quite the contrary it should be easy to attain.

Gerardo Seeliger (ESP)

A vote and a decision on the 2024 Events have been taken in 2018 and is has to be respected.

The ultimate decision for Marseille 2024 lies, by the end of this year, with the IOC.

The current economic downturn, the postponement of the Olympic Games, the subsequent shorter preparation time for Marseille 2024 and the limits imposed by Corvit19 may force WS to look at the slate with new, different well-known criteria. Cost, youth sailing, gender equality, universality, and growth of our sport, in particular in Emerging Nations are important criteria, The Kite, which I supported since the 2012 Midyear Council Meeting has increased the diversity of our sport, bringing young generations, and related sponsors to our sport. Whatever happens, it is now an

important part of our sport and contributes to the amazing aspects and spectacularity of sailing.

The Kite has constantly rejuvenated sailing, bringing young people to our sport, making it modern and attractive to Social media and TV.

Kite has brought tourism, employment, a new industry to countries without sailing history. Kites are part of the diversity of sailing and should be part of the Olympics.