

Kiteboarding Olympic Campaign

Universality

Popularity

Format

Equipment

Supporters

Time for Change

Kiteboarding is just one of the latest additions to the sailing community, but it has so much to offer that it will be beneficial to Olympic Sailing in general.

This is why we believe that Kiteboarding should be part of the Olympic Sailing Competition from 2016 onwards

Learn more about the advantages of Kiteboarding on the following pages and support us on our way to the beaches of the Copacabana in 2016 !

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World Wide Available

Kiteboarding can be found on every beach world wide and is practiced by hundreds of thousands of people of all age.

Distribution networks exist even in the most remote parts of the world, making Kiteboarding a truly universal sport.

We have a great quote of women in competition, as equipment is easy to assemble and less physical than other sports, enabling especially women and youth to compete on highest levels.

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Clear Pathway

Men, Women and youth compete on exactly the same equipment of their choice. This greatly simplifies the pathway to the Olympic Games.

No need for special junior and youth classes – enabling national sailing programs to invest in the future with confidence.

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Affordable Equipment

Kiteboarding is by far the cheapest piece of Olympic Equipment.

With prices starting at approximately 2000 Euros for a board and a kite athletes can already compete on international level.

Especially for emerging nations this is a considerable advantage over other sailing classes.

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Fair to all

Through box-rule controlled equipment athletes are able to choose the equipment that best suits them.

This eliminates “target weights” as in many other classes, enabling competitors from all parts of the world and all races to compete with equal opportunities.

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Media Interest

Kiteboarding is more present in the mass media than any other sailing class.

Kiteboarding offers colorful action close to the beach.

As a pure planing class, racing is already full of action and speed from 5 knots on, and can be held in knee-deep water where no other classes can go.

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Spectator Buzz

Kiteboarding is seen as a fun- and extreme sport, especially amongst young people all around the world

The new SuperX and Speedway formats are easy to follow and understand for the spectators – the second place is already the first loser.

Kiteboarding competition formats reduce competition time down to a couple of days, instead of all-week long position fights.

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New Olympic Formats

We believe that Olympic Sailing needs a radical change away from the Events / Classes system.

We propose to change to a discipline based system, which would create interest for media and spectators, as every event showcases a different focus.

If this is not possible yet, at least all kinds of different sailing classes should be represented in the Olympic Games, and all of them should be “high performance”

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Disciplines Proposal

The disciplines run in the Olympic Sailing Competition should be ideally chosen as follows:

- Fleet Racing
- Team Racing
- Match Racing
- Speed Racing
- Slalom Racing

These disciplines showcase all kinds of different possibilities for Sailing Competition

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Sailing Vessel Choice

All different kinds of Sailing Vessels should be represented at the Olympic Games to maximize media and spectator interest and give a complete overview of today's sailing at the world's pinnacle event:

- Dinghy (high performance)
- Multihull
- Keelboat
- Windsurfer
- Kiteboard

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More Action

The Kiteboarding Courses create more action on the water, giving the media and spectators the required “buzz”

Fleet Races are usually as short as 15-20 minutes, and the new SuperX (Slalom with double K.O. system) incorporates an elimination ladder system with 2-3 minute races.

The Speedway format can be run in various styles, from round robin to classic speed format.

Each of these formats adds diversity compared to traditional courses.

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Open Qualification

Qualification should be done based on the class world rankings – the only true performance benchmark !

From a fleet of 40 sailors, the top 10 from the world ranking would be eligible, regardless of the number of sailors from a given country.

Beyond the top 10, athletes would be eligible based on the class world ranking, with a maximum of two eligible sailors from each country that does not already have two or more athletes among the top 10.

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Keep it simple

Kiteboarding is probably the purest form of sailing – holding the wind with your hands.

The athlete and his board are simply connected to the kite through a fixed set of lines and a steering bar.

Kite gear is launch-able from every beach, transportable with every standard car and possible to take with as standard luggage on the plane.

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Keep it open

We do not believe in strictly controlled “One Design Equipment”.

Box Rule controlled Equipment enables every athlete to choose the equipment that perfectly fits him.

This ensures that the latest and best performing equipment is chosen for competition at the pinnacle event of sailing instead of outdated “low performance” equipment.

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IKA Formula 42

This is our preferred option for Olympic Equipment:

A pure box-rule controlled class which enables the athlete to choose the equipment that perfectly suits him with minimal restrictions.

2 box-rule controlled boards and 4 kites ensure to cover a wind range from 5 to 45 knots.

Equipment is all “production” and thus globally available.

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IKA Formula 31

This is a slight variation to reduce the amount of equipment while still maintaining a maximum wind range.

Just as the Formula 42, equipment is only limited to maximum length, maximum width and minimum weight.

All equipment is “production controlled” and available world wide, for a wind range of 6 to 30 knots.

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IKA KiteRacing OD

Although we do not favor this option, the current IKA Racing world rankings would give the possibility to immediately choose a set of top-performing equipment to make it “One Design – Multi Branded”.

This is what we call the “whiteboard concept”, enabling all interested manufacturers to produce their version of Olympic One Design Equipment, enabling professional athletes to compete in the Olympics while maintaining full industry support.

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Equipment Example



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Our Ambassadors

We receive great support for our Olympic Campaign and the number of Olympic Ambassadors is constantly growing.

Please visit the Olympic microsite at olympia.internationalkiteboarding.org for an up-to-date list.

The following pages contain only an excerpt of our Olympic Ambassadors.

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Our Ambassadors



Mr. Neil Pryde:

"Kiteboarding today represents the cutting edge of sailing. This is a sport that combines athletic ability with equipment skills and it is easily accessible to participants world-wide. The Olympic Games stand at the pinnacle of sailing and it is therefore logical and natural that Kiteboarding has a place in Olympic Yachting."



Sir Richard Branson:

"Kiteboarding is a fun and spectacular sport that I think would make a tremendously exciting addition to the Olympic Games"

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Mr. Michael Gebhardt:

"Kitesurfing, the newest discipline of modern high performance sailing, is perfectly positioned to launch the future of Olympic Sailing into the 21st century.

The future is here and now. Kitesurfing is the future of Olympic sailing"



Ms. Kristin Boese:

"I believe that kiteboarding would be the perfect addition to the Olympic Sailboat classes.

It is spectacular, transports a young and dynamic image and offers huge potential as a media and spectator sport."

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Last Words

We believe that kiteboarding offers a unique chance to sharpen the profile of Olympic Sailing towards a spectacular, media attractive and spectator friendly sport.

See you 2016 in Rio de Janeiro !

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Published by

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