

1. General
2. 2024 Events & Equipment Working Party Report
3. Recommendation to the Council

#### 1. General

##### (a) Declarations of Interest

Ben Remocker, the Olympic Classes representative to the Events Committee declared an interest and abstained from the voting process.

Takao Otani declared an interest and abstained from the voting process.

Sofia Bekatorou declared an interest. Jo Aleh was appointed by the Athletes' Commission in place of Sofia Bekatorou under Regulation 8.9.5.

No other declarations of interest from the members of the Committee were considered to require a member of the Committee to abstain from the vote

#### 2. 2024 Events & Equipment Working Party Report

- (a) The Committee received the Working Party report (see Appendix A) on the recommendations of the events that should be placed under review for the 2024 Olympic Games in accordance with Regulation 23.
- (b) The Committee debated the paper from 17 - 24 January 2018. The Committee held 3 conference calls to review the Working Party report, the recommendation from the Working Party and the events that should be placed under review for the 2024 Olympic Games.
- (c) As the vote would have occurred by a ballot paper at an in-person meeting and not a public show of hands, the Committee considered whether the vote should be a secret vote or open. The need for transparency was noted but also the need to ensure every member of the Committee felt able to vote in the best interest of the sport.

##### Decision

**On a proposal by Stefan Rahm, seconded by John Derbyshire, the Committee agreed to hold the vote by secret ballot under Regulation 7.5.5 (7 in favour, 6 reject, 3 abstain).**

- (d) The Committee voted for the events that should be placed under review via a ballot paper in accordance with Regulation 23.

Regulation 23.1.8(b) states that: *'Members shall vote for a minimum of 4 Events (there is no maximum number of Events). The Event receiving the most votes shall be subject to review. The Events receiving the second, third and fourth most votes, and any Event receiving more than 50% of the votes cast (excluding abstentions), shall also be subject to review.'*

The Committee voted from 24 - 31 January 2018.

##### Decision

**The results of the Committee ballot were:**

Events:	Votes received:
<b>Men's Windsurfer</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Women's Windsurfer</b>	<b>12</b>

<b>Men's One Person Dinghy</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Women's One Person Dinghy</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Men's One Person Dinghy Heavyweight</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Men's Two Person Dinghy</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Women's Two Person Dinghy</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Men's Skiff</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Women's Skiff</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Mixed Multihull</b>	<b>4</b>

**(14 votes cast, 2 abstentions).**

### **3. Recommendation to the Council**

In accordance with Regulation 23, the Events Committee recommends to Council that the following Events are placed under review for the 2024 Olympic Games:

- Men's Windsurfer
- Women's Windsurfer
- Men's One Person Dinghy Heavyweight
- Men's Two Person Dinghy
- Women's Two Person Dinghy

The reasons for this recommendation are set out in the Working Party paper in Appendix A.

## Appendix A

### 2024 Events & Equipment WP Recommendation to the Events Committee

#### 1. The need and framework for change

The World Sailing Regulations require World Sailing to make decisions substantially in advance of each Olympic Games. This timeline helps nations, sailors and teams to plan effectively for the future.

- 1.1 Policy decisions have been made by Council at the 2017 Annual Conference requiring the 2024 events to:
  - Achieve gender equality at an event an athlete level
  - Include either 2 or 4 mixed events
  - Offer the best possible value to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and to the Olympic Games and strengthen the position of Sailing within the Olympic Games
  - Ensure that men and women of different physiques have an opportunity to compete
  - Include both universal events and events that showcase the innovation of sailing and demonstrate the diversity of the sport
- 1.2 Regulation 23 has been modified to require that a minimum of 4 events are considered for review and possible change. There is no maximum and it is possible to put all 10 events under review. In considering the number of events to put under review, it is critical to bear in mind the policy decisions above that must be accommodated. However, we also need to ensure this decision does not completely destabilise the sport or lead to a less than ideal outcome because of the cumbersome process and short timeframe World Sailing is bound by under the existing regulations.
- 1.3 The need for World Sailing to have an event program in 2024 that offers the best possible value to the IOC and to the Olympic Games and strengthens the position of Sailing within the Olympic Games is of critical importance. The IOC has given significant guidance about what it is looking for from Olympic sports in its Agenda 2020 document. For the 2020 Olympic Games the IOC Executive Board focused on introducing youth and urban innovations, significantly improving gender equity and reducing the overall number of athletes. Four International Federations (IFs) (Canoe, Judo, Shooting and Weightlifting) moved to gender balanced events. In terms of athletes 6 IFs moved to gender balance (Canoe, Judo, Rowing, Sailing, Shooting and Weightlifting). The 2020 programme also includes for the first-time new youth focused and urban based additions such as Basketball 3x3 and BMX Freestyle on top of Sport Climbing and Skateboarding. In all 15 new events were created for the 2020 Olympic Games with a clear focus on gender equity through mixed events and a focus on youth and urban innovations.

The IOC is changing the landscape of the Olympic Games by shifting from a sport- based programme to an event-based programme (see Olympic Agenda 2020 Recommendation 10). In this new paradigm, new Olympic events have a 'unique signature' or 'look and feel' which is readily apparent to broad audiences and the media as well as those more closely connected to the sport.
- 1.4 The 2024 Events & Equipment Working Party (WP) recognises that a key challenge for our sport is to differentiate the sailing events to ensure that if and when each event is reviewed by the IOC, it stands on its own merit and can be distinguished from the other events, including by non-sailors. The WP has concluded that the names used for our events are not helpful in this regard (see section 3).

- 1.5 The 2020 event decisions by the IOC across all sports in 2017 provide a good indication of what the IOC is currently valuing, reflected by sports being awarded additional medals. Conversely, the IOC has reduced quotas (and in some cases cut medals) where the IOC has concerns. In total, the athlete quota for Tokyo 2020 was reduced by 285 athletes (including: Athletics 105, Weightlifting 64, Wrestling 56, Sailing 30). Weightlifting in addition to losing 64 athletes also lost an event in a weight category. With regards to gender equity, Tokyo 2020 will see the highest ever number of women competing, the highest number of women's events and double the number of mixed events.
- 1.6 The IOC review of the future of the Youth Olympic Games (YOG) also provides guidance on how the IOC sees the future of Olympic sport. World Sailing has experienced first-hand the possible reward when we make appropriate event decisions with the additional Kiteboarding medal achieved for the YOG before that event has ever occurred at the YOG. Innovation and gender equity have been key goals for the YOG. For the 2018 YOG the IOC Board confirmed the introduction of Kiteboarding, BMX Freestyle and Beach Handball events alongside the introduction of Sport Climbing, Roller Sports, Karate and Dance Sport. The WP has been mindful of the opportunity to not only ensure our medals and quota are not cut in the future, but to put sailing in the best position to gain additional medals if they become available.
- 1.7 World Sailing did not comply with the key IOC goal of achieving gender equity at an event level for 2020 and made no change to the set of events selected. Subsequently, the IOC reduced the athlete quota for World Sailing from 380 athletes at Rio 2016 to 350 athletes at Tokyo 2020. Sailing was removed from the Paralympic Games, in part due to a lack of understanding of the International Paralympic Committee goals for the Paralympics. The IOC, through the Olympic Agenda 2020 strategic road map has made it clear that change is required and World Sailing should ensure that it meets the IOC expectations for future Olympic Games.
- 1.8 If World Sailing does not propose the best possible mix of events to the IOC for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games then it should be expected that there will be a further reduction in athletes and a reduction in the number of events for sailing.

## 2. WP Recommendation

The WP recommends that the following five events selected for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games should be placed under review:

- Men's Windsurfer
- Women's Windsurfer
- Men's One Person Dinghy Heavyweight
- Men's Two Person Dinghy
- Women's Two Person Dinghy

The reasons for this are as follows:

World Sailing must achieve the policy decisions already made by Council and give itself the best possible opportunity to strengthen the position of sailing at the Olympic Games and select events that offer the best possible value to the Olympic Movement. Although maximum flexibility would be retained at this stage by putting all 10 events under review, there is no support for substantive change in more than 5 events. Having more than 5 events under review will create unnecessary instability and a difficult and potentially unfocused submission process that will be difficult to manage within the framework and timeframes mandated by Regulation 23.

- 2.1 The WP recommendation of placing 5 events under review gives World Sailing sufficient flexibility to achieve gender equity, include 2 or 4 mixed events and consider adding new events (including the possibility of a second medal opportunity). The WP considers that there

are 3 basic event types fundamental to the sport from a global perspective that should be included in the 2024 Olympic Games: One Person (Men and Women), Two Person (Men and Women), and Mixed. The 10 current events were discussed extensively by the WP including their current and potential universality, innovation, youth appeal, diversity and media appeal. The WP formed the view that the following events best represent these 3 basic event types and should be retained and not placed under review:

- Men's One Person Dinghy
- Women's One Person Dinghy
- Men's Skiff
- Women's Skiff
- Mixed Two Person Multihull

- 2.2 The WP considers that the two Windsurfing events should be placed under review not necessarily to remove Windsurfing from the 2024 event programme but to enable a review of the Windsurfing event and equipment. The WP recognises that windsurfing and kitesurfing are very different to each other and both have the potential to meet the objectives of World Sailing and the IOC for the Olympic events.
- 2.3 The WP has not made any decisions about the future of the 5 events recommended for review. This recommendation gives sufficient flexibility to consider a range of potential events which could include some of the 5 events up for review.
- 2.4 Innovation of events to showcase the diversity of sailing is essential to meet the Olympic Agenda 2020 strategic move towards an event-based programme. Sport presentation is important for sailing but will not in of itself resolve the issues with the current mix of events.

### **3. Names of Events**

- 3.1 As noted above, it is important each of the 10 sailing events stands on its own merit and can be distinguished from each other, particularly by the IOC and non-sailors. The WP has concluded that the names used for our events are not helpful in this regard and recommends that the event names be reviewed.
- 3.2 Some of the current names include equipment references and confuses the important distinction between the sailing events and the equipment selected for those events. The event names are very rarely used by either the sailing community, the media or non-sailors. Most frequently the sailing events are described by referring to the equipment chosen for the event.
- 3.3 The IOC has indicated through its elimination of events in other sports such as rowing that weight-based events are not desirable. World Sailing should not use weight references in event names.
- 3.4 The Procedure WP has advised that event names cannot be changed without putting the event under review. For the events put under review, the name issue can be considered during the event review process. To avoid unnecessary confusion during the event review process, the event names for the 5 retained events should be reviewed outside of the Regulation 23 process. The WP notes a regulation change will be required to achieve this.
- 3.5 The names and formats of the events should better reflect the diversity of the sport of sailing.

### **4. Key Assumptions for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games**

- 4.1 The WP has made the following key event assumptions based on World Sailing policy decisions made at the 2017 World Sailing Annual Conference and the current position of the IOC:

- 350 athletes
- 10 events
- Gender equity at both an event and athlete level
- 2 or 4 mixed events
- Universal & innovative events

4.2 Athlete physiques are an important consideration for World Sailing and the Council approved a policy to ensure a wide range of athlete physiques across the sailing events. However, this discussion is particularly relevant for the equipment discussions.

4.3 World Sailing should not assume the IOC will maintain 350 athletes and 10 events for sailing. The IOC may change and / or reduce the number of events and / or the athlete quota in Autumn 2020 when they confirm the overall 2024 Olympic Games Event Programme. The IOC 2024 Programme Commission will begin their work evaluating the programme of events for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games in May 2018.

## 5. Other Comments

5.1 It is clear that World Sailing Regulation 23 does not provide the best process for reviewing the Olympic sailing events and equipment. The WP strongly recommends that a wholesale review of the regulation is undertaken to ensure the process is improved for the future.

5.2 The review and decision-making process on such key issues as the Olympic sailing events and equipment would be significantly enhanced by ready access to comprehensive and robust data. The PwC review confirmed the difficulty in gathering complete and reliable data in our sport. The WP reiterates the Events Committee suggestion at the November 2017 World Sailing meeting that World Sailing should address this issue as a priority.

## 6. The Events & Equipment WP was made up of:

- Fiona Kidd (CAN) Chair
- Dina Kowalyshyn (USA) Vice Chair
- John Derbyshire (GBR)
- Cédric Fraboulet (FRA)
- Sarah Kenny (AUS)
- Stefan Rahm(SWE)
- Bruno De Wanneaeker (BEL)

Assisted by:

- Alastair Fox (World Sailing Director of Events)
- Carlos de Beltran (World Sailing Technical & Offshore Director)

The WP met by conference call 10 times. A review of the current events in both the Summer and Winter Olympic games took place. Areas of discussion and review evolved around the diversity of the sport, and key IOC goals and the Olympic 2020 Vision. Innovation of events was a key driver of the discussion as it pertained to universality, gender balance, youth and media appeal. Determining the events to put under review involved finding a balance between stability in the sport and making change in the sport for the future.

**24 January 2018**