

Event Review

Recommendation to the Events Committee

for discussion 27 August 2025

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Scope:

Working Group 2 was established by the Events Committee to lead the work relating to Olympic Sailing Events for Brisbane 2032 and future Olympic games. For 2025, one primary task of this Working Group is to assist the Events Committee to achieve the following objective:

Objective 2	Submit a recommendation to Council at the 2025 Annual Conference about at least 4 events from the 2028 Olympic Sailing Competition to put under review for the 2032 Olympic Sailing Competition
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This objective is required under World Sailing Regulation 11.4 Events Review, which states that:

- a) No later than 31 December seven years before an Olympic Sailing Competition, the General Assembly must decide to place at least four Events under review.
- b) ...
- c) The decision of the General Assembly must be made on the recommendation of Council
- d) The decision of Council must be made on the recommendation of the Events Committee

In order to assist the Events Committee to achieve Objective 2 (and make a recommendation to Council as required under Regulation 11.4d), this Working Group was assigned with the following tasks:

- Develop a process for Event review
- Develop a structured set of criteria for assessing Events to put under review
- Use the criteria to assess events, then consider options for which / how many Events to place under review
- Study the positions of stakeholders / interested parties
- Formulate a recommendation to the Events Committee, including the possibility of various options, in order of preference

Summary of Review method:

The WG developed a Scorecard to assist in evaluating each Event and its performance or suitability against an agreed set of criteria (Addendum A).

The **Scorecard** was developed using the following process:

- Relevant documents were reviewed (World Sailing Olympic Vision, World Sailing Strategy, IOC Agenda 2020+5 and other IOC guidance and conditions provided to World Sailing).
- The process undertaken by WS Events Committee in previous quads was reviewed.
- It was agreed that men's and women's Events would be evaluated together for the purposes of this analysis (using averaged data where data differed between genders, e.g., number of MNAs competing).
- Criteria were developed based on the documents reviewed, plus practical considerations for stakeholders (MNAs).
- Criteria were weighted for relative importance. (However it should be noted that when the 'importance factor' was applied to the raw scores, it did not have any effect on the final position of Events on the Scorecard).
- Criteria were divided into subjective and objective criteria.
- For objective criteria, data was collected or scores were discussed and agreed by the WG.
- For subjective criteria, WG members independently assessed each Event and submitted their scores. Scores were de-identified and averaged.
- The Scorecard expresses scores as a percentage of maximum points available.

Survey:

World Sailing conducted a survey of key stakeholders, designed to achieve multiple objectives and inform the work of both the Events and Equipment Committees now and in the coming two years.

The survey questions relating to the objective of this WG were:

- Cost of campaigning (to validate the Scorecard evaluation against stakeholder opinion)
- Should the event stay / be retained for the 2032 Olympic sailing competition? (To evaluate stakeholder opinion and compare to overall Scorecard results).
- Other questions regarding the equipment and format of Events also provided context for discussion.

Summary of key findings:

Scorecard:

RANK	Event	Score (%)
1	M/W Windsurfer	83.3
2	M/W Dinghy	80.7

3	M/W Skiff	74
4	Mixed Dinghy	71.3
5	M/W Kite	70.3
6	Mixed Multihull	61.7

Four Events (green) scored highly on the Scorecard mainly due to high participation of MNAs, low cost of equipment, and ability to compete using supplied equipment at major events.

It was noted that there was considerable feedback from stakeholders regarding the relatively high cost of campaigning in the Mixed Multihull and Kite Events, and these Events also demonstrated some of the lowest MNA participation in Olympic qualifiers (excluding mens kite).

Survey:

EVENT	SCORECARD	SURVEY	SURVEY Q100, 65 respondents
	Criteria weighted for importance (Appendix A)	Do you think this event, with its current equipment and format, should stay on the Olympic program? (Same question asked for each Event)	Which of the following events and their equipment should be remain unchanged and selected for 2032? Multiple answers permitted (all 10 events listed, men's and women's separately) Responses graphed in Appendix B
	% of max score	% yes OR yes but with equipment/format changes	% yes
iQFoil M/W	83.3	89	63 M / 62 W
ILCA 7/6	80.7	95	72 M / 69 W
49er/FX	74	100	78 M / 74 W
470	71.3	67	34
Kite M/W	70.3	70	32 M / 32 W
Nacra	61.7	41	32

Notes on survey findings (see also Addendum B):

- The survey was distributed to MNAs (via team leaders / team managers). 60% of respondents identified as team leader / manager, or MNA / NOC administrator.
- 65 responses were received, with responses received from 38 unique MNAs, representing all continental regions.
- The bottom 4 Events in the survey were the same as the bottom 4 events on the Scorecard
- 6 Events received significant stakeholder support for being retained on the Olympic program.
- The 'cost of campaigning' estimate of the WG (for the Scorecard) was validated by the survey data.
- Where men's and women's Events were presented individually, there was no significant difference in survey opinion, validating the decision of the WG to evaluate men's and women's events together.

Recommendation:

The WG recommends that the following four Events are placed under review for the 2032 Olympic sailing competition:

Mixed Multihull
Mixed Dinghy

Mens Kite
Womens Kite

Below is a summary of the key points relating to the events proposed for review:

Event	Key Challenges Identified	Positives
Mixed multihull	- Cost of equipment and campaigning - Variation of equipment - Universality	- Showcases an exciting element of the sport: 2 person foiling - Mixed sailing
Mixed dinghy	- Youth appeal - Universality	- Cost of equipment - Consistency of equipment - Mixed sailing - Highly established pathway
Kite men / women	- Cost of equipment - Consistency of equipment - Athlete weight range - Universality (women)	- Youth and broadcast appeal - Showcases a unique element of the sport - Universality (men)

For the Events placed under review, more extensive evaluation will take place next year with decisions to be taken at the annual conference in 2026, as per Regulation 11.5 (a) and (b).

Possible outcomes for Events under review:

- Retain event , retain equipment (no change)
- Retain event, evolve equipment (must decide what evolution is required)
- Retain event, new equipment (must decide criteria for new equipment)
- Remove an event and replace with a new one (must decide what is the new event)

The WG considered placing more than 4 Events under review, however it was decided that the data did not support this.

It should be noted that under Regulation 11.4(b)iii the equipment for any Event may be evolved as required, including those Events not placed under review. In addition, under Regulation 11.7 (in line with policy D10 Anti-trust policy for Olympic equipment) the Equipment Committee will re-evaluate all equipment selected for Olympic Events.

Additional comments from the WG discussions:

The following table summarizes the main points outlined in the working group discussion and from the survey:

EVENT	Challenges Identified	Positives
M/W Dinghy	Format (racing length) and broadcast appeal	- Global reach and high universality across nations in all Olympic qualifiers - Low cost of equipment and campaigning - Supplied equipment at major events - Overall accessibility to compete
M/W Windsurfer	- Optimal athlete weight - Variance of equipment - Challenge of format and need for technology to manage OCSs - Ability to race in light winds	- Good universality (men > women) - Broadcast appeal - Youth appeal - Innovative and appealing race formats - Ability to have supplied equipment
M/W Skiff	- Optimal weight for the 49er FX - Cost of equipment - Universality, particularly women	- Popularity with stakeholders - Broadcast appeal - Youth appeal

Media appeal, broadcast / viewer interest

There was considerable discussion highlighting that improvements in broadcast delivery, media engagement, racing presentation, and digital officiating could significantly enhance the way all sailing Events are presented at the Olympic Games. The WG acknowledges this topic is outside its remit but does encourage the Events Committee and the Specialist Sailing Committee to focus on the broadcast techniques and methods used at the World Sailing Championships to raise the baseline level of coverage in the sport.

It was also noted that all Events should be able to be sailed in a wide range of conditions to ensure broadcast reliability, especially in the lower wind ranges. This topic is being addressed by the Format WG and the Athlete Weight Advisory Group.

Format:

The WG noted that improvements in format were needed for all Events, as highlighted by the recent conditions from the IOC and the strong broadcaster guidance. This is outside the scope of this WG and is being addressed by the Format WG.

Equipment

Noting that the Equipment Committee has the ability review the equipment used in each Event under Regulation 11.4(b)iii, it was felt that recommending an Event for review for an

equipment-related concern, when other elements of the Event are satisfactory, was not warranted.

Overall slate:

Further evaluation of the Events under review should consider the overall slate of Olympic events, ensuring alignment with the following key factors identified as important:

- The cost of equipment and the complexity of campaigning has been consistently highlighted as a pressing issue.
- Ability to have supplied equipment that is highly consistent.
- Universality remains a critical consideration for future events.
- Events can be reliably raced in a wide range of wind conditions.
- Events that showcase a wide range of sailing and skillsets.
- Athletes of a range of weights can compete in Olympic sailing events.

Appendix A – Scorecard

REFERENCE / SOURCE				SCORECARD CRITERIA	WEIGHT / IMPORTANCE
WS Strategy	WS Olympic Vision	IOC	Practical considerations for Stakeholders		Low Medium High
	M			Is the Event exciting to watch for broadcast viewers?	
	M			Is the Event easy to understand for non-sailors?	
	M			Is the Event appealing to the broadcast media?	
	M			Does the Event appeal to younger broadcast audiences?	
	M			Does the Event attract participation of the world's best Olympic sailors?	
	M			Does the Event showcase skill and athleticism in sailors?	
	A/D			Is there a clear pathway for this Event from youth and domestic participation to Olympic? Or is the event attractive to youth from other pathway classes?	
	S			Does the Event demonstrate sustainability initiatives and minimise environmental impact?	
	M/S			Can the Event accommodate innovative use of digital technologies? (ie. to enhance spectator experience, reduce environmental impact, improve officiating?)	
				Does the Event demonstrate a unique aspect of sailing and diversity of skills and equipment (ie. minimising overlap between sailing events on the Olympic slate?)	
	A/D			Does the Event offer continuity for MNAs and sailors? (ie. a dependable pathway for sailor development and MNA investment in athletes and equipment)	
				Does the Event avoid excessive television broadcast or media costs?	
				Does the Event utilise the same Field of Play and resources as other events?	
Above – criteria scored using aggregated scores of individual expert judgement					
Below – criteria scored objectively using data					
	A/S			Does the Event use supplied equipment at major events (ie World Championships & Olympics)?	
	D			Does the Event maintain gender equality of athletes? (yes = 1, no = 0)	
				Does the Event allow for mixed participation and gender balance in roles ie. helm/crew? (yes = 1, no = 0)	
				Does the Event positively impact quota? (One person events = 3, 2 person events = 2, 3 people = 1, 4+ people = 0)	
	A/D			Number of MNAs competing in qualifying events for the 2024 Olympic games (expressed as a ratio of event quota)	
	A/D			Number of continents represented (at last World Championships)	

	A			Number of continents in top 10 at Olympics	
	A			Rate the cost of an Olympic campaign for the Event for MNAs and sailors. (lower cost = 3, moderate cost = 2, high cost = 1)	

M = Marketability

A = Accessibility

S = Sustainability

D = Diversity

N/A - Not applicable

SCORE		
0	No	Not at all
1	A little	Low
2	Somewhat	Medium
3	Yes	High

Appendix B – Stakeholder survey (Q100)

