

Submission from Danish Sailing Association

Womens Events for the 2012 Olympic Sailing Competition

Proposal:

That the decision on the selection of Women's Events for the 2012 Olympic Regatta be re-considered in accordance with ISAF regulation 16.1.1(b), and that a run-off vote be held between "2 person dinghy (high performance)" and "Keelboat (match Racing)" at the earliest available opportunity.

Current Position:

Council decided in November, after a last minute change of the voting procedure, the following 4 events for Women:

- Windsurfer
- 1 person dinghy
- 2 Person Dinghy
- Keelboat (match racing)

Reasons:

In November 2007 the voting procedure was changed in the last minute to a "vote for 4 out of 6" process, with the result that it became a "tactical vote", rather than a vote where Council members had the possibility to choose the last Women's event, which they believed would benefit Olympic Sailing most with regard to especially excitement, innovation, public and media appeal.

This submission will provide for a run-off vote that will allow Council members to make a specific choice between those two Events. This choice was not part of the November 2007 "vote for 4 out of 6" process, when the votes cast for "2 person dinghy (high performance)" and "Keelboat (match racing)" was extremely close (20 and 21), and the "2 person dinghy (high performance)" was excluded despite receiving more than 50% of votes cast.

The decision in Council in November 2007 concerning the Women's "Keelboat (match racing)" was based on an event format presented by the Chairman of the Match Racing Committee. Since the Council meeting there has been further debate on this issue, which could result in a proposal for the preferred option on Equipment for the Olympic Events, supporting regattas and qualification process, which will be significantly different from that proposed in November 2007.

Council must be able to reconsider this Event in the light of this possible change.

Sailing was in both Sydney 2000 and Athens 2004 one of the Olympic Sports with the lowest number of recorded TV-hours (26 out of 28). **See *attachment*.**

Sailing needs to strengthen its ability to interest and involve the public and be presented in a way that is appealing to the media, especially the Television Media. To our knowledge the Sailing Event with most TV-hours in both Sydney 2000 and Athens 2004 were the Men's "2 person dinghy (high performance)".

Therefore it would benefit sailing in general and Women sailing in particular that "2 person dinghy (high performance)" has a chance to be chosen in such a run-off vote. This would also mirror the Men's event, and make our sport more understandable by the general public.

Further the direction of the Olympic movement is towards parity and equality between Men's and Women's events. Introducing a new type of competition for Women that is different in the Men's equivalent event is therefore a backward step.

Sailing should use its 10 events to increase diversity of sailing skills, and therefore types of sailors, represented at the Olympics. We should use our 10 events to maximise the number of young sailors, who have an Olympic dream, and broaden the number of countries these sailors come from.

Our most successful Olympians will be able to be successful in one event and then repeat this success in another event. However we should not set out to provide an "Olympic Career" for a small number of elite sailors, where these sailors typically move from one Event to another as they grow older. To have such a set of events will risk IOC reducing further the number of Events for sailing. Our Events should test as wide and diverse a range of sailing skills as possible.

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DANISH SAILING ASSOCIATION
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