

Event Review Working Party Report for the 2022 Mid-Year Meeting

1. Working Party Members

Piotr Oleksiak (Chair)

David Abercrombie

John Derbyshire

Daniel Belcher

Pawel Kolodziński

Saskia Clark

Aiko Saito

2. Scope

- 2.1 The Terms of Reference for the Working Party (WP) is aligned with Regulation 23.1.3 (b) to (d) and decisions of Council from the 2021 Annual Conference. At the 2021 Annual Conference, Council decided the following Events selected for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games were to be reviewed for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games:

Men's Kite – Formula Kite

Women's Kite – Formula Kite

Mixed Dinghy – 470

Mixed Multihull – Nacra 17

The remaining Events selected for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games are not to be reviewed and have therefore been selected for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games:

Men's Windsurfing - iQFOiL

Women's Windsurfing – iQFOiL

Men's Dinghy – ILCA 7

Women's Dinghy – ILCA 6

Men's Skiff – 49er

Women's Skiff – 49er FX

- 2.2 Specifically, the Terms of Reference is:

The Event Review WP is to consider each of the Events under review and recommend to Events Committee to either:

- (i) to retain the Event and retain the current Equipment; or
- (ii) to retain the Event and evolve the current Equipment; or
- (iii) to retain the Event and select new Equipment; or
- (iv) to select a new Event and select new Equipment.

In so doing, the WP will consider Reg 23.1.1; 23.1.2 and Reg 23.1.3 as well as any other relevant guidance from either World Sailing as policy or the IOC.

- 2.3 The WP takes particular note of the regulation where it states 'to review for possible change' noting that change is not mandatory but just one of the outcomes "retain, evolve or select new".

- 2.4 The WP was acutely aware of the need to meet regulation 23.1.3 (d) to ensure timely decision making for all stakeholders.

For its decisions under 23.1.3(c), if Council decides:

- (i) to evolve the current Equipment, it shall at the same time specify where evolution is required;
- (ii) to select new Equipment, it shall at the same time decide the criteria for the selection of new Equipment;
- (iii) to select a new Event, it shall at the same time select what that new Event shall be.

Event Review Working Party Report for the 2022 Mid-Year Meeting

3. Summary

- 3.1 The Working Party, made up of appointed members from both the Events & Equipment Committees and the Athletes Commission, has met weekly over the last four (4) months. The WP had significant debate and conducted an analytical review of the four (4) Events and Equipment selected by Council for review at the 2021 Annual Conference and considered potential alternative Events and Equipment based on the previously approved criteria. Changing an Event or Equipment was then considered once the strengths and weaknesses of the incumbent and potential alternatives were known.
- 3.2 The WP's discussion and analysis highlighted the weaknesses, challenges, strengths and potential of all the Events and Equipment being considered and it was readily apparent there was no standout Event on the short list and no Event considered, rated better than the six (6) retained Events.
- 3.3 The Working Party noted that recommending retaining an Event does not automatically lead to a conclusion the Event is meeting World Sailing's and the IOC's objectives. The WP sees a considerable opportunity for the recommended retained Events and their Equipment to be improved to better achieve World Sailing and the IOC's objectives for the Olympic Games otherwise there is considerable likelihood new Events will offer better value.
- 3.4 With this in mind, the WP's work led by a small majority to Recommendation 1 – New kite or wing Event, retain the 470 Event, and new Equipment for the Mixed Multihull Event. The option to retain the Kite Events and just consider new Equipment was a close second however the WP felt the chance to be proactive and position the Event for the sport's future in the Olympic Games was an opportunity that couldn't be missed.
- 3.5 Selecting a New Event does not automatically imply change. Recommendation 1 is based on the understanding that the new "Board Events" retain the fundamentals of the current format and it is just a branding of the Event to be able to consider additional equipment such as wingfoil which is demonstrating considerable organic growth, alongside kite. With the requirement to select new Equipment by 31 December 2023, the WP felt this was sufficient time to explore the possibility of new Equipment for the Event without negative impact to sailors or MNAs. The outcome of the process to select a new Event could be retaining the current Equipment.
- 3.6 It was unanimous amongst the WP that new Equipment was required for the Mixed Multihull Event as the current Equipment is not meeting the needs of sailors, MNAs or World Sailing. The WP considered selecting a new Event in place of the Mixed Multihull however it was felt that at this time there was better potential in finding new multihull Equipment (e.g. foiling or non-foiling, evolve Nacra 17) than the alternative Events the WP considered.
- 3.7 There was a clear majority of the WP in favour of retaining the Mixed Dinghy Event and Equipment. The WP noted the Mixed Dinghy Event did score noticeably weaker than the six (6) retained Events and this led to Recommendation 2.



Event Review Working Party Report for the 2022 Mid-Year Meeting

4. Recommendation 1

The Events and Equipment for the 2028 Olympic Sailing Competition is recommended as:

Event	Equipment	Recommendation
Men's Windsurfing	iQFOiL	Retained
Women's Windsurfing	iQFOiL	Retained
Men's Dinghy	ILCA 7	Retained
Women's Dinghy	ILCA 6	Retained
Men's Skiff	49er	Retained
Women's Skiff	49erFX	Retained
Retain Mixed Dinghy	470	Retain Event and Equipment
Retain Mixed Multihull	Selected following evaluation	Retain Event and select New Equipment
New Event - Men's Board (replacing Men's Kite)	Kite or wingfoil following evaluation	New Event and select New Equipment
New Event - Women's Board (replacing Women's Kite)	Kite or wingfoil following evaluation	New Event and select New Equipment

The resulting Equipment outcome is as follows:

Event	Equipment Recommendation
Mixed Dinghy	470 is retained
Mixed Multihull	Select Equipment with criteria that prioritises: A foiling or not foiling multihull that is: • Compliant with WS Olympic Equipment Policy and FRAND requirements • Accessibility to equipment, replacement components, number and spread of distributors globally • Clear construction standards and Class rules • Quality (Equality) of production, quality controls processes, inspection control methods and equipment durability • Safe for a range of physiques in each position and has variants for youth sailors • Supplied Equipment or partially Supplied Equipment • Affordability to purchase the equipment and to campaign the equipment • Ability to race in wind range of 5-30 knots and a wide range of sea states • Ability to launch in a marina and from a beach

Event Review Working Party Report for the 2022 Mid-Year Meeting

Men's Board	Select Equipment with criteria that prioritises: Either a foiling kite or wingfoil that is: • WS Olympic Equipment Policy and FRAND compliant • Accessibility to equipment, number and spread of distributors globally • Strictly limited technical development of the Equipment, such as with the current equipment registration scheme • Clear construction standards, Class rules and measurement controls • Safe for a range of physiques and has variants for youth sailors • Easily transportable by airline baggage • Can race in a wind range of 5-30 knots and a wide range of sea states • Ability to launch in a marina and from a beach • Affordability to purchase the equipment and to campaign the equipment • Desirable that the same equipment is sailed by youth and Olympic sailors
Women's Board	As above for Men's Board • Designed to encourage female athlete participation

The format for the Men's and Women's Board Events shall reflect:

An Opening Series followed by a Medal Series. The Opening Series consisting of course and/or slalom racing, with the top boats progressing to a Medal Series. The winner of the last race shall be the winner of the Gold medal.

5. Recommendation 2

- 5.1 The Format WP to create a unique signature for the Event for the 2028 Olympic Sailing Competition.

6. Process

- 6.1 Throughout the process, the individual results of votes of each WP member were kept confidential as it was felt that score results would be better to show trends of interest rather than individual views.
- 6.2 The Working Party decided to take a multistep process in order to achieve the outcome as set out in the regulations with considerations to stakeholders and the position of Sailing in the Olympic Games. All steps were accompanied with a rich discussion and based on data wherever possible.

STEP 1:

An initial recommendation outcome on Events and Equipment put under Review

MX Dinghy - 470	Retain the Event and retain equipment: 83.3%
	Retain the Event and evolve equipment: 16.7%

The Working Party identified challenges in Equipment and Format and also positive aspects of the Event.

M & W Kite - Formula Kite	Evolve Equipment or New Event: 50%
	Evolve equipment: 50%

Event Review Working Party Report for the 2022 Mid-Year Meeting

The Working Party identified the strong points and challenges of Men's and Women's Kite and decided to further investigate in order to achieve a better outcome.

MX Multihull - N17

Evolve equipment: 33.3%

Select New Equipment or Select New Event: 66.6%

The Working Party identified the challenges of current Equipment of the Mixed Multihull and decided to further investigate a pathway to resolve these challenges.

STEP 2:

Slate selection

Based on the results of the initial survey the WP prepared 13 different slate variations in order to address the identified challenges and provide a compelling program of Events to the IOC.

Mixed Skiff

Mixed Dinghy

Mixed Offshore

Mixed Multihull

Mixed Kite Relay

Men's & Women's Foiling Dinghy

Mixed Wing Relay

Men's & Women's Wing

Mixed Team Racing (2 boat v 2 boat)

Men's & Women's Kite

Following considerable discussion, the WP voted on the proposed slates and narrowed them down to a shortlist of four (4) variants, which included the following Events; Mixed Dinghy, Mixed Multihull, Wingfoil, Kite, Foiling Dinghy, Team Racing (2 boat v 2 boat).

Following the selection of the shortlisted slates, the decision to recommend retaining the Mixed Dinghy in the 470 was confirmed and the identified challenges are to be addressed through Recommendation 2 whilst retaining both Event and Equipment.

STEP 3:

Scorecard Criteria

WP agreed to follow the proven methodology used in the process of selecting Events to be reviewed that was to score the Events in question against 4 groups of criteria:

- Slate criteria
- Event criteria
- Impact on Stakeholders
- Direct responses required to IOC Questionnaire

The full set of criteria questions is available in Section 10 of this report.

- The MX Multihull scored lowest overall and in all but one criteria group
- Team Racing (2x2) scored second lowest overall
- The Foiling Dinghy scored lowest in the "Impact on Stakeholders" criteria and third lowest overall
- Kite and wingfoil scores were comparable across the criteria groups.

Event Review Working Party Report for the 2022 Mid-Year Meeting

STEP 4:

Selection of recommended Slate

Following the results of the Scorecard Review of the Events in question the WP further narrowed the decision down to two slates, which included 6 retained Events and:

Option A

Retain Mixed Dinghy and Retain 470 Equipment

New Event of Men's and Women's Board – Equipment choice of foiling kite or wingfoil

Retain Mixed Multihull and select new Equipment

Option B

Retain Mixed Dinghy and Retain 470 Equipment

Retain Men's and Women's Kite and Retain IKA Formula Kite Equipment

Retain Mixed Multihull and select new Equipment

The WP then voted on the presented slates and the outcome being Recommendation 1.

7. Recommendation 1 Rationale

- 7.1 Based on the Evaluation Scorecard results and considerable discussion, in addition to the 6 retained Events, the Working Party agreed to recommend the following:
- Retain the Mixed Dinghy Event and retain the 470
 - Retain the Mixed Multihull Event and select new Equipment
 - Select new Men's and Women's Board Events to be sailed in new equipment of either a foiling kite or wingfoil
- 7.2 The WP did debate whether to select a new Event instead of the Mixed Multihull however at this time it felt there wasn't another Event with compelling reasons to replace it. It was universally acknowledged the current Equipment for the Mixed Multihull event is not meeting the needs of sailors, MNAs or the Event and the WP felt there was a higher chance for a better outcome to the sport by selecting new Equipment rather than selecting a new Event at this time. If the Equipment options don't address the issues then the WP would expect the Mixed Multihull Event to be reviewed for the 2032 Olympic Sailing Competition with a clear view to selecting a new Event.
- 7.3 The WP did debate whether to retain the Men's and Women's Kite and just look to adjust the Equipment however it felt that the opportunity to broaden the Event now to enable great flexibility in the Equipment to be used in the future without needing to formally change the Event with the IOC was beneficial. The recommended new Events are fundamentally the same as the current Events, this is just a repositioning to support future evolutions and host cities. The WP acknowledges the Events Committee's preference not to change an Event before it has completed at an Olympic Sailing Competition whilst noting the Event was reviewed as a result of the decision to split from Mixed to Men and Women. The WP stressed that the proposal for New Event does not necessarily result in a change to the Event or Equipment but it allows for further investigation of the maturity of the wingfoil and how it compares to the IKA - Formula Kite. The Regulations require Council, when a new Event is agreed, to select new Equipment for that Event by 31 December 2023, the WP felt this was sufficient time to explore the possibility of new Equipment for the Event without negative impact to sailors or MNAs. The outcome of the process of selecting a new Event could be retaining the current Equipment.

Event Review Working Party Report for the 2022 Mid-Year Meeting

8. Recommendation 2 Rationale

- 8.1 Currently the point of difference to a non-sailor between the various Dinghy, Skiff and Multihull Events is only the Equipment being used. The Formats are fundamentally the same - a series of fleet races and the top 10 have another fleet race to finalise their scores - meaning the difference in equipment has to be compelling enough for the audience to want to watch a particular sailing Event when compared to the other 310 Events that are present in the Olympic Games.
- 8.2 As decided by Council at the 2021 Annual Conference, the Mixed Dinghy was the second weakest of these Events and would benefit from having a distinct format that was entertaining and didn't rely solely on having different Equipment. The WP took careful note of the IOC feedback following Tokyo 2020, that going forward Events will be reviewed by the IOC on an Event by Event basis and therefore each Event should present a unique and attractive proposition for the audience. With the Format WP, the Class has the opportunity to create an Event with a unique signature that is entertaining for non-sailors, challenging for sailors and easy to deliver across the width of the sport.

9. Methodology for Scorecard Review

- 9.1 The Working Party used the same scorecard that was accepted by Council during the analysis of the 2024 slate for the 2028 slate with the addition of one (1) further question that included the latest information provided by the IOC for Event selection.
- 9.2 The WP looked to previous Olympic cycles for a precedent to guide its methodology and following a fruitful discussion it was decided that a qualitative approach was still preferred. It was accepted that setting only statistical criteria for a consideration would not address the all the elements to be reviewed in the Olympic Event slate so a good level of subjective judgment was applied.
- 9.3 The WP noted the work of the Regulation 23 WP and endorses its objective to have clearly defined process and criteria for the review of Events and Equipment for the Olympic slate. Being able to consistently compare the same variables across Events or Equipment will enable the sport to make evidence based decisions.
- 9.4 To minimise the risk of bias and subjectiveness in the methodology, the WP agreed to limit the criteria to those that have previously been documented and agreed upon by Council or the IOC. Therefore the following criteria were drawn from:
- Regulation 23
 - 2024 Events & Equipment Working Party Report
 - IOC Questionnaire for Olympic Sports
 - The IOC feedback on the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Sailing Competition
- 9.5 To make the criteria manageable and remove duplication, the various points were grouped to enable the appropriate wider view for criteria about the overall Olympic slate and a detailed assessment for each Event.
- 9.6 Criteria 1-6 focus on the Event's place in the overall Olympic slate and scores for these questions are direct comparisons between the Events.
- 9.7 Criteria 7-28 focus on the particulars of the Event against the criteria and are not comparisons to other Events.
- 9.8 Criteria 29 is directly link to the perceived Impact on required responses to IOC Questionnaire
- 9.9 Each criterion was scored on a 1-5 basis (5 high) with those Y/N criteria being scored 1 or 5. There was no weighting applied.

Event Review Working Party Report for the 2022 Mid-Year Meeting

- 9.10 There is one criterion that applies only to mixed Events and the total possible scores are reflective of this.
- 9.11 The individual scores from each WP member to each criterion were tallied and averaged based on the number of responses to create an Evaluation Scorecard.
- 9.12 The individual criteria averages were then averaged by grouping and overall; this average was then compared to the maximum theoretical score (by group and overall) to create the percentages presented.
- 9.13 The percentages were then ranked highest to lowest.

10. Criteria

Slate Questions

- 1 Does the Event support or enhance the existing (Paris 2024) slate?
- 2 Does the Event positively impact quota?
- 3 Does the Event demonstrate the diversity of skills required to race various types of boats, and minimise the overlap between Events?
- 4 Is the Event easy to maintain and support for MNAs?
- 5 Does the Event maintain gender equity (at an Event level)?
- 6 Does the Event maintain two or four mixed Events?

Event Questions

World Sailing Olympic Sailing Vision

- 7 Does the Event have a unique signature?
- 8 Does the Event maximise universality?
- 9 Is the Event format understandable for non-sailors?
- 10 Is the race format understandable for non-sailors?
- 11 Does the Event have a minimal environmental impact?
- 12 Does the Event maximise the participation of the world's best sailors and showcase the diversity of the sport?
- 13 Does the Event maintain gender equity (at an athlete level)?
- 14 Does the Event provide suitable Events and Equipment for Regional Games and other regattas?
- 15 Does the Event place an emphasis on sailor skill rather than equipment development and limit the impact of equipment on performance?
- 16 Does the Event demand a high level of athletic ability as well as excellent sailing skills?
- 17 Within the mixed Events does the Event showcase gender equality across roles (ie. equally as likely that male or female could be helm or crew)?

Event Review Working Party Report for the 2022 Mid-Year Meeting

Impact on stakeholders

- 18 Does the Event offer continuity of Events and evolution of Equipment to give MNAs and sailors a dependable pathway into Olympic competition with continuity of investment?
- 19 Does the Event avoid unnecessary or excessive equipment costs, development costs, measurement costs, and coaching costs?
- 20 Does the Event avoid unnecessary or excessive race organisation and race official costs?
- 21 Is the Event attractive and accessible to young athletes from all continents, and of different size and weight?
- 22 Does the Event have a clear pathway from World Sailing Youth to Olympic Events and Equipment?

IOC Questionnaire criteria (these questions are considered from the perspective of the IOC)

- 23 Does the Event utilize the same Field Of Play and resources ?
- 24 Does the Event avoid unnecessary or excessive television broadcast and other media costs?
- 25 Does the Event add value to the Olympic Programme by IOC definition of Universality?
- 26 Does the Event add value to the Olympic Programme by IOC definition of Youth-focused?
- 27 Does the Event add value to the Olympic Programme by IOC definition of Uniqueness of the Olympic Games?
- 28 Is the Event potentially appealing to media?
- 29 Impact on required responses to IOC Questionnaire