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Title of Proposal:	Olympic format for Windsurfing and Kiteboarding events – 8 board medal series
Subtitle:	A format that rewards consistency across the series while ensuring that Gold can only be won in the final race
Related proposals:	CO-2025-015

Proposal:

The format for the windsurfing and kiteboarding events plus any other events the Events Committee wish to include, shall be:

// Opening Series

3 racing days, maximum 12 races, maximum 3 discards, target time 7-12 minutes, low point scoring

// Medal Series consisting of:

- Quarter Final: Sailors ranked 5th–8th in the Opening Series compete.

Target time 5-6 minutes

→ Winner and Second Place advance to the Semi Final.

→ 3rd and 4th place of the Quarter Final are awarded 7th and 8th place overall respectively

- Semi Final: Sailors ranked 3rd–4th in the Opening Series, plus the Quarter Final winner and Runner Up.

Target time 5-6 minutes

→ Winner and Second Place advance to the Grand Final.

→ 3rd and 4th place of the Semi Final are awarded 5th and 6th place overall respectively

- Grand Final (4-point Gold Medal race):

Target time 5-6 minutes

• 1st place from Opening Series enters with 3 points.

• 2nd place from Opening Series enters with 2 points.

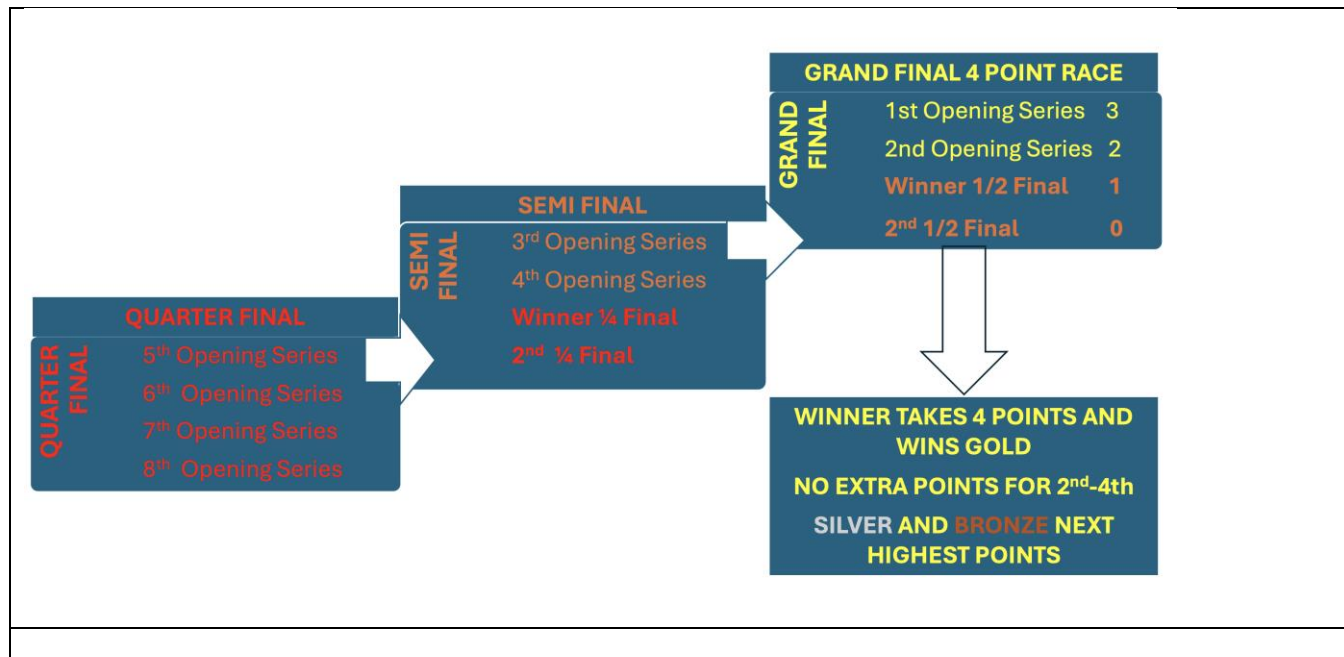
• Winner of Semi Final enters with 1 point.

• Runner Up of Semi Final enters with 0 points.

→ Winner of the Grand Final race scores 4 points and takes Gold.

→ No other points are awarded in the Grand Final .

→ Silver, Bronze and 4th place overall are awarded based on the next highest points respectively.



Current position:

The Paris 2024 Medal Series format for windsurfing and kiteboarding

Reasons:

Introduction

This document outlines a proposed **multi-class medal race format** designed to balance sporting integrity with broadcast appeal.

Developed through **extensive consultation between athletes and classes**, it provides a clear and **credible** progression from the Opening Series into a decisive final.

The format — the **4 Point Grand Final System** — is intended to be **simple, exciting, and applicable across different disciplines**.

It rewards consistency across the series while ensuring that **Gold can only be won in the final race**, guaranteeing a dramatic conclusion that is easy for sailors, officials, and spectators to follow.

Why this Format is Good for Broadcast

The Grand Final

The Winner of the Final Race wins **GOLD**, it cannot be won before the final day. This format gives us a credible Olympic Champion.

Small Fleets = Full Coverage

With only four boats/boards on the course, every move and incident can be captured, ensuring no key moments are missed by cameras or commentary.

Simple Narrative

Easy for audiences to understand: **win and advance**. The format avoids complicated scoring explanations, which makes commentary more engaging.

Built-in Drama

Each stage has direct jeopardy — boards/boats are eliminated, but someone advances. This makes for natural storytelling across the series.

Guaranteed Screen Time for All Top Nations

Every sailor in the top 8 gets a chance to appear on the final day, giving broadcasters and sponsors wider national coverage.

Match Racing Potential

Small fleet racing encourages tactical duels and close battles, adding excitement and providing commentators with plenty of action to spotlight.

Predictable Timing

There is a guaranteed number of races. With fewer boats/boards and direct elimination, races run to time more reliably, making scheduling easier for live broadcast slots.

Simple Umpiring

Umpires are working with small fleets where the key incidents can be clearly seen and prevent lengthy protest delays which are often hard to explain.

Why this Format is Good for Sailing's Sporting Integrity

Reward for Opening Series Performance

Sailors who perform best across the series are rewarded with direct entry to the Grand Final and a starting points advantage. Next best sailors are rewarded through seeding in earlier stages, reflecting Opening Series Performance

Limiting Drops for all sailors

There is a limited number of places each sailor can drop on the final day of competition.

Win-and-Advance System

Ensures that every race has clear meaning and prevents “blocking” or defensive sailing from dominating the outcome.

Equal Opportunities in Progression Rounds

The Quarter and Semi Final give sailors ranked 4th–8th a genuine but fair pathway to still reach the Grand Final and Gold.

Transparent and Based on Merit

The pathway is easy to understand for sailors and spectators alike: performance in the Opening Series is rewarded, but medals are decided on the final day. Giving credible Medallists.

Conclusion

This format represents the culmination of extensive **class- and athlete-driven consultation and feedback**, ensuring that it reflects the priorities of those who will ultimately race under it. It balances **credibility, merit, simplicity, and excitement**, delivering a structure that rewards performance across the Opening Series while still creating a compelling final-day spectacle.

Importantly, it also aligns with the direction and aspirations of both the **OBS, IOC** and **World Sailing** as we have been led to understand it. We are showing how we can innovate and modernise our medal racing whilst staying true to the principles of great sport. By adopting this format, we can confidently demonstrate that sailing is athlete-led, merit based, and broadcast-ready, all while safeguarding the sporting integrity for the future.