

ISAF Youth Sailing World Championship

Events - Regulation 24.4.9

A submission from the Chairman of the Events Committee

Purpose or Objective

To review and amend the Events at the ISAF Youth World Championships (Regulation 24.4.9) so that the Championships remains viable for organizers, and provides the best possible pathway for MNAs and sailors into Olympic sailing.

Proposal

Two options for change are proposed

Option 1

Increase # Events to 9 by adding 2nd 29er:

24.4.9 The Classes for the ISAF Youth World Sailing Championships are:

Boy's One Person Dinghy - Laser Radial
Girl's One Person Dinghy - Laser Radial
Boys' Two Person Dinghy - 420
Girls' Two Person Dinghy - 420
Boy's Windsurfer - RS:X with the 8.5m rig
Girl's Windsurfer - RS:X with the 8.5m rig

Boys' Skiff – 29er

Girls' Skiff – 29er

~~Open Skiff – 29er~~

Open Multihull - Hobie 16 with spinnaker or Sirena SL16

Reasons to add a girls-only Skiff Event:

- 1) Supports Olympic skiff pathway development of girl skippers and crews
- 2) Matched set of events parallels Olympic event choices
- 3) MNAs will support more girl sailors for a girls only event then for an "Open" event
- 4) Event will help transition of girls from Optimist into two-person sailing
- 5) The "open" event does not result in equal opportunity for both genders

However the Championships is already complex and costly to host, and the increase to nine Events will further increase cost and complexity for the Organisers without necessarily delivering any extra value to MNAs or sailors. This could be avoided by choosing Option 2.

Option 2

Maintain same # of events, add the Girls' Skiff, change the Open Skiff to Boys' Skiff, and delete Multihull:

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Boy's Windsurfer - RS:X with the 8.5m rig
Girl's Windsurfer - RS:X with the 8.5m rig
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Girls' Skiff – 29er
~~Open Skiff – 29er~~
~~Open Multihull – Hobie 16 with spinnaker or Sirena SL16~~

Reasons to increase # events to 9 and retain the Multihull event:

- 1) Multihull Sailing is represented in the Olympics and represents a unique branch of sailing
- 2) Performance of multihulls attracts youth sailors with a different dimension than dinghy and windsurfing
- 3) Gaining popularity of multihull sailing and the Olympic and Elite (AC, Extreme 40) pathway in the sport

Reasons to delete the Multihull event:

- 1) The multihull Event is currently the smallest Event and has only attracted an average of 15 nations since 2006. The extra cost of equipment and training prohibits most MNAs from running multihull programmes or participating in multihull events at the youth level
- 2) Development of multihull sailors is usually as a crossover from racing in dinghies and windsurfers – there are very few youth development programs in multihulls
- 3) There is pressure on the Championships not to grow too large for host venues to accommodate.
- 4) Deleting the multi-hull Event will enable both event organizers and MNAs to focus their resources and training programmes on 4 matched boy / girl events
- 5) Simplify equipment choices for MNAs and organizers - 4 suppliers instead of 5
- 6) Having an option of 2 multihulls under possible classes is not satisfactory and has made support from equipment suppliers uncertain year to year
- 7) Concern from sailors, coaches and parents about choice of equipment has resulted in little support for the Hobie 16 and Sirena SL16, and more interest in equipment that is "pathway equipment" to the Nacra 17 Olympic Equipment.

If the multihull event is retained as a result of choosing Option 1, then the future intention is to make a submission that will allow a single different equipment option for the Multihull event, and to consider the Open vs Mixed option.

Current Position

See above.

Reasons

See above.
