

2023 International iQFOiL Games Lanzarote Coaches Meeting

MINUTES

Date and time: 25th of January – 17h30 CET
Place: Lanzarote Marina Rubicon Captinainerie

In attendance:

Executive Committee

Ronnie Meir (ISR) – President
Ewa Jodlowska (POL) - Barrie Eddington (GBR)
Class' Manager Gonzalo Costa Hoevel
Class' Executive Secretary Valérie Boutet-Massonneau

Coaches

Janis Preiss (LAT) - Sebastian Kornum (DEN) – King Yin Chan (HKG) – Sahar Zubari (ISR) – Borja Carracedo Serra (FIN) – Jaime Andres (AUT) – Diederik Bakker (CZE) – Cheng Kwok Fai (HKG) – Marcos Fernandez Iglesias (ESP) – Aaron McIntosh (NED) – Matthew Rickard (EST) – Ali Masters (GRE/CYP) – Sam Ross (GBR) – Rob York (GBR) – Imogen Sills (GBR) - Moberg Peer (NOR) – Sam Vandormael (ARU) – Matthieu Koops (NED) – Dom Tidey (GER) – Daniel Slijk (GER) – Stav Beimel (ISR) – Adriano Stella (ITA) – Riccardo Chicco Belli (ITA) – Maciej Kluszczynska (NED) – Karolina Kluszczynska – Max Wojcik (POL) – Pierre Loquet (FRA) – Nicolas Huguet (FRA) – Julien Bontemps (FRA).

Welcome by the President of the Class

Ronnie Meir thanked the coaches for attending the meeting and introduced the agenda.

Evolution of iQFOiL equipment prices

When iQFOiL equipment was chosen for the next Olympic Games, the manufacturer undertook not to increase prices for the first three years.

This commitment has now come to an end and prices have been increased at the beginning of 2023. However, **Ronnie Meir** (ISR) – President, emphasises that the manufacturer's margin has not been increased and that the new prices take into account the increase in raw materials and transport costs due to Covid.

Equipment authorised to compete in the Paris Olympic Games

Gonzalo Costa Hoevel – Class' Manager, summarises the World Sailing meeting he attended with Jaime Navarro (WS Director of Technical & Offshore) on 18 and 19 January in London:

Three options are now on the table

1. All equipment supplied (to define the number of days prior to the Games)
2. Bring your own equipment to sail at the Games > from a certain serial number onwards

3. Part of the equipment supplied and the most performance items to be “bring your own”.

To be noted as well that the branding of the theme of the Games on the equipment (sails), can be printed at factory or by the use of stickers at the venue.

This as well influences when the sails can be given to the sailors.

This meeting should be used to determine which option makes the most sense for the Class.
The Class must give its response to World Sailing no later than March or April 2023.

From these three options, other questions arise:

If the equipment is supplied,

1. The manufacturer proposes to provide 3 sets per selected sailor, so that they can test several combinations if necessary.
2. How many days before the start of the event should the riders be given this equipment? Does the 10/15 days before the start, when the venue opens, enough? Or it should be given 1-2 months before.

Should the foils be given earlier and the rest of the equipment at a second stage?

Nicolas Huguet (FRA) proposes to find out how the 49ers work, as they are in a similar situation.

If the equipment is supplied, the coaches agree that the factory should make a "Gold Standard" series. This "Gold Standard" means a limited series of about 300 to 500 pieces for which the tolerance will be lowered and for which it will be ensured that the parts are very close in construction.

For **Ronnie Meir** it is possible for the manufacturer to implement this Gold Standard.

Indeed, since September Starboard has hired Dan Arnon, whose role is to ensure quality control at the factory.

Moreover, the factory will be equipped with a scanner which should make it possible to put aside the parts which are not in conformity.

Several coaches point out that their main fear is failure of equipment without redress.

Gonzalo Costa Hoevel asks how many hours they will need to put on each equipment item to determine if it will break or not? To determine what is a minimum time that they need to feel comfortable that it won't break.

Regarding the manufacturer's proposal to provide 3 sets free of charge per rider, it was also proposed that countries wishing to purchase more sets may do so. Still with the idea of a Gold Standard series

If it's a “Bring Your Own’ option,

From which serial number onwards? in regards foils?

Gonzalo Costa Hoevel's mentions that when at WS and discussing just on the foils, it was discussed that foils before Brest should not be considered. That we should count from the World Championships in Brest because this event corresponds to the moment when the factory reinforced the quality control. However, it stresses that the Class is free to choose what it considers most appropriate.

Again, a majority of coaches suggest that this material should be selected from a Gold Standard production.

If it's a “mixed” option,

Which parts of the equipment must be provided and which parts the sailors will be allowed to bring?

Supplied: several opinions:

The performance items should not be supplied? Sails, masts, foils?

The one that will be branded with the colours of the games supplied (Boards + Sails)?

Some coaches were in the opinion of only Board + Boom to be supplied.

All equipment supplied but at two stages?

All equipment supplied in Marseille right after the last qualifier hosted in Hyeres during the SOF? What about countries that are far away?

Foils in advance and all the rest 15 days prior to the start?

Equipment brought by the sailors:

From a certain serial number onwards > Sail + Sail Mast + Foil

One of the arguments being that it is very time consuming to test provided equipment, very shortly before the games.

Gold Standard Serie

From when can the sailors will be able to buy this Gold Standard Equipment?

AFTER THE LAST QUALIFIER = SOF – Hyères – France – April 2024. Too late?

All the qualified countries should have the same amount of time to test the gear and the last chance qualifier will be in Hyeres - April.

It is proposed that this decision be submitted to the MNAs and that based on their opinion we reduce to two choices from these three options:

1. All equipment supplied within a Gold Standard series: (Three sets)

> all three sets 15 days before the Event, **or**

> Available right after Hyeres last chance qualifier **or**

> foils right after Hyeres and rest of the equipment 15 days before.

2. Bring your own: from a certain serial number onwards.

3. Part of the equipment supplied:

Supplied: Gold Standard > Boards + Boom

Brought by sailors: From a certain serial number onwards > Gold Standard > Sail + Sail Mast + Foil

Remember to add the number of pieces we want: Set + Spare Equipment

European Open Championships – Patras – Greece – 6th > 14th May 2023

An email was sent to the coaches with the following information:

Venue : Hotel Porto Rio – Patras

Dates : 6th > 14th May 2023

The organisers have decided to offer a test event on the 24th, 25th and 26th of April, in order to test mainly the live streaming systems, the hotel's facilities and other details, and get prepared as much as possible for the final event.

They have also arranged for you to have access to the entire hotel a month in advance so that you can come and train at the event site.

The Event Manager will be John Papaspirou: yannisgr71@gmail.com

As soon as I have the exact name of the person in charge of reservations at the Hotel I will give it to you, in the meantime, feel free to contact John.

You will also find below the direct link to the two weather stations near the event site with live wind readings, day after day :
<http://penteli.meteo.gr/stations/rio/> and <http://grghost.info/kastelokampos/>

It is also specified that the teams will not be obliged to stay in the hotel where the event will be held.

Young entrants to the senior circuit

It was pointed out that a season on the senior circuit is very expensive. It was therefore requested that the Class apply a different rate for young people entering the senior circuit. The same as for the iQFOiL Games Youth & Junior: 200€.

It is also requested that the U21 category be extended to the U23 category so that the youth have the time to progress while being able to obtain a European and World Champion Title

This request must be submitted to the next AGM.

530 Sails Masts Issue

Gonzalo Costa Hoewel reminds us that in response to a reliability problem with the 530 masts, a new reinforced production was set up.

These new masts are thinner and have a thicker wall compare to the old ones.

These masts have been tested and reports are that the masts seem similar in performance. There are some masts in Lanzarote and teams are urged to test them to help decide when to have them in place.

Today, these new masts are available on the market together with the old ones.

The three options are as follows:

1. The Class does not authorise new masts on this cycle, so it recalls all new masts on the market and waits for the next Olympic cycle to authorise them. (but we might see some "old" masts breaking at key events)
2. The Class only allows the new masts in the "small" competitions in 2023, mainly the iQFOiL Games, and not in Palma, Europeans, Test Event and The Hague. And allows the new masts after The Hague '23.
3. The Class allows straight away the new masts to be used at all events.

After discussion, two options emerged and will be submitted to the MNAs by questionnaire:

1. The Class does not authorise new masts, so it recalls all new masts on the market and waits for the next Olympic campaign to authorise them.
2. The Class authorise the new masts from the iQFOiL Games in Lanzarote in December 2023 and then makes the new mast mandatory at the 2024 World Championships in Lanzarote and onwards.

To study if "old" masts are allowed at smaller future regattas on '24?

To consider that if the equipment is supplied at the Games, the sailors will receive the new masts.

Modification And Reinforcement Of Sails

Prototypes were made and tested:

Boom height reference

Following the request made at the last AGM, the boom window has been lowered on the 8m2 in order to better take into account the size of the women and the youth.

The boom window has been lowered to the top part of batten camber 6 (3 cm).

Leech reinforcement

Leech area at batten #4 and #5 has been reinforced with a layer of monofilm and bigger patch of insignia tape for extended durability.

Drainage system

For the 9m2 and the 8m2, openings in the sleeve at the level of each batten to better drain of water. (tested by GBR and POL team and works good)

Mast Top

A reinforcement has been added to the inside of the sleeve, at the mast head sleeve to protect the inner seams when the sailors insert the mast into the head.

Body reinforcement

Reinforcement in the body at the level of batten n°7, patch that was increased 5 cm up.

The prototypes had 40 grs added with all the reinforcements and they are currently being tested in Lanzarote for further feedback.

The idea is then to have the new production at the end of February for availability two months later.

iQFOiL material available at the events

The Class is aware that it is difficult for some riders to obtain equipment and/or to claim a guarantee. Therefore, it will make sure that a stock is available on the events.

Booms

Some new stiffer front head pieces were given to some teams, but they have cracked so SV is still looking for options.

Lanzarote Marathon Debriefing

Following the events that occurred during the marathon in Lanzarote, the Race Committee takes note of the improvements to be made to the next editions.

It is also recalled that a working group has been created within the Class to work on these issues.

2023 International iQFOiL Class Coaches Meeting ended at 20.04