

Regulation 23

Timelines and selection of new events

A submission from the International 49er Class Association

Purpose or Objective

To update the approach of selecting Olympic equipment so that World Sailing cultivates Olympic Events and Events that could be part of a future Olympic games, thus promoting a broad array of sailing Events.

Proposal

Amend Regulation 23.1.3 as follows:

23. OLYMPIC SAILING COMPETITION

Events and Equipment

23.1 Events and Equipment

- 23.1.1 World Sailing's vision for the Olympic Sailing Competition is that it is a pinnacle event, every 4 years, that showcases the skills and diversity of the best sailors from all parts of the world. Olympic Events, Equipment and formats are chosen to present the sport of sailing as a challenging but accessible and rewarding sport for participants from all countries, and as an engaging experience for spectators and remote audiences.
- 23.1.2 In choosing its Olympic Events and Equipment, World Sailing shall seek to ensure that each Event at the Olympic Sailing Competition is, and will be likely to remain, the pinnacle Event for that discipline or area of sailing. In addition, the Olympic Events and Equipment taken together shall meet the requirements and objectives of the IOC and to:
- (a) demonstrate the diversity of skills required to race various types of boats, and minimise the overlap between Events;
 - (b) place an emphasis on athlete skill rather than equipment development, and limit the impact of equipment on performance;
 - (c) demand a high level of athletic ability as well as excellent sailing skills;
 - (d) be attractive and accessible to young athletes from all continents, and of different size and weight, with a clear pathway from World Sailing Youth to Olympic Events and Equipment;
 - (e) maximise the participation of the world's best sailors and showcase the diversity of the sport;
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- (f) provide an effective platform for promotion of the sport, and elite sailors, between Olympics;
- (g) progress towards an equal number of Events for men and women to participate in;
- (h) avoid unnecessary or excessive equipment costs, development costs, measurement costs, coaching costs, race organisation and race official costs, and television and other media costs;
- (i) offer continuity of Events and evolution of Equipment to give MNAs and sailors a dependable pathway into Olympic competition with continuity of investment;
- (j) provide suitable Events and Equipment for Regional Games and other regattas;
- (k) minimise environmental impact.

23.1.3 The Olympic Events and Equipment are defined in Regulation 23.1.4. Any change to Regulation 23.1.4 shall be made according to the process below (subject to the provisions of Regulation 23.1.5) and the associated voting process and submission requirements are specified in Regulation 23.1.6:

- (a) The ten Olympic Events and Equipment in Regulation 23.1.4 are selected for the 2024~~8~~ Olympic Sailing Competition. Equipment evolution shall be permitted and shall be decided in accordance with Regulation 23.1.3(d). World Sailing may propose additional Olympic Events(s) using the voting process for each Event as set out in Regulation 23.1.6(d) – (f) as applicable.
- (b) Council shall decide by 31 December 2026~~4~~ which of the Events selected for the 2024~~8~~ Olympic Sailing Competition to review for possible change for the 2032~~28~~ Olympic Sailing Competition. ~~There shall be a minimum of four such Events.~~ All Events and their associated Equipment which are not selected for review shall be included in the 2032~~28~~ Olympic Sailing Competition.

~~(c) For each Event it is reviewing under Regulation 23.1.3(b), Council shall decide by 30 June 2022 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.~~

~~(d) 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.~~
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- (e) If one or more Event is selected for review in 23.1.3(b), council shall select by 31 December 2027 the Events necessary to complete the slate for the 2032 Olympics.
- (f) Events selected should be selected from a public list of Olympic-Ready-Events maintained by the Events Committee.
 - a) Events should be well enough defined so the essence of each Event is clear. Core elements like eligibility, equipment, format, discipline, nature of development, or other relevant core elements should be outlined. Full and complete detail will be developed after Olympic selection to ensure a level of refinement and adjustment is possible.
 - b) Events Committee, with support from the Equipment Committee, shall maintain a list of Events, including Discipline lead Events, it deems suitable for Olympic inclusion. It shall maintain clear criteria to ensure all aspects of listed Events are ready for Olympic inclusion. The criteria should have flexibility so as to be suitable for our developing sport.
 - c) The list of Olympic-Ready-Events should be reviewed at least annually to ensure it is current at all times.
 - d) Events Committee, with Equipment Committee support, shall maintain a further list of Events (the long list), including Discipline lead Events, of Events interested in becoming Olympic ready.
 - c) Events Committee, with staff support, shall be charged with developing select Events from the Long list with the aim of bringing them to an Olympic ready standard.
- (f) World Sailing may at any time require evolution of selected Equipment and shall liaise with the Class organisation and manufacturers before so deciding. Any such evolution shall be decided no later than 31 December of the year five years before the Olympic Sailing Competition.

Reasons

1. Housekeeping, to update dates for the 2032 quad.
 2. For World Sailing to take a more active role in preparing Event options for Olympic inclusion. A key aspect of this proposal is for council to assign Events Committee the task of evaluating and developing Events beyond the Olympic Events that can be suitable for Olympic sailing. This allows World Sailing to lead development work in areas of the sport that are evolving. It allows World Sailing to offer constructive feedback to Events wishing to become Olympic. It allows World sailing to explore new opportunities within the broad spectrum of sailing possibilities.
 3. This proposal also allows us to make final decisions later in the quadrennial, yet still in a responsible manner. The current regulation includes early in the quad decisions so time is made available for the development work to occur. This proposal moves the development work to be done prior to final Olympic inclusion.
 4. World Sailing should only review Events that it wishes to review, and should not have a set minimum number of Events to review each Olympic cycle. Reviewing and updating the slate of Events is an important process for World Sailing to ensure it presents the Olympics with
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the best possible slate of Events. However, putting forward Events for review that council does not wish to change is costly for the organization and the Event in question as the sailing community awaits decisions. The current regulation requires four Events to be put up for review, meaning almost half of the Olympic Events are severely disrupted each Olympic cycle. Events should only be reviewed where the majority of stakeholders feels that change is required, and should not promote or facilitate “change for change’s sake”

5. The current review process is disruptive for classes, MNAs and sailors. Adjusted timelines reflect the wish to minimize the period of disruption. The proposed timelines reflect a reasonable process of review, later in the cycle than in current regulation. Recent experience has found that early reviews of Events lead to drawn-out decision-making process, additional protest within the community, and elongating the period of instability.
 6. For newly selected events, this submission requires more complete details about Event name/type, and equipment name or type, but adds format type and/or discipline, so that:
 - a) a more complete definition of each Event is known and clear that has been evaluated, debated, and tested before being added to the Olympic Games.
 - b) To ensure councils' wishes are clear when voting and ensure clear debate and decision making can be had.
 7. This proposal assumes that voting procedures reform will be tackled elsewhere within regulation reform.
 8. This proposal assumes Event development becomes a core competency of World Sailing, and that it be resource suitably to ensure sound Olympic slate evolution over time.
 9. This proposal assumes that 2-4 Olympic-Ready-Events or selected Events from the Long List are included in the Sailing World Championship regattas for testing and observation by the broader sailing community.
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