

2024 Olympic Sailing Competition

Olympic Events & Equipment

A submission from US Sailing

Purpose or Objective

In the Rio 2016 Olympics, sailing had ten events, although in reality sailing had one discipline, fleet racing, in ten different boats. The IOC has moved from a sport based program to an event based program and adopted a mantra of, “change or be changed.” The IOC is unlikely to be fooled by creative labelling of sailing’s current events and equipment.

US Sailing supports a bold approach that differentiates the ten medal events across as many as seven disciplines in a wide variety of equipment types. New events like the Offshore, Kite and Team events plus a second medal opportunity could really create a surge of new interest in Olympic sailing across the broad spectrum of our sport. Four mixed events will promote gender equality across our sport: from dinghies to foiling catamarans to Team Racing to Offshore Keelboats.

Proposal

Current Event & Equipment	2024 Event Proposal	2024 Equipment Proposal
Men's One Person Dinghy – Laser	Retained	Retained
Women's One Person Dinghy - Laser Radial	Retained	Retained
Men's Skiff - 49er	Retained	Retained
Women's Skiff – 49erFX	Retained	Retained
Mixed Two Person Multihull – Nacra 17	Retained	Retained
Men's Windsurfer - RS:X	Men's Windsurfing Triathlon	RS:X - Evolve
Women's Windsurfer – RS:X	Women's Windsurfing Triathlon	RS:X - Evolve
Heavyweight Men's One Person Dinghy – Finn	Mixed Kite Triathlon	New Equipment
Men's Two Person Dinghy – 470	Mixed Team Racing	New Equipment
Women's Two Person Dinghy – 470	Mixed Offshore	New Equipment

Mixed Kite Triathlon- equipment criteria: a twin tip board with a foiling option: i.e., convertible, with the capability of a wide range of sailor sizes able to compete. Series production of equipment to control cost of purchase and equipment compliance.

Mixed Team Racing- equipment criteria: Provided 2 person (main, jib) dinghies suitable for team racing, crew weight minimums equalized by requirement to carry weight (water) if under the minimum, no trapeze, no spinnaker.

Mixed Offshore Keelboat- equipment criteria: capable of Offshore sailing for 2 people to race for 48 hours. Category 2, Offshore Special Regulations.

Current Position

As above.

Reasons

1. **Mens/Womens Windsurf Triathlon** Could easily be the most exciting and dramatic sailing event ever at a beach venue that embraces the beach "culture" which would add a new dimension to sailing (similarity with how Snowboarding enhances Skiing.) One day each of the following equally weighted disciplines (subject to some testing and revision);
 - a. Windsurf three fleet races
 - b. Windsurf beach venue slalom
 - c. Options to suit venue: Expression, final day, possibly waves, or distance mass start.
 2. **Team Mixed Kite Triathlon** One day each of the following equally weighted disciplines (subject to some testing and revision)- men and women race separately, scores added together for team score.
 - a. Foiling Kite three fleet races
 - b. Foiling kite beach venue slalom
 - c. Options to suit venue: Expression, final day, possibly waves, or distance mass start.
 3. **Mixed Team Racing** Ideally, 3 on 3 in provided non spinnaker dinghies. Minimum one helm and crew of the other gender. Existing athletes that qualify for other events; allow all nations with 6 sailors competing to enter this event.
 - a. Opportunity for a second medal.
 - b. A true "team" event rather than adding up scores of two different sailors
 - c. Youth Appeal- Optimist sailors around the world participate in team racing and understand the "game"
 - d. 2 day format on final 2 days keeps sailors cheering for their team and excitement at the venue.
 - e. Can be successfully run in very light to heavy air.
 - f. Commentator friendly from the shore
 4. **Mixed Offshore Distance Race** 2 person team in a keelboat. A single race scheduled to include two overnights, finishing near the Olympic venue. 24 hour live tracking and
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television. Opportunity for 100 kg men and 80 kg women. Opportunity for professional sailors and teams (AC, Volvo, Vendee) to win an Olympic medal.

5. **Creative Scheduling** What if...?
 - a. The distance race started a couple days before Opening Ceremony and finished immediately before, during or after the Ceremony. Very first medal ceremony.
 - b. Same athlete then competes in single-handed dinghy, kite or windsurf. Second medal.
 - c. Same athlete competes in Team Racing during the final two days of the Games and wins their third gold medal in one Olympic Games.
 - d. Same athlete also could enter Windsurfing and Kites. Think of Ester Ledecka who won gold medals in both Skiing and Snowboarding....

 6. **Athlete Quotas** If Team Racing utilized athletes that had qualified in other events, it would enable larger quotas in the universal classes. Increased quotas in the universal classes equates to a greater number of nations in sailing.

 7. **Potential for IOC to grant additional medals:** The IOC could decide they want to see Men's and Women's Kites rather than a combined team score event, and grant an additional, 11th medal.
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