

International iQFOiL Class Association Executive Committee Meeting

MINUTES

Date and time: 17th of October 2024 – 17h00 CET

Place: Online via the Zoom conferencing system

In attendance:

List of Attendees

- Gonzalo Costa Hoevel – iQFOiL Class Manager
- Valérie Boutet Massonneau – iQFOiL Class Executive Secretary
- Ronnie Meir – iQFOiL Class President
- Ewa Jodlowska (POL)
- Adrien Gaillard (MEX)
- Piotr Myszka (POL)
- Lorand Utassy (HUN)
- Nicolas Goyard (FRA)
- Barrie Edgington (GBR)

List of Absentees

- Peina Chen (CHN)
- Mariana Aguilard (MEX)

REFLECTIONS ON THE MEDAL RACES FORMAT FOR THE LA 2028 OLYMPIC GAMES

Analysis of the Survey on Medal Race Series Format

The ExCom reviewed the survey distributed to athletes, coaches, delegation representatives, and iQFOiL enthusiasts.

Key points:

- The results are polarized, with those against the current Medal Race Series format strongly opposed and those in favor citing its simplicity as beneficial for media recognition.
- No clear consensus on the best format emerged from the survey.
- A recurring theme was the need for uniformity in the format across all Olympic Class events to enhance media appeal for the general public.

A comprehensive and detailed analysis of this survey can be found at the conclusion of these minutes.

Report on Meeting with Kite Class (10 October 2024)

This meeting was convened in response to a direct request from World Sailing, outlined in an email dated October 6, 2024. The World Sailing LA 2028 Olympic Games Format Working Party asked the two Classes to consider the following elements:

The proposal must align with World Sailing's Olympic vision and adhere to the following principles:

- The final phase should be a mini-series.
- There should be four or five boards in the final.
- The format should be straightforward to understand from a non-sailing perspective and easy to present.
- The winner of the last race will be crowned Olympic Champion.
- For efficient race management and clear presentation, the final phase should be organized into well-defined, manageable time segments.

Participants from the Kite Class included Mirco Babini (President) and Markus Schwendtner (Class Manager), and from the iQFOiL Class, Gonzalo Costa Hoevel, Valérie Boutet Massonneau, Ewa Jodlowska, and Barrie

Edgington.

Agreements

- Medal Races Series to consist of 8 athletes (reduced from 10, a point on which WS also agrees).
- A Grand Final limited to 4 athletes (versus the 5 suggested by World Sailing).
- A 'hybrid' system will be implemented, incorporating quarter-finals and/or semi-finals comparable to what is currently used in iQFOiL, while the Grand Final will follow the Kite Class's 'Wins System,' with the number of win-leads yet to be finalized.

Points under consideration

- The 3-win system is effective for determining the champion but poses challenges for defining 2nd, 3rd, and 4th places as was witnessed during the Grand Final of the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. Therefore, the iQFOiL Class suggests the final victory race also determines the complete podium ranking. This format was tested in October at the European Junior Olympic Kitesurfing Championships in Sardinia.

Semi-final and final Structure

Two options were discussed:

- Option 1:

The top two Opening Series finishers advance directly to the Grand Final, with two additional athletes qualifying via the semi-final.

- Option 2:

The top three Opening Series finishers qualify directly for the Grand Final, with one athlete joining via the semi-final. This format is seen as more aggressive, leading to intense competition in the semi-final and potentially more over-early starts.

Lead in the Grand Final

The final topic discussed was the advantage given to athletes entering the Grand Final, as this will affect the duration of the Medal Races Series. This is a crucial consideration given the limited wind window available at Long Beach, Los Angeles.

Two options were discussed:

- Option 1:

The Opening Series overall leader starts the Grand Final with a 2-win lead, the second-ranked athlete with a 1-win lead, and the third and fourth with no lead. This setup requires between 1 and 6 races, plus 1 quarter-final race.

- Option 2:

Alternatively, the Opening Series overall leader enters the Grand Final with a 1-win lead, while the remaining athletes (2nd to 4th) start with no lead. This format results in 1 to 4 races, plus 1 quarter-final race. In terms of race management and duration, it is comparable to the logistics of the current iQFOiL format.

Both formats will be tested at the iQFOiL International Games in Lanzarote (confirmed for the end of January 2025), in Cádiz (pending confirmation), and at the Youth & Junior iQFOiL event in Torbole in May. The goal is to present a finalized format for the 2025 World Championships in Aarhus, scheduled for July.

Other Race Formats Discussed

The committee also reviewed the potential of testing the U Course more regularly at upcoming iQFOiL events in Lanzarote and Cádiz (pending event confirmation).

DISTRIBUTION OF 7.3M² SAILS TO MNAS

A questionnaire was sent to all MNAs in the iQFOiL and iQFOiL Youth & Junior Class. The aim was to gauge 2025 production needs for the 7.3m² and 8.0m² sails and establish a fair distribution plan.

Key points:



International iQFOiL Class Association
E-Mail: info@iqfoilclass.org Web: www.iqfoilclass.org
c/o Fischer Ramp Buchmann AG
Brandschenkestrasse 6
8001 Zürich, SWITZERLAND

- The first batch of sails will be distributed fairly, and World Sailing will monitor the process to ensure fairness.
- Air shipping was not offered in the questionnaire; instead, sails could be delivered to iQFOiL events (e.g., Lanzarote) or training locations to simplify logistics.
- Production is scheduled to begin in October 2024, with deliveries expected before the end of the 2024 year.

NEXT STEPS

- Finalize the Medal Race Series format, ensuring it is easy for the general public to understand while maintaining respect for the results of the Opening Series.
- Continue discussions with the Kite Class regarding the Medal Races Series and podium rankings.
- Monitor the production and distribution of 7.3m² & 8.0m² sails to ensure a timely and fair process for all MNAs
- Ronnie Meir (iQFOiL Class President), Gonzalo Costa Hoevel (Class Manager), and Ewa Jodlowska (Class ExCom Member) will attend the World Sailing Annual Conference in Singapore early November to participate in discussions on these key issues.

The Executive Committee Meeting ended at 18h41

Survey OLYMPIC Sailing Finals Format Results and analysis



This document is meant to give a feedback on the results of the survey that was sent mid-september 2024. It consists of an explanation phase on how to read the data and then the data itself with comments.

As a reminder :

“This survey aims to assess perceptions of various potential MEDAL RACE/FINALS formats for LA2028. World Sailing intends to minimize disparities across different sailing classes, ideally adopting no more than two formats overall. The current proposal (pending confirmation) suggests using one format for the Kites and iQFOiL, and a different one for the other classes, likely distinct from the traditional medal race.

We want to capture the opinions of sailors and amplify their voices through this survey. Coaches and iQFOiL fans are also encouraged to participate.”

How to read the data ?

As a reminder again, this was the introduction of the rating part of the survey :

“A serie of alternatives to the current format has been proposed to World Sailing
Here are the three alternatives that the iQFOiL EX COM is considering:

- Hybrid Format with eight finalists
- Three Races Final Format
- Current iQFOiL Knockout Format

This survey will use a rating system to gather qualitative feedback and gain deeper insights into the needs of the sport. Please avoid giving extreme ratings solely to favor your preferred format. We encourage realistic and pragmatic responses. If any feedback appears biased (e.g., ratings like 1/1/10), it will be disregarded.

You will be asked to rate each format based on several criteria:

- VALUE : How much value does this format add or detract from the sport? What significance does winning with this format have in your view?
- ENJOYMENT : How much would you enjoy the spectacle of this format?
- LOGISTICS : Considerations like the length of the wind window, broadcasting, etc.
- OVERALL. This doesn't have to be an average of the other ratings but rather a reflection of what you value most personally.

For the following questions, please provide a rating from 1 (very poor) to 10 (excellent) for each aspect. ”

How to read the data ?

The **category** of people voting

This 14 means that 14 people have rated « 1 » the « VALUE » of the « MIXED FORMAT » ; 12 people rated « 2 » ; 15 people rated « 3 » ; etc

Overall	Rating	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Brut Average	Pourcentage bellow "3"	Pourcentage over 7
MIXED Format	VALUE	14	12	15	19	36	21	45	49	29	34	6,5	15%	57%
	ENJOYMENT	7	14	15	24	25	31	33	50	39	36	6,7	13%	58%
	LOGISTICS	13	16	23	32	38	38	48	41	7	18	5,7	19%	42%
	OVERALL	7	11	23	23	28	27	36	50	43	26	6,5	15%	57%
3 Races Format	VALUE	13	11	12	18	33	26	36	52	25	48	6,7	13%	59%
	ENJOYMENT	13	19	12	11	31	38	38	38	33	41	6,5	16%	55%
	LOGISTICS	12	7	12	19	36	31	32	59	32	34	6,7	11%	57%
	OVERALL	13	14	14	17	24	26	39	48	38	41	6,7	15%	61%
CURRENT IQFoil Format	VALUE	45	27	26	25	44	20	23	35	11	18	4,9	36%	32%
	ENJOYMENT	25	15	13	7	23	18	34	37	47	55	6,8	19%	63%
	LOGISTICS	18	10	16	12	27	33	47	59	26	26	6,4	16%	58%
	OVERALL	40	15	36	11	37	28	35	41	17	14	5,3	33%	39%
											Total	274,0		

The color shows « hot spots and blue spots » :

- Blue indicates less people voted in that cell
- Red indicates more people voted in that cell

Total number of people in this **category**

Results Overall and interpretation

Overall	Rating	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Brut Average	Pourcentage bellow "3"	Pourcentage over 7
MIXED Format	VALUE	14	12	15	19	36	21	45	49	29	34	6,5	15%	57%
	ENJOYMENT	7	14	15	24	25	31	33	50	39	36	6,7	13%	58%
	LOGISTICS	13	16	23	32	38	38	48	41	7	18	5,7	19%	42%
	OVERALL	7	11	23	23	28	27	36	50	43	26	6,5	15%	57%
3 Races Format	VALUE	13	11	12	18	33	26	36	52	25	48	6,7	13%	59%
	ENJOYMENT	13	19	12	11	31	38	38	38	33	41	6,5	16%	55%
	LOGISTICS	12	7	12	19	36	31	32	59	32	34	6,7	11%	57%
	OVERALL	13	14	14	17	24	26	39	48	38	41	6,7	15%	61%
CURRENT IQFoil Format	VALUE	45	27	26	25	44	20	23	35	11	18	4,9	36%	32%
	ENJOYMENT	25	15	13	7	23	18	34	37	47	55	6,8	19%	63%
	LOGISTICS	18	10	16	12	27	33	47	59	26	26	6,4	16%	58%
	OVERALL	40	15	36	11	37	28	35	41	17	14	5,3	33%	39%
												Total	274,0	

The rating difference is not massive between the different formats however a few things are popping out :

- MIXED Format and 3 races Format for a better rating than the Current IQFoil Format.
- « Logistics » of the MIXED Format is not as good as the 2 others
- A big proportion of people have rated 3 or less the « Value » of the Current IQFoil Format, same comment for the « Overall ».

Results Senior Athletes and interpretation

Senior Athletes	Rating	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Brut Average	Pourcentage bellow "3"	Pourcentage over 7
MIXED Format	VALUE	6	8	4	8	12	8	15	17	14	12	6,4	17%	56%
	ENJOYMENT	3	8	8	6	11	8	10	18	16	16	6,6	18%	58%
	LOGISTICS	7	6	7	14	13	17	24	11	1	4	5,5	19%	38%
	OVERALL	4	5	8	13	8	12	9	15	22	8	6,4	16%	52%
3 Races Format	VALUE	5	5	4	7	12	14	17	16	13	11	6,5	13%	55%
	ENJOYMENT	8	6	6	4	11	19	14	12	13	11	6,2	19%	48%
	LOGISTICS	5	2	7	8	8	15	13	21	14	11	6,6	13%	57%
	OVERALL	7	7	4	7	8	14	22	14	12	9	6,2	17%	55%
CURRENT IQFoil Format	VALUE	18	15	8	9	16	6	5	17	3	7	4,7	39%	31%
	ENJOYMENT	9	4	7	2	9	9	16	15	16	17	6,6	19%	62%
	LOGISTICS	6	5	6	8	7	19	19	18	9	7	6,2	16%	51%
	OVERALL	16	5	19	3	13	12	15	11	4	6	5,0	38%	35%
											Total	104,0		

We witness the same tendency as for the « Overall », just slightly accentuated.

Results Junior Athletes and interpretation

Junior Athletes	Rating	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Brut Average	Pourcentage bellow "3"	Pourcentage over 7
MIXED Format	VALUE	6	2	5	5	6	4	15	10	8	3	6,0	20%	56%
	ENJOYMENT	3	3	3	9	2	5	12	11	9	7	6,5	14%	61%
	LOGISTICS	4	4	5	6	8	11	6	12	2	6	5,8	20%	41%
	OVERALL	2	1	8	2	7	5	9	16	11	3	6,6	17%	61%
3 Races Format	VALUE	4	3	4	3	12	2	7	12	6	11	6,5	17%	56%
	ENJOYMENT	1	6	1	4	11	6	10	9	10	6	6,5	13%	55%
	LOGISTICS	3	1	3	3	10	9	6	11	10	8	6,7	11%	55%
	OVERALL	3	3	5	5	7	2	7	13	12	7	6,6	17%	61%
CURRENT IQFoil Format	VALUE	5	2	3	8	14	5	14	5	2	6	5,7	16%	42%
	ENJOYMENT	3	0	2	0	4	4	8	12	15	16	7,8	8%	80%
	LOGISTICS	1	1	0	1	9	7	19	13	6	7	7,1	3%	70%
	OVERALL	4	1	2	4	12	11	9	12	6	3	6,2	11%	47%
											Total	64,0		

For Junior Athletes, there is no clear tendency on the « Overall » rating. However :

- The « Value » of the IQFoil Format is a bit lower
- The « Enjoyment » of the IQFoil Format is high, as well as the « Logistics ».
- Compared to the rest of the population of the survey, the Junior Athletes are those who dislike the less the current IQFoil format (only 11%). It shows that the Junior athletes have adapted to the current IQFOIL format more than the rest of the population.

Results Athletes with MR Experience and interpretation

Experience in IQFoil MR	Rating	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Brut Average	Pourcentage bellow "3"	Pourcentage over 7
MIXED Format	VALUE	7	5	5	9	15	7	22	16	11	13	6,3	15%	56%
	ENJOYMENT	5	6	8	10	10	14	18	16	12	11	6,2	17%	52%
	LOGISTICS	9	4	10	17	11	18	19	16	1	5	5,4	21%	37%
	OVERALL	4	4	9	12	10	15	14	18	17	7	6,3	15%	51%
3 Races Format	VALUE	6	3	6	11	16	9	16	18	7	18	6,4	14%	54%
	ENJOYMENT	8	5	6	7	16	15	16	15	7	15	6,2	17%	48%
	LOGISTICS	5	3	4	9	17	17	14	12	14	15	6,5	11%	50%
	OVERALL	6	8	7	7	13	12	17	19	6	15	6,2	19%	52%
CURRENT IQFoil Format	VALUE	16	15	6	7	18	7	8	17	5	11	5,2	34%	37%
	ENJOYMENT	8	2	5	1	9	6	14	17	23	25	7,3	14%	72%
	LOGISTICS	6	4	6	3	12	15	26	21	8	9	6,4	15%	58%
	OVERALL	13	4	16	5	9	15	18	15	8	7	5,6	30%	44%
											Total	110,0		

The population of this survey is a mix of Junior Athletes and Senior Athletes who have experience in the current IQFoil MR. Therefore, without a surprise, the result is an intermediate of the 2 previous ones.

Results IQFoil Coaches and interpretation

IQFoil Coaches	Rating	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Brut Average	Pourcentage bellow "3"	Pourcentage over 7
MIXED Format	VALUE	2	0	1	2	10	3	8	10	3	7	6,8	7%	61%
	ENJOYMENT	1	0	1	6	5	9	7	7	8	2	6,6	4%	52%
	LOGISTICS	2	1	8	7	6	3	6	9	2	2	5,6	24%	41%
	OVERALL	1	2	3	3	5	5	9	8	5	5	6,6	13%	59%
3 Races Format	VALUE	3	1	1	4	3	3	8	9	3	11	7,0	11%	67%
	ENJOYMENT	2	1	2	3	5	6	9	6	4	8	6,7	11%	59%
	LOGISTICS	2	2	1	5	9	3	3	12	3	6	6,4	11%	52%
	OVERALL	2	1	2	2	4	5	3	13	3	11	7,2	11%	65%
CURRENT IQFoil Format	VALUE	6	1	7	4	6	4	4	6	4	4	5,5	30%	39%
	ENJOYMENT	2	2	1	1	6	1	5	4	9	15	7,5	11%	72%
	LOGISTICS	2	1	5	1	3	2	4	17	5	6	6,9	17%	70%
	OVERALL	3	3	8	1	6	2	7	8	4	4	5,8	30%	50%
											Total	46,0		

- High rating for the 3 Races Format
- The « Value » of the Current IQFoil Format really seems to be the issue

Results Officials, Spectators, Supporters and interpretation

Officials, Spectators, Supporters	Rating	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Brut Average	Pourcentage bellow "3"	Pourcentage over 7
MIXED Format	VALUE	0	2	5	4	8	6	7	12	4	12	6,9	12%	58%
	ENJOYMENT	0	1	3	2	3	6	4	8	2	6	6,9	11%	57%
	LOGISTICS	0	5	3	5	11	7	12	9	2	6	6,2	13%	48%
	OVERALL	0	3	4	5	8	5	9	11	5	10	6,7	12%	58%
3 Races Format	VALUE	1	2	3	4	6	7	4	15	3	15	7,1	10%	62%
	ENJOYMENT	2	6	3	0	4	7	5	11	6	16	7,0	18%	63%
	LOGISTICS	2	2	1	3	9	4	10	15	5	9	6,9	8%	65%
	OVERALL	1	3	3	3	5	5	7	8	11	14	7,3	12%	67%
CURRENT IQFoil Format	VALUE	16	9	8	4	8	5	0	7	2	1	3,8	55%	17%
	ENJOYMENT	11	9	3	4	4	4	5	6	7	7	5,2	38%	42%
	LOGISTICS	9	3	5	2	8	5	5	11	6	6	5,8	28%	47%
	OVERALL	17	6	7	3	6	3	4	10	3	1	4,3	50%	30%
											Total	60,0		

Surprisingly, that's the population with the strongest opinions :

- They basically hate the Current IQFoil Format (whereas the audience was one of the main reason for the change towards this format).
- The 2 other formats are pretty close in terms of rating.

A few things to consider : people aware of the existence of this survey are the ones actively following the class, therefore the spectators, supporters who have voted are statistically maybe more impacted by the downsides of the Current Format (ea : Emma Wilson at the Games). On the other hand, are we really reaching more people than before with the new MR Format ? We don't necessarily have the data to answer those questions, so we just need to be aware of the limitations of this survey.