

The Olympic Classes Sub-committee met at the at the Hotel NH Malaga, Malaga, Spain from 0930-1300 on Monday 13 November 2023

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Present:

Markus Schwendtner (Formula Kite) (Chair)
Marcus Spillane (VP)
Andreas Kosmatopoulos (470)
David Hughes (Athletes' Commission)

Gonzalo Costa Hoevel (iQFoil)
Mirco Babini (Formula Kite)
Nacra 17 Class representative

In attendance:

Alastair Fox (Director of Events)
Michael Downing (Olympic Manager)
Dimitris Dimou (470)

Piotr Oleksiak (Format WP Chair)
Matthew Wheaton (Competitions Manager)
John Derbyshire (EC Chair)

Apologies:

Daniel Belcher (Q&Q WP Chair)
Graham Biel (Rankings WP Chair)

Ben Remocker (49er / 49erFX)
Eric Faust (ILCA)

1. Opening of the Meeting

- 1.1 Introduction from the Committee Chair, noting the apologies received.

2. Minutes

- 2.1 The Sub-committee noted the minutes of the Olympic Classes Sub-committee meeting of October 2022 (circulated and approved after the meeting). The minutes can be downloaded at <https://www.sailing.org/inside-world-sailing/organisation/governance/conferences/>
- 2.2 There were no matters arising from the minutes not covered elsewhere.

3. Update from the Board

- 3.1 The Sub-committee received an update from the Olympic Classes Vice President on the Board activities from their meetings since last the Olympic Classes Sub-committee meeting. Successful activities in the year were outlined notably, the inclusion of Para events at the World Championships in the Hague. The Regional Games in Asia and PanAmerica were well attended and organised. The Test Event in Marseille ahead of the 2024 Olympic Games was successful and prospects look good for the overall delivery of the Games.

It was also noted that after some challenging years, the World Sailing finances are improved and with high hopes of confirming commercial partners in the near future. The Board were pleased to present the Olympic Vision and report that Governance reform is on track. The VP concluded in thanking the attendance and work of the committee.

4. Olympic Vision

- 4.1 The OCSC discussed the WS Olympic Vision report, with relation to Olympic Classes and welcomed many aspects that came with the review of the sport and were generally in support of many of the proposals made, with the exception of one key aspect regarding supplied equipment.

Recommendation:

The Committee noted the proposed requirement of supplied equipment for all events and suggest it would not make practical sense for that which can be easily transported by plane.

It was agreed that all stakeholders need to make sacrifices for the greater good of the sport and to reach ambitious sustainability targets.

It was agreed that Format is paramount to tell the 'story' and that substantially more testing needs to be a priority of all Olympic Events and done well in advance in order to be both appealing and proven.

5. Paris 2024 Olympic Games

- 5.1 The Sub-committee received a report on the Paris 2024 Olympic Games from the Director of Events and Olympic Manager.

Reporting on the 2023 Test Event, it was overall a successful *Test* and highlighted the need for further consideration required for: Shade for athletes, Formats and Production of live TV. Windsurfing format was of interest, whilst it was great the Marathon took place, the concept could be further improved and certainly the Final with no starting athletes shone a light on rule/ format discrepancies. Working relationships between the LOC, WS and FFV will be built upon using the valuable experience of the Test Event.

Looking ahead to the Olympic Games, it was noted that the Notice of Race and Equipment regulations had both been published. The process for supplied equipment is in place and has been communicated via regular Town Hall updates from WS/OC to the Olympic Team Leaders and MNAs.

5.2 Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games

The Olympic Manager reported on progress of the LA 28 Games. It was noted with concern that there remains uncertainty on quota and number of medals to be awarded. It is expected that no Test Event will take place and training will be difficult as there are no local Yacht Clubs permitted to host athletes. The Venue is also of concern, however there may be some advantages to sharing with other sports which could help reduce the overall cost of the sailing event.

6. Quotas and Qualification

- 6.1 The Committee received a report from the Quotas and Qualification Working Party on the implementation of the Paris 2024 Qualification System. Good reports had been received from the Asian and PanAmerican qualifiers and the upcoming African qualifier in Egypt would be closely monitored. The Notice of Race for the 2024 S.O.F. or, 'Last Chance Regatta' have been published and registration will open shortly, managed by the FFV.

It was noted in order to ensure fair play, the continental qualification regattas must be successfully managed by WS or risk the IOC taking them into their own hands.

7. Format

- 7.1 A report was presented from the Format Working Party regarding the Paris 2024 and LA 2028 Olympic Games.

It was made clear that no format changes could be made for Paris now, but for LA, WS need an overarching vision to start work early and decisively with the classes. Format testing needs to be done at high level regattas, World Cups and Continental/ World Championships to provide the best platform. It was noted that this would require budget and would need to be carried out late 2024 / early 2025.

Recommendations:

- Any format testing for the LA 2028 Games is finalised by mid-year '25.
- New formats need to be tested at elite level multiclass events.
- Funding must be allocated to regattas in late '24, early '25 to test Formats.

8. Regulation 23

- 8.1 The Committee received a report from the Chair of the Events & Equipment Committee Regulation 23 Working Party.

The opening message was that WS need to change the focus and priority by selecting the Format and Event, before selecting Equipment.

9. World Sailing Rankings

- 9.1 The OCSC received an update on the progress of the on the World Rankings. Thanks were given to the Classes and Regattas that comply with WP policy and send results to WS in the correct format. It was reported that the Rankings are as accurate as possible and published in a timely manner.

Recommendation:

The OCSC recommends that the Board prioritises the implementation of the new ranking system, approved in 2018. The new rankings could be well used for media communication and building stars.

10. The Hague 2023 Sailing World Championships

- 10.1 The Committee received a final report on the Sailing World Championships in The Hague from the Director of Events.

Feedback was received from the Athletes' Commission regarding restrictive and limited access via training blocks. It was also noted during competition, the FOP was far from the beach resulting in a long distance to sail or tow.

Recommendation:

The OCSC recommends that World Sailing and classes media efforts are better coordinated at the combined world championships to maximise media output.

The OCSC recommends that World Sailing maximises efforts in the area of digital officiating and develop a clear digital officiating strategy to use at its major events.

10.2 Digital Officiating

Digital Officiating was tested to satisfaction, with the following improvements to be made:

- Terms of Reference / Role description
- Policy is yet to be published, currently with the IJSC.

Action:

Classes have an opportunity to embrace new technology to help sell the sport to a wider audience. Classes should take the lead on testing and lead the way for others to follow.

Recommendation:

The OCSC recommends that World Sailing maximises efforts in the area of digital officiating and develop a clear digital officiating strategy to use at its major events.

11. World Sailing Event Strategy

- 11.1 The Committee looked ahead at the Calendar for 2021-2024 with Classes all requesting WS for quick decisions on the placing of the 26/27 Combined Sailing World Championships in order to make their own plans.

It was noted that the calendar is already busy and with the re-introduction of the Sailing World Cup and athletes facing other demands from Sail GP and other popular circuits it is critical to confirm dates early.

12. Race Officials Appointments

It was noted that the Race Official appointments for the 2024 Olympic Games were to be announced in the coming days.

A report was received from the Vice President regarding the Event Appointment Working Party (EAWP). It was noted that there is a challenge in terms of gender equity and that progress had slipped following Tokyo, citing that some ROs are French or appointed as NTOs.

Action: WS and Classes need to engage with and attract a more diverse group of officials. There are also a lot of athletes that leave the sport and are not currently enticed to become race officials.

13. Technical Update

- 13.1 WS Director of Technical and Offshore gave a presentation on ManufactureControl system, regarding the the production and distribution costs associated with Olympic Equipment. Athlete behaviour with regard to safety equipment was also reported as well as the ongoing work within class rules, equipment and safety policies.

14. Submissions

- 14.1 The committee reviewed the following Submissions and made the following recommendations to Council:

Submission 107-23. Proposal to amend Regulation 15.6 To allow the 2024 Mid-Year Council meeting to approve regulation changes to Regulation 23 Olympic Sailing Competition.

Recommendation to Council: Approve

Notes: 153-23 and 154-23 should be deferred but if 107-23 is rejected then 153-23 is the preferred option over 154-23

Submission 108-23. Proposal to amend Regulation 23.3.1 and 25.8.2 For the Board to approve the Chief and Deputy Chiefs to the Olympic Games

Recommendation to Council: Approve

Submission 117-23. Proposal to amend 117-23 Article 51.10 New Constitution. To correct minor differences between current and new regulation.

Recommendation to Council: Approve, noting that option 2 is preferred.

Submission 149-23. Proposal to amend Regulation 24.1 to 24.3.4 To provide flexibility in relation to the Sailing World Championships including to split the Sailing World Championships into multiple events and to include additional events where appropriate.

Recommendation to Council: Approve

Submission 153-23. Regulation 23 – Timelines and selection of new Events.

Recommendation to Council: Defer, noting that if 107-23 is rejected then 153-23 should be approved.

Submission 154-23. Regulation 23 – Timelines and selection of new Events.

Recommendation to Council: Defer, noting that if 107-23 and 153-23 is rejected then 154-23 should be approved.

15. Any Other Business

The meeting closed by the committee and working parties thanked for their work and knowledge.