

The Events Committee met from 2000 - 2300 UTC on 27 and 28 October 2020 online via BlueJeans.



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Present:

Sarah Kenny (AUS) (Chair)

David Abercrombie (NZL)

Philip Baum (RSA)

John Derbyshire (GBR)

Stefan Rahm (SWE)

Sofia Tedin (ARG)

Polina Golovina (BLR)

Sofia Bekatorou (Athletes' Commission)

Jan Dawson (NZL) (Vice President)

Liz Bayliss (USA) (Match Racing Chair)

Peter Barclay (PER) (Team Racing Chair)

Markus Schwendtner (WS Classes Chair)

Guillaume Chiellino (FRA) (Vice Chair)

D Ozlem Akdurak (TUR)

Gary Bodie (USA)

Fiona Kidd (CAN)

Riccardo Simoneschi (ITA)

Takao Otani (JPN)

Ferran Muniesa (ESP)

Ben Remocker (CAN) (Olympic Classes)

Cory Sertl (Youth Events Chair)

Michael Rollich (Match Racing Vice Chair)

Stan Honey (Oceanic & Offshore Chair)

Dina Kowalyszyn (Equipment Chair)

In attendance:

Alastair Fox (Director of Events)

Michael Downing (Olympic Manager)

Pedro Rodrigues (Events Manager)

Matthew Wheaton (Competitions Manager)

Massimo Dighe (Paralympic Manager)

Madeleine Dunn (Race Officials Manager)

Scott Over (Commercial Director)

Rob Holden (Training Delivery Manager)

Apologies:

Chancheng Zhou (CHN) (27 & 28 October)

Ferran Muniesa (ESP) (28 October)

1. Opening of the Meeting

1.1 The Committee received an update from the Committee Chair.

1.2 The Committee noted the updated declaration of Conflicts of Interest.

2. Minutes

2.1 The Committee noted the minutes of the Events Committee meeting of 16 May 2020 and of 31 October 2019 (circulated and approved after the meeting). The minutes can be downloaded at www.sailing.org/meetings.

2.2 There were no matters arising from the minutes not covered elsewhere.

3. Update from the Board

3.1 The Committee received an update on the Board minutes from their meetings since last the Events Committee meeting.

3.2 The Committee received an update from the Events Committee Vice President.

4. World Sailing Event Strategy: 2021 – 2028

4.1 The Committee received a report from the Calendar Working Party with an update on the implementation of the new Calendar for 2021.

It was noted that:

Due to the postponement of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, the COVID-19 pandemic, restrictions on international travel and the financial crisis the implementation of the new event strategy would be impacted.

It was agreed that the Olympic Classes would need flexibility when finalising the dates of the World Championships and Continental Championships.

The World Sailing Director of Events reported that there would not be a World Cup Final in Marseille in 2021 but that discussions were continuing with the FFV to introduce a World Cup Final from 2022. It was also noted that World Sailing was working on commercial partnerships for World Cup Series events in 2021.

It was agreed that the next Events Committee should finalise plans for the bid process of the 2026 or 2027 Sailing World Championships.

It was agreed that the Calendar Working Party would work with the Olympic Classes and the World Sailing Executive Office to finalise a calendar from 2021-2028 by March 2021.

4.2 The Committee received a report from the Rankings Working Party with an update on the implementation of the new Ranking system.

It was noted that:

With the challenges of 2020, the new Ranking system would not be introduced in January 2021. Instead, work would continue on the implementation of the new Ranking system with a proposed start date as soon after the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games as possible.

It was noted that the next World Rankings would be published on 31 March 2021.

Recommendation not based on submission to Council:

Following a report from the Olympic Rankings WP, the Events Committee recommend that work recommence as a priority within the Executive Office, on the development of the new Rankings system.

4.3 The Committee reviewed the following submission and made the following recommendation to Council:

- a) Submission 032-20 from International 420 Class Association, International 470 Class Association, International Lightning Class Association and the Chairman of the World Sailing Classes Committee regarding the right to hold World Championships for mixed crews.

Approved: Ben Remocker; Seconded: David Abercrombie

Recommendation to Council: Approve

Unanimous

4.4 The Committee noted the following submission:

- a) Submission 024-20 from the International 470 Class Association, International Formula Kite Class Association, and the Chairman of the World Sailing Classes Committee regarding the composition of the Olympic Classes Sub-Committee.

Proposed: Gary Bodie; Seconded: Sofia Bekatorou

Opinion to Council: Approve

Unanimous

5. Regulation 23

- 5.1 The Committee received an update on the review of Regulation 23 from the joint Events Committee and Equipment Committee Regulation 23 Working Party.

- 5.2 Committee members provided input on the report including the concept of core events, frequency of review of events, the timeline for decisions, the need to decide the event before the equipment, and balancing required change with stability.

It was noted that:

The Working Party was formed to review Regulation 23 and the process for selection of Olympic Events and Equipment and identify key principles for an improved process. Any changes will need to be made in a submission for the 2021 Mid-Year meeting in order for the revised process to be introduced before the next round of review commences under the current regulations.

It was agreed that the Working Party will continue their work with the aim that a full report and submission is ready for the Events Committee 2021 Mid-Year meeting, recognising that new Events Committee will commence in February 2021 which may require some adjustment to the WP (without preventing current members continuing to assist if they wish to do so and are no longer on the Events or Equipment Committee).

6. Mixed Two Person Offshore

- 6.1 The Committee received a report on Mixed Two Person Offshore Events from the Director of Events and from the Offshore Doubles Association.

Committee members provided input on the proposed Olympic Mixed Offshore event including on safety, the timeline for selection of equipment and the importance of standardisation of equipment, opportunities for E-Sailing and managing costs.

- 6.2 The Committee noted the following submission:

- a) Submission 030-20 from the Chairs of the Equipment and Oceanic & Offshore Committees regarding the Mixed Two person Keelboat Offshore Equipment.

Proposed: Guillaume Chiellino; Seconded: Stefan Rahm

Recommendation to Council: Approve with the following amendment

Proposal 1 amended to read as follows:

- 2. Hull Length ~~7~~ 6.5 to 11 meters

Unanimous

7. Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games

- 7.1 The Committee received an update on the preparations for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games from the Director of Events and Olympic Manager.

It was noted that:

Tokyo 2020, the IOC and IFs were planning for the Olympic Games to go ahead. The Notice of Race will be published on 11 November.

The IOC, with support of ASOIF, have ensured the competition will remain unaffected. The competition schedule will not change, except for moving to new dates in 2021. Additionally, Tokyo 2020 is now working on COVID-19 countermeasures.

- 7.2 The Committee received an update on the status of the qualification system and quota places for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games from the Olympic Manager.

It was noted that the remaining qualification events are now scheduled and approved by the IOC. However, if any qualification event is impacted by COVID-19, and sailors or MNAs eligible to qualify are unable to attend, the status of the qualification event will be removed, and an alternative plan will be agreed with the Olympic Class and the IOC.

8. Paris 2024 Olympic Games

- 8.1 The Committee received a report on the Paris 2024 Olympic Games from the Director of Events and Olympic Manager.

It was noted that:

Venue concepts are being developed with Paris 2024 and the City of Marseille, to maximise legacy benefits and minimise temporary infrastructure needs

Recruitment for the Sailing Sport Team positions by Paris 2024 is underway, appointments should be made by the end of 2020

IOC and OBS are satisfied with all the information provided so the IOC Programme Commission can make their decisions on Events and Quota for Sailing. However, the total number of athletes in the Games will be reducing from over 11000 in Tokyo 2020 to 10500 in Paris 2024 and sports are being advised to expect reductions.

World Sailing is engaging with Paris 2024 on plans for the test events in 2022 and 2023. It is expected that World Sailing events will be the preferred option.

- 8.2 The Committee received an update on the preliminary formats for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games from the Format Working Party.

It was noted that:

The Working Party report was comprehensive and would ensure that the Sailing events for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games would showcase the diversity of the sport.

The report focused on formats for the new Events, medal race concepts and sports presentation.

The following recommendations should be taken forward by the new Events Committee in 2021 alongside the other open topics set out in the report:

Windsurfing:

The Format for the Men's and Women's Windsurfing Events shall be an Opening Series of slalom and course races with the final Opening Series race could be a long-distance endurance race. The finals for the top 12 from the Opening Series shall be a progression of elimination races with the performance of the top 4 during the Opening Series being recognised with their automatic progression in the finals. The finals shall be sailed on one day and the winner of the Final shall be the winner of the Gold medal.

Kiteboarding Relay:

The Format for the Mixed Kiteboarding Event shall be an Opening Series followed by a Medal Series. In the Opening Series teams are split into fleets of equal strength for Q1 and Q2, with the top 14 teams progressing to Q3 where they are split into two fleets, gold and silver. The Medal Series consist of Semi-Finals and Final and are sailed on the same day. The top 2 teams from the Opening Series qualify directly to the Final. The remaining 12 teams from Q3 race in two equal strength Semi-Finals consisting of two heats each. The winner of each Semi-Final advances to the Final. The winner of the last heat in the Final shall be the winner of the Gold medal.

Offshore:

The Format for the Mixed Offshore Event shall be a single 72 hour race with a combination of umpiring and judging to ensure the first boat to finish is the winner of the Gold medal.

The WP recommends the Oceanic and Offshore Committee should be responsible to define:

How much navigation and performance technology should be available to each boat.

- When and how the fleet should access meteorology information and the position information of the other boats in the Event.
- How penalties (e.g. from a hearing or an umpire decision) should be resolved on the water so that the first boat across the line is the winner of the Gold medal. The WP preference is for a technology time type penalty that can be constantly applied in qualification events without imposing undue costs on OCs.
- The WP recommends the Race Officials Committee should be responsible to define how hearings (e.g. from protest) should be conducted during the Event so that protests can be quickly resolved, and any needed penalties applied.

Sports Presentation:

- Current Olympic, World and Continental Champions competing in the Olympic Sailing Competition shall be recognised by appropriate marks on their bibs and their mainsail or kite
- An athlete's helmet shall display their national flag and code
- An athlete's board shall display their national flag
- A boat's spinnaker shall be entirely representative of their national flag
- A board's kite shall be a predominately representative of their national flag and should contain the national code
- A boat's national flag and the Games look shall be displayed from the mast to the leach

In addition, the Committee welcomed the review of event names.

8.3 The Committee received an update on proposals for the qualification system and quotas for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games from the Quotas and Qualification Working Party.

It was noted that:

Following the IOC Programme decisions in December 2020, the Working Party would finalise recommendations for quotas and the qualification system for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

It was agreed that The Hague 2023 Sailing World Championships would remain the major Olympic qualification event.

8.4 The Committee reviewed the following submissions and made the following recommendations to Council:

- a) Submission 036-20 from the Czech Sailing Association regarding Events at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games and the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games if the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Sailing Competition doesn't occur in 2021.

No Recommendation. The submission was deemed invalid by the Constitution Committee.

- a) Submission 037-20 from the Hungarian Sailing Federation, Korea Sailing Federation, Serbian Sailing Association, and the International RS:X Class Association about retaining the 2020 Events and Equipment at the Paris 2024 and Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games.

Not proposed or seconded.

Recommendation to Council: Reject.

9. The Sailing World Championships

- 9.1 The Committee received an update on the Sailing World Championships in The Hague from the Director of Events.

It was noted that:

Following a final decision in September 2020 by the City of The Hague, the Sailing World Championships would be postponed to 10-20 August 2023.

It was agreed that the World Sailing Executive Office and The Hague Organising Committee would review the quotas for the Championships with the Olympic Classes and make final decisions in December 2020. The Committee noted the concerns of the 49er, Laser and iQFoil Classes each seeking additional quota places.

- 9.2 The Committee received an update on proposals for the qualification system for the next Sailing World Championships from the Quotas and Qualification Working Party. The qualification system will be finalised once the quotas have been agreed with the Olympic Classes and the Organising Committee and the IOC Programme Commission has finalised the events and quotas for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

10. Youth Events Sub-committee

- 10.1 The Committee received a report from the Chair of the Youth Events Sub-committee.

11. Youth Sailing World Championships

- 11.1 The Committee received an update on the 2021 and 2022 Youth Sailing World Championships from the Director of Events.

It was noted that:

The Hague 2021 Youth Worlds had been postponed to 8-15 July 2022.

The Director of Events noted that the bid process to find a venue for a December 2021 was underway and strong interest had been received from around the world.

Additionally, it was noted that the Youth Events Sub-committee had again reviewed the age rules for the 2021 Youth Worlds and confirmed that there would be no changes.

- 11.2 The Committee received and reviewed a brief report on the Youth Events Strategy from the Youth Events Strategy Working Party.

11.3 The Committee reviewed the following submissions and made the following recommendations to Council:

- a) Submission 033-20 from the International Formula Kite Class Association regarding Kiteboarding Equipment at the Youth World Championships.

Proposed: John Derbyshire; Seconded: Fiona Kidd

Recommendation to Council: Approve

11 for, 0 against, 1 abstain

- a) Submission 034-20 from the Chairman of the Equipment Committee regarding Equipment for the Windsurfing Events at the Youth World Championships.

Proposed: Fiona Kidd; Seconded: Sofia Tedin

Recommendation to Council: Defer

The Events Committee recommended that the YESC leads an urgent piece of work looking at moving to foiling windsurfing equipment for the Youth Worlds including strategic implications, equipment options including using the Women's Olympic foiling equipment and investigate whether bring your own equipment is appropriate.

9 for, 3 against, 1 abstain

12. Youth Olympic Games

12.1 The Committee received an update on the Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games from the Chair of the Youth Events Sub-committee and the Director of Events.

12.2 The Committee reviewed the following submission and made the following recommendation to Council:

- a) Submission 035-20 from the International Formula Kite Class Association and the Chairman of the World Sailing Classes Committee regarding World Sailing holding an event to replace the postponed 2022 Youth Olympic Games.

Submission Withdrawn.

13. Match Racing Sub-committee

13.1 The Committee received a report from the Chair of the Match Racing Sub-committee.

It was noted that:

Recommendation not based on submission to Council:

The Events Committee support the Match Racing Sub-committee noting that in 2020 maintaining the Match Racing Rankings has been challenging. With budget issues, staff furlough and Covid-19 there are clear reasons for some of the issues. However, there are short-term and longer terms issues that need to be addressed. The MRSC recommends that the Board ensures that the necessary budget and resources are urgently put in place to help improve and manage the Match Racing Rankings.

14. Team Racing Sub-committee

14.1 The Committee received a report from the Chair of the Team Racing Sub-committee.

15. Any Other Business

The Chairman reflected on the significant work the Committee had done over the Quad and thanked Vice-President Jan Dawson, Alastair Fox, Michael Downing, Matt Wheaten and the World Sailing Events team for their support. The Chairman also thanked all committee members and particularly Working Party Chairs and the Sub-Committee Chairs for their hard work and dedication.