



Media Guide

to the Paris 2024 Olympic Games



About World Sailing

World Sailing is the world governing body for the sport of sailing, officially recognised by the International Olympic Committee and the International Paralympic Committee.

World Sailing is responsible for:

- the promotion of the sport internationally;
- managing sailing at the Olympic and Paralympic Games;
- developing the Racing Rules of Sailing and regulations for all sailing competitions;
- the training of judges, umpires and other administrators;
- the development of the sport around the world; and representing sailors in all matters concerning the sport.



Developing the sport

World Sailing invests in developing the sport globally, enabling more sailors from more parts of the world to compete at the highest level.

We deliver programs aimed at developing athletes, coaches and event officials. The Emerging Nations Program, World Sailing's plan to support athletes from emerging nations to qualify for the Olympic Games, has been a notable success for Paris 2024 with 27 'ENP' sailors earning a place in Marseille.





Sustainability

World Sailing has a long-standing commitment to making our sport more sustainable, established when we became the first international sports federation to publish a sustainability strategy – **Sustainability Agenda 2030** – in 2017.

Sustainability Agenda 2030 details 56 targets for the sport to achieve by 2030, and earlier this year, we published our **first sustainability report** updating on our progress.



Gender Equity

The Paris 2024 Olympic Games sailing competition will be the first to feature an equal split of male and female athletes but World Sailing is committed to achieving gender equity off as well as on the water.

Steering the Course, World Sailing's plan to support women in sailing, sets out our route to a more gender equal success, from the boardroom to the boat house.

About sailing at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games

Sailing has been part of every Olympic Games since 1908 when a total of four events were held at the Royal Victoria Yacht Club, on the Isle of Wight, and the Clyde Corinthian Yacht Club, on the Cowal Peninsula in the Scottish Highlands.

For the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, the 10 events will be contested by 65 countries and will feature an equal number of female and male sailors.

Venue

Marseille is one of the great cities of the Mediterranean and possesses a rich maritime history.

The quality of the water and weather conditions off the coast of Marseille are expected to provide the world's best sailors with the perfect stage to demonstrate their skill and tactical mastery.

Field of Play



Schedule

CLICK
HERE

What's new in 2024?



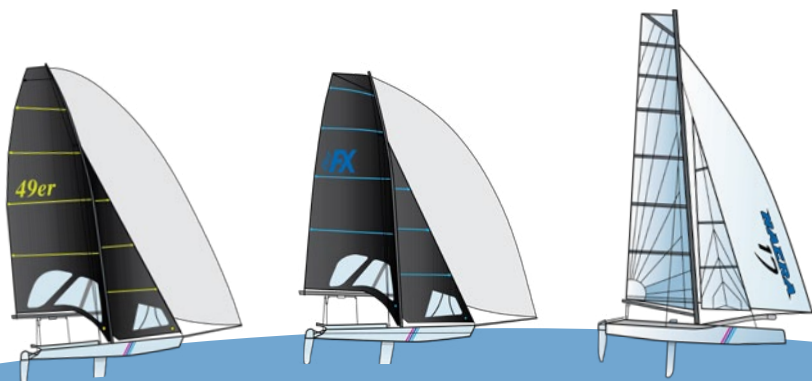
For the windsurfers, there has been a change as the **iQFoil** has replaced the RS:X, meaning the daggerboard on the RS:X is replaced by a foil. The result is boards which look like they are flying rather than floating, with the competitors travelling even faster than before.

The one class to disappear from the Olympics is the Finn class, which had been part of the sailing programme since 1952. The new longest-serving class is the 470, but that has also undergone a change from Tokyo.

Where the double-handed **dinghy** event was previously split into men's and women's classes, Paris 2024 will be the first time that it will be raced as a mixed competition.



What remains unchanged?

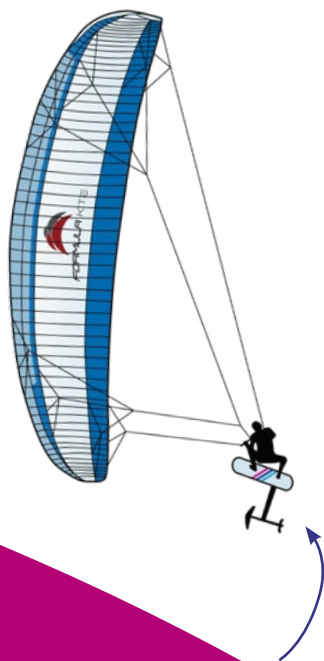


The **49er** and **49erFX** class – men's skiff and women's skiff – will stay as they were, as will the **Nacra 17**, the mixed multihull event.



In the dinghy events, the Laser and Laser Radial class have been rebadged as the **ILCA 7**, for the men, and **ILCA 6**, for the women.

What about Formula Kite?



Kite foiling is one of the fastest sports of all at Paris 2024, with athletes able to reach speeds of 45 knots, more than 80km/h.

Paris 2024 will see the introduction of Formula Kite, also split into men's kite and women's kite events.

Powered by large kites, the riders are attached with a harness while they can control the kite with a hand bar.

While there are five new events on the schedule, iQFOiL and Formula Kite are considered the two new classes on the programme.

And the new classes provide some added intrigue with a different format to the traditional sailing classes.

Both feature medal series, but rather than just having a medal race which is worth double points to finish, they have separate medal series which decide the podium.

As a result, in both iQFOiL and Formula Kite, the identity of the winner of the gold medal cannot be known ahead of the final race of competition.

How does the scoring system work in Olympic sailing?

In all, there will be ten events contested, with four classes for men, four for women and two mixed. Within those events, there are three separate scoring systems to learn.



How does scoring work in the boat events?

These **6** boat events all follow the same scoring system



Initially, the fleet will compete in an Opening Series – races where crew score points depending on their finishing position.

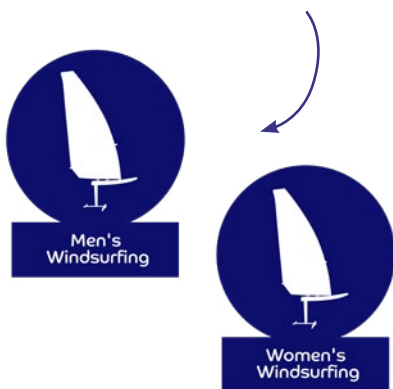
The boat that comes home first earns one point, second earns two and so on upwards. In these classes, the fleet will compete across either 10 or 12 races in the Opening Series, with each boat's worst score discarded and not counting against their total. This will give them an overall total with the boat with the lowest total ranked first, and the highest total last.

At the end of the opening series, the top ten boats in the fleet will qualify for the medal race.

The medal race will follow the same format, but on this occasion, points will be doubled. Therefore, the boat that finishes first will score two points, down to 20 for the crew that finishes tenth. The score in the final cannot be discarded.

In some situations, a crew will have built a big enough lead that they cannot be overtaken by the medal race, while in others, they will focus largely on one rival, known as marking.

How does scoring work in the windsurfing?



There has been a change of class in windsurfing, where the RS:X has been replaced by the iQFOiL.

Windsurfers race 16 standard races and one marathon race in the opening series.

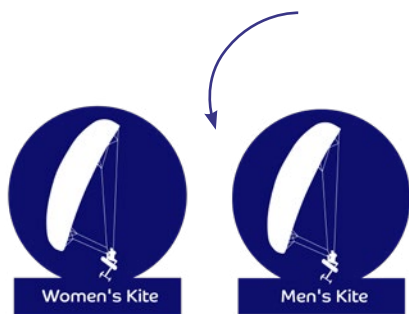
The scoring system is the same with one point for first, two for second etc, with one discard.

At the end of the Opening Series, the top 10 progress. Those ranked fourth to tenth compete in a quarter-final, with the top two in that marathon race progressing through to the semi-final.

In the semi-final, they will come up against the athletes who finished second and third. Once again, two will progress, joining the top overall athlete in the final.

The final is therefore made up of three athletes, each guaranteed a medal, with the colour decided by the finishing position. That means that everything comes down to that final race to see who will take the gold.

How does scoring work in kite events?



As with the other classes, the fleet of 20 will initially compete in the Opening Series.

That will be used to whittle down the fleet to a top ten. Of those, the top two athletes will progress directly to the final, while those from third to tenth will compete in the semi-finals.

In those semi-finals, the first to three wins progresses to the final. There is a catch though. The athletes ranked third and fourth – who will be in separate semi-finals – carry two wins apiece through, needing just one more to make the final.

The athletes in fifth and sixth carry over one win, meaning that they need a further two wins. The remaining four athletes carry none, therefore needing to win three times to make the final.

The first to three wins in each semi-final joins the top two in the final.

In that final, the first overall seed will start with two wins under their belt, while the second seed has one. The two qualifiers from the semi-finals start from scratch, needing three wins to take the title.

From that point, it is again a case of the first to three wins taking the gold medal, with the competition stopping at that point and the remaining medals awarded based on number of victories and seeding.



How are the medals decided?

Olympic sailing changed dramatically in 2008 in Beijing with the introduction of the Medal Race. Prior to those Games, each race counted equally with the crew or sailor with the lowest combined score taking gold.

In 2008, though, a new element was added into the mix, providing extra uncertainty in the final stages of a regatta. The Medal Race format has remained in place across every boat class since Beijing, but how does it work?

The Medal Race in boat classes

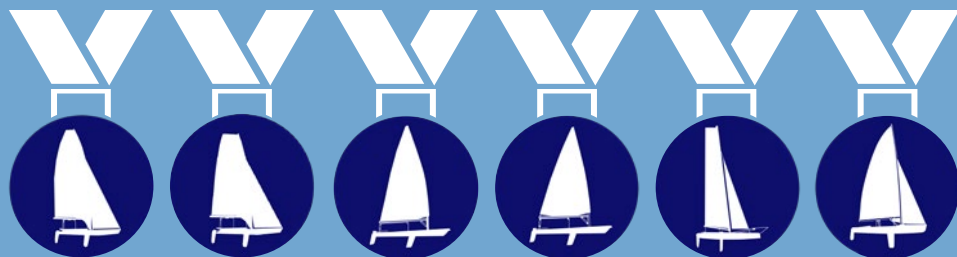
For six of the Olympic sailing classes, there is a settled format which consists of an Opening Series, followed by a Medal Race.

In the Opening Series, the sailors will compete across a succession of races, scoring points based on their finishing position, generally with one race which is discarded.

At the end of the Opening Series, the top ten boats qualify for the Medal Race. In this one-off race, points are doubled, with the winner scoring two points and the boat that finishes in last place scoring 20.

While it is possible for the gold medal to be secured ahead of the Medal Race, the double points on offer mean that there is usually jeopardy heading into that final race.

As a result, it provides all the drama as gold medals swap hands, podium positions disappear and calculators are kept at the ready.



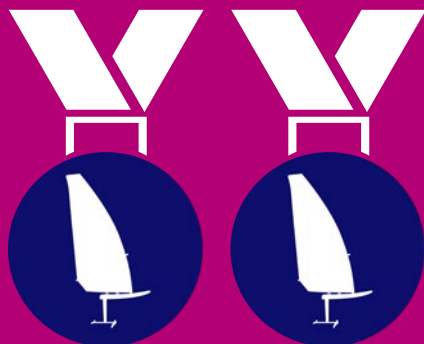
The Medal Series in iQFOiL Windsurfing

The Medal Series in iQFOiL windsurfing is a little different, although it also involves a top ten who qualify from the Opening Series.

From that point, it changes compared to the boat classes. Those boats ranked fourth to tenth qualify for the quarter-finals, with two progressing from that race into the semi-final.

In that semi-final, those two athletes will join the competitors who finished second and third in a four-strong race for two spots in the final.

In the final, everything starts again, with the podium decided based on finishing position in that race.



The Medal Series in Formula Kite

The newest class at the Olympics is the Formula Kite, perhaps the most spectacular of all the Olympic events. It is a different format again. In the Men's Kite and Women's Kite, the Opening Series also sees 10 competitors qualify for the Medal Series.

The top two go straight through to the final, while the remaining eight compete in the semi-finals – four in each.

Those seeded third and fourth after the Opening Series begin the semi-final with two wins to their names, with the fifth and sixth seeds carrying over one victory. The first person in each semi-final with three wins qualifies for the final.

This means a semi-final could be over in one race – should the top seed win and take their tally to three, or it could continue for an extended period if those without wins carried over dominate proceedings.

Once one kiteboarder has qualified from each semi-final, the final four are set. As with the semi-finals, there is an advantage to qualifying well. The top overall seed begins with two wins, the second seed with one, and the rest start from scratch.

Once again, the first to three wins is crowned champion, with the event brought to a close when the gold medal is secured.



Who has won the most medals in Olympic sailing?

Over more than 100 years of Olympic sailing, three sailors stand alone as members of the five-medal club.



Sir Ben Ainslie

Sir Ben Ainslie is the most decorated sailor of all and he is joined in winning five medals by Brazilian duo Robert Scheidt and Torben Grael.

Ainslie and Scheidt achieved the feat at five successive Games, between 1996 and 2012, their rivalry was up there with sailing's greatest. In 1996, it was Scheidt who triumphed as Ainslie took silver in the Laser, before the podium positions were reversed four years later in Sydney.



Robert Scheidt

They then went their separate ways, Scheidt taking Laser gold in Athens, where Ainslie moved across to the Finn class, winning three successive gold medals to take his tally to four.

Scheidt, meanwhile, switched to the Star class for his last two Olympic participations, winning silver in Beijing and bowing out with bronze in London.



Alessandra Sensini

The female sailor with the most medals is windsurfer Alessandra Sensini of Italy.

Sensini won Mistral gold in Sydney, with bronze medals in the same class either side of that victory, before she finished with a silver in the RS:X in Beijing.

While Sensini has won the most Olympic medals of any female sailor, the most decorated title belongs to Hannah Mills of Team GB.

Mills won her second Olympic gold medal in Tokyo, winning in the women's 470 class alongside Eilidh McIntyre, having won gold and silver in the class with Saskia Clark in Rio and London.

That tally of two golds and a silver could be matched or even topped by Brazilian pair Kahena Kunze and Martina Grael, the latter continuing the legacy of her father Torben.



The Olympic events

Mixed Dinghy 470



Men's Skiff 49er
Women's Skiff 49erFX



Men's Formula Kite
Women's Formula Kite



Men's Dinghy ILCA 7
Women's ILCA 6



Men's Windsurfing iQFOIL
Women's Windsurfing iQFOIL



Mixed Multihull Nacra 17



Mixed Dinghy - 470

470 sailing will return to the Olympic Games at Paris 2024 but not as we know it. The ultimate test of teamwork and aerobic fitness, the 470 is no stranger to the biggest stage in sport but has undergone a refresh ahead of this summer's Games.



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Mixed Dinghy 470



Men's Skiff 49er Women's Skiff 49erFX



Men's Formula Kite Women's Formula Kite



Men's Dinghy ILCA 7 Women's ILCA 6



Men's Windsurfing iQFOIL Women's Windsurfing iQFOIL



Mixed Multihull Nacra 17



What is a 470?

The 470 is a dinghy designed to be raced by two people. Dinghy racing has been part of the Olympics since 1920 but the 470 came onto the scene at Montreal 1976. It was an open class at that point, with separate events for men and women introduced at Seoul 1988. As of Paris 2024, 470 crews will be made up of one man and one woman.

How does a 470 work?

The 470 has a spinnaker and a trapeze, meaning communication and collaboration are crucial to fast racing. The differences in speeds between the top boats are often small, making tactical nous all-important for success. A popular class, most sailors start in a more stable and less demanding dinghy before moving on to the 470.

Who are the top contenders in the Mixed Dinghy?

Jordi Xammar and Nora Brugman of Spain have been very successful in the Paris Olympiad. They won World Championship gold in February and European Championship gold in May, as well as rarely being off the podium at major regattas in recent times.

Japan's Keiju Okada and Miho Yoshioka are another consistent pairing and they took the gold medal at the 2023 Allianz Sailing World Championship.

The host nation France have high hopes, too, with two-time Olympic medallist Camille Lecointre combining with Jeremie Mion to win the Paris 2024 Test Event in Marseille.

Mixed Dinghy 470



Men's Skiff 49er
Women's Skiff 49erFX



Men's Formula Kite
Women's Formula Kite



Men's Dinghy ILCA 7
Women's ILCA 6



Men's Windsurfing iQFOIL
Women's Windsurfing iQFOIL



Mixed Multihull Nacra 17



Men's Skiff and Women's Skiff - 49er and 49erFX

The skiff brings fast and furious racing to the Olympic Games. You won't be able to miss the skiffs, emblazoned with each country's flag, as they roar around Marseille Bay with drama and unpredictability inevitably in their wake.



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Mixed Dinghy 470



Men's Skiff 49er
Women's Skiff 49erFX



Men's Formula Kite
Women's Formula Kite



Men's Dinghy ILCA 7
Women's ILCA 6



Men's Windsurfing iQFOIL
Women's Windsurfing iQFOIL



Mixed Multihull Nacra 17



What is a 49er or a 49er FX?

The 49er and 49er FX are skiffs. Skiffs are the high-performance end of sailing - fast, light and tough. They are called 49er and 49er FX because the hull of the boat measures 4.99 metres. At Paris 2024, the 49er will be raced by two men and was introduced to the Olympic programme for Sydney 2000. Its sister design, the 49erFX, will be raced by two women and was brought in at Rio 2016.

How do the 49er and 49er FX work?

In 49er and 49er FX crews, one sailor plays the role of helm and the other plays the role of crew. The helm makes tactical decisions and steers the boat, while the crew undertakes more of the physical work and controls the sails.

Who are the top 49er athletes?

Bart Lambriex and Floris van de Werken have emerged as the outstanding crew in the class. They enjoyed a superb 2023, winning the Paris 2024 Test Event in Marseille and the 2023 Allianz Sailing World Championships, their third successive world title.

At the World Championships in March, Erwan Fischer and Clément Pequin won France's first ever global title in the class. May's European Championships saw Hernán Umpierre and Fernando Diz of Uruguay finish first and GB's James Peters and Fynn Sterritt claim the title of top European nation.

Who are the top athletes in 49er FX?

In the 49er FX, the Paris Olympiad has been a tussle for dominance between Dutch duo of Odile van Aanholt and Annette Duetz and Swedish pair Vilma Bobeck and Rebecca Netzler. Van Aanholt and Duetz were crowned world champions in comprehensive style in 2022, with Bobeck and Netzler taking silver. The Swedes were dominant at the 2023 Allianz Sailing World Championships, before the Dutch regained the world title in a tighter contest in Lanzarote earlier this year.

Brazil's Martine Graef and Kahena Kunze, who have won both Olympic gold medals in this class, are still competing and finished second at the Paris 2024 Test Event in Marseille.

Mixed Dinghy 470



Men's Skiff 49er
Women's Skiff 49erFX



Men's Formula Kite
Women's Formula Kite



Men's Dinghy ILCA 7
Women's ILCA 6



Men's Windsurfing iQFOIL
Women's Windsurfing iQFOIL



Mixed Multihull Nacra 17



Men's and Women's Kite - Formula Kite

Formula Kite will make its Olympic debut this summer, as the men's kite and women's kite events, and could very quickly become one of the star attractions of the whole Games. As the fastest sport at Paris 2024, kite foiling is as spectacular as it is unpredictable.



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Mixed Dinghy 470



Men's Skiff 49er
Women's Skiff 49erFX



Men's Formula Kite
Women's Formula Kite



Men's Dinghy ILCA 7
Women's ILCA 6



Men's Windsurfing iQFOIL
Women's Windsurfing iQFOIL



Mixed Multihull Nacra 17



What is Formula Kite?

The equipment is very straightforward. All that you need to compete is a kite, a board and a foil. Athletes compete on a board which is about a metre long, attached to a foil which they use to stabilise themselves in the water.

They are then attached to a kite, using a harness, while also having a hand bar to control the kite. In the water, they can reach speeds of 45 knots while travelling downwind, with races taking approximately 12 minutes.

How does Formula Kite work?

The competition has a slightly different format to some of the traditional sailing classes. Initially, riders compete in an Opening Series, with the objective to earn as high a ranking as possible. The top two at the end of the Opening Series qualify automatically for the Grand Final, while those ranked third to tenth go into the semi-finals.

One rider qualifies from each semi-final, to make up a final four in the Grand Final, where the top seed starts with two race wins, and the second seed has one.

The goal is to secure three race wins, with competition ending as soon as someone achieves this. That means that the Grand Final can last from one race to as many as six.

As soon as the gold medal has been secured, racing finishes, with the remaining medals decided by number of race wins, and ties split by finishing position in the Opening Series.

Who are the top athletes in Formula Kite?

On the men's side, 17-year-old Max Maeder, from Singapore, is establishing himself as the class of the field. A back-to-back world champion, Maeder has taken on the mantle from Toni Vodisek, of Slovenia, while Frenchman Axel Mazella won the Paris 2024 Test Event in Marseille.

French supporters will be hoping for a gold medal in the Women's Formula Kite class, where Lauriane Nilot has matched Maeder in winning successive world titles, while she also won the Test Event.

Prior to Nilot's emergence, American Daniela Moroz was the person to beat, winning six world titles, despite still being only 23.

Mixed Dinghy 470



Men's Skiff 49er
Women's Skiff 49erFX



Men's Formula Kite
Women's Formula Kite



Men's Dinghy ILCA 7
Women's ILCA 6



Men's Windsurfing iQFOIL
Women's Windsurfing iQFOIL



Mixed Multihull Nacra 17



Men's and Women's Dinghy - ILCA 7 and ILCA 6

One of the most popular boats in the world, the ILCA has been part of the Olympic Games in different guises since 1996. Let's take a look at what awaits in the ILCA competitions at Paris 2024.



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Mixed Dinghy 470



Men's Skiff 49er
Women's Skiff 49erFX



Men's Formula Kite
Women's Formula Kite



Men's Dinghy ILCA 7
Women's ILCA 6



Men's Windsurfing iQFOIL
Women's Windsurfing iQFOIL



Mixed Multihull Nacra 17



What is an ILCA?

Dinghies have been raced at the Olympics since all the way back in 1920. ILCA stands for International Laser Class Association and refers to the Laser dinghy. With over 200,000 Laser boats scattered across 140 countries, it is one of the most widely used boats in the world and is sailed at club, national and international level. It is a small dinghy sailed by one person, across the ILCA 6 (formerly known as Laser Radial) class for women and ILCA 7 (formerly known as Laser) for men.

How does an ILCA work?

The ILCA is a boat that rewards athleticism and subtle steering, as well as tactical excellence.

Who are the top athletes in the Men's Dinghy and Women's Dinghy?

In the ILCA 7 men's dinghy, reigning Olympic champion Matthew Wearn of Australia has won the last two World Championship gold medals, as well as the Paris 2024 Test Event.

In the ILCA 6 women's dinghy, reigning Olympic champion Anne-Marie Rindom recaptured the title of world champion in Argentina in January, after Hungary's Maria Erdi took gold at the 2023 Allianz Sailing World Championships.

Mixed Dinghy 470



Men's Skiff 49er
Women's Skiff 49erFX



Men's Formula Kite
Women's Formula Kite



Men's Dinghy ILCA 7
Women's ILCA 6



Men's Windsurfing iQFOiL
Women's Windsurfing iQFOiL



Mixed Multihull Nacra 17



Men's and Women's Windsurfing - iQFOiL

The new iQFOiL equipment will make its debut at Paris 2024, bringing with it higher speeds and an innovative finals format. Here's a guide for what to expect from the iQFOiL windsurfing at Marseille Marina.



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Mixed Dinghy 470



Men's Skiff 49er
Women's Skiff 49erFX



Men's Formula Kite
Women's Formula Kite



Men's Dinghy ILCA 7
Women's ILCA 6



Men's Windsurfing iQFOiL
Women's Windsurfing iQFOiL



Mixed Multihull Nacra 17



What is an iQFOiL?

A combination of sailing and surfing, windsurfing has been part of the Olympics since 1984 for men and 1992 for women. Different equipment has been used over the years, including Windglider, Lechner, Mistral and RS:X.

iQFOiL is replacing RS:X as the Olympic windsurfing equipment for Paris 2024.

How does an iQFOiL work?

Instead of floating, the iQFOiL appears to fly due to the use of similar physics to an aeroplane. The RS:X daggerboard is replaced by hydrofoils attached to the bottom of the board that lift it out of the water.

The iQFOiL is a lot quicker than the RS:X, reaching starting speeds of 25km/h compared to the previous 5km/h. The board is also wider and shorter.

Who are the top athletes in iQFOiL windsurfing?

At February's World Championships in Lanzarote, Italy's Nicolo Renna won gold in the men's event and Sharon Kantor of Israel claimed victory in the women's event.

This came after Luuc van Opzeeland (Netherlands) and Shahar Tibi (Israel) won the titles at the 2023 Allianz Sailing World Championships.

Mixed Dinghy 470



Men's Skiff 49er
Women's Skiff 49erFX



Men's Formula Kite
Women's Formula Kite



Men's Dinghy ILCA 7
Women's ILCA 6



Men's Windsurfing iQFOIL
Women's Windsurfing iQFOIL



Mixed Multihull Nacra 17



Mixed Multihull Nacra 17

Nacra 17 takes sailing at the Olympic stage to the next level. The pioneering boat class will continue to thrill the sport at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games in the mixed multi-hull event.



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Mixed Dinghy 470



Men's Skiff 49er
Women's Skiff 49erFX



Men's Formula Kite
Women's Formula Kite



Men's Dinghy ILCA 7
Women's ILCA 6



Men's Windsurfing iQFOIL
Women's Windsurfing iQFOIL



Mixed Multihull Nacra 17



What is a Nacra 17?

A Nacra is a catamaran, which is a boat that has two parallel hulls of equal size. It is called Nacra 17 because it is around 17 feet long. Nacra 17 became the first-ever mixed gender sailing discipline at the Olympics with its inclusion at Rio 2016. It is crewed by one man and one woman.

How does Nacra 17 work?

With its base lying in the performance of America's Cup boats, Nacra 17 made its Olympic debut at Rio 2016. At that point, it was fitted with curved daggerboards but for Tokyo 2020 and beyond, it was fitted with hydrofoils to make it a fully foiling racing machine. The foils make the Nacra 17 soar above the water and ensure it will be one of the most eye-catching boat classes at the Paris 2024 regatta.

Who are the top athletes in Nacra 17 sailing?

Training partners, friends off the water and rivals on it, Italy's Ruggero Tita and Caterina Banti and John Gimson and Anna Burnet of Great Britain have gone hammer and tongs in the Paris Olympiad.

After winning gold and silver respectively at Tokyo 2020, they shared the top two steps of the rostrum at the 2023 and 2024 World Championships, with Tita and Banti taking gold on both occasions.

Gimson and Burnet won gold at the 2021 World Championships, and the Team GB pairing also won out at November's European Championships, meaning another close battle surely awaits in Marseille.

Content from the sailing events at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games

World Sailing will be producing a significant amount of content from the Paris 2024 Olympics.

To receive our media releases, please contact **communications@sailing.org**

Reporting on all competitions will be published on our dedicated **[Paris 2024 website](#)**.

To access rights-free images for editorial use, please sign up via the **[World Sailing Photoshelter](#)**.

Please follow our social media channels for more content.



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