

Event Nation Quotas for the 2016 Olympic Sailing Competition

Olympic Qualification System

A submission from the International 470 Class Association

Purpose or Objective

Prior to the ISAF Council making a decision on the event quotas in the qualification system for the 2016 Olympic Sailing Competition, a comprehensive analysis on each event at the 2016 Olympic Sailing Competition shall be undertaken, in order to ensure the quotas meet the IOC objective: *“to give a fair and equitable opportunity for the best athletes in the world to participate in the Games as well as to ensure a universal participation.”*

Proposal

That ISAF undertakes a comprehensive analysis of the quotas for each event at the 2016 Olympic Sailing Competition, including, but not limited to:

- Performance at the 2012 Olympic Sailing Competition and performance ranges within each fleet. There was some incredibly tight, close and exciting racing at the Olympics, but equally there was racing where the performance levels were more diverse;
- Number of nations participating in each event, number of athletes in each nation and participation levels of those athletes;
- Participation of nations in the events at Regional Games;
- Evaluation of national class association membership of each of the events, in order to understand the spread of the class, continental representation and identify potential nations who may participate at the Olympic Games, but currently do not;
- Evaluation of the positive impact and development of sailing in those nations who participated in past Olympic Games, after being awarded a Tripartite Commission Place or Unused Quota Place;
- An evaluation of the development programme of each class over the past Olympic quadrennial and for the next Olympic quadrennial and their target areas;
- Incentive to nations/sailors to undertake an Olympic Campaign based on the current recommended quotas for an event, compared to the number of nations active in that event. The number of quotas allocated to each event should encourage participation and the growth of the Olympic events, not confine them.

The above analysis will help to benchmark the Olympic Qualification System process, protect the integrity of the sport and ensure the optimum outcomes for sailing are achieved and meet the IOC objective: *“to give a fair and equitable opportunity for the best athletes in the world to participate in the Games as well as to ensure a universal participation.”*

It is proposed that the above analysis is undertaken and is the basis for the recommended quotas,

and that the ISAF Council make a decision on the quotas for the 2016 Olympic Sailing Competition at the 2013 ISAF Annual Conference.

In future, an analysis should be undertaken for each Olympic quadrennial.

Current Position

ISAF Regulation 6.5.3(d) mandates the Events Committee to make recommendations to Council on the Olympic Qualification System. In November 2012, the ISAF Events Committee indicated its intention to make a recommendation to Council on the quotas for each Olympic event at the 2013 Mid-Year Meeting.

Reasons

1. As a reference, the International Olympic Committee Qualification System Principles for London 2012, state:
“Qualification Systems vary from sport to sport and are established to give a fair and equitable opportunity for the best athletes in the world to participate in the Games as well as to ensure a universal participation, but also to limit the number of athletes for each sport/discipline/event as approved by the IOC Executive Board.”
 2. In November 2012, the Events Committee Agenda considered a supporting paper 5(a) (circulated to Events Committee Members only), which recommended quotas for the 2016 Olympic Competition based on the events which at that time were anticipated to be at the 2016 Olympic Sailing Competition. On 6 March 2013, revised quotas for the 2016 Olympic Sailing Competition were published by ISAF within the context of the “Intended Format for Palma” paper: www.sailing.org/tools/documents/PalmaFormatsWebsite-%5B14638%5D.pdf
 3. Recalling the process of approval of the qualification system for the 2012 Olympic Sailing Competition, the ISAF Council approved the Olympic Qualification System at the ISAF November Conference, a year after the 2008 Olympic Sailing Competition, so in November 2009. We recommend that the same timeframe is adopted for the 2016 Olympic Sailing Competition, in order that an appropriate level of analysis and evaluation can be undertaken to ensure the optimum quotas are allocated to each event.
 4. Within the 2012 Olympic Qualification System, quotas were allocated to each event, based on participation levels in that event (we understand using participation in the ISAF Sailing World Cup) and in order to achieve “universality”. The priority for Tripartite Commission places and unused quota place is awarded to the Men’s Windsurfer, Women’s Windsurfer, Men’s One Person Dinghy, Women’s One Person Dinghy. However, “universality” and “increasing participation” at the Olympics can also be provided by other events, which can deliver new or more nations to the Olympics and this situation should be evaluated.
 5. The principles of the Olympic Qualification System, and specifically the nation quotas allocated, must be positive for the development and growth of sailing as a global sport.
 6. The decisions ISAF takes on the quotas for each event within the Olympic Qualification System have far reaching consequences for the sport. In some events, it is relatively straightforward to qualify for Olympics and many nations in that event can do so, whereas in other events, the limited qualification places make it difficult even for some of the top nations to qualify. For such a key and far reaching decision, the importance of introducing a mechanism to research and
-

analyse the quotas together with prudent debate must be possible. The qualification pathway to the Olympics needs to be as fair to achieve in one Olympic event as it is in another.

7. The International 470 Class has undertaken some research, to try and evaluate the representation of nations at the 2012 Olympics and recommendations proposed for the 2016 Olympics in conjunction with an evaluation of the level of participation in each class and global spread of each class, which is the background to this submission.

Note: Distinction should be made that this Submission is only requesting a review of the nations quota allocated to each of the ten Olympic Events. This is separate from any other ongoing work being undertaken by the Events Committee, such as the Events Committee "Regions Working Party" who are looking at Continental Qualification and are due to make a report to the 2013 Mid-Year Meeting of the ISAF Events Committee.
