

2023 International iQFOiL Class Association Extraordinary Meeting of the General Assembly

MINUTES

Date and time: 21st June 2023 – 14h00 CET

Place: Online via the Zoom conferencing system

In attendance:

Executive Committee

Ronnie Meir (ISR) - President, Barrie Edgington (GBR), Lorand Utassy (HUN), Adrien Gaillard (MEX), Ewa Jodlowska (POL), Peina Chen (CHN)

Class' Manager Gonzalo Costa Hoevel

Class' Executive Secretary Valérie Boutet-Massonneau

Assistance

Dina Kowalyszyn (World Sailing Equipment Committee Member), Javi Blanco (iQFOiL Technical Committee), Ajit Diaz (iQFOiL Technical Committee).

Members

NCA	2023 EGM DELEGATES
ARU	Aldrick Maduro
AUS	Ian Fox
AUT	Christian Bratsch
BEL	Johan Broucke
BRA	Mateus Isaac
CHN	Tian CYA
CRO	Damir Cargo
CYP	Andreas CARIOULOU
DEN	Nikolaj Kruppa
ESP	Mateo Sanz Lanz
EST	Matthew Rickard
FIN	Borja Carracedo Serra
FRA	Nicolas Huguet
GBR	Barrie Edgington
GER	Thomas Poggemann

GRE John Papaspirou

NCA	2023 EGM DELEGATES
HKG	CHAN King-yin
HUN	Lorànd UTASSY
IND	Derrick Menezes
ISR	Eli Zukerman
ITA	Riccardo Chicco BELLI
JPN	Yasuko Kosuge
LAT	Janis PREISS
MEX	Federico Ortiz Vivas
NED	Jacco Koops
NOR	Bernt Blankholm
NZL	JP Tobin
PER	Nicolas Schreier
POL	MAKSYMILIAN WOJCIK
TUN	Haithem Laadouz
TUR	Jaroslav Miarczyński

There were 31 Members represented, which represents 67% of the iQFOiL Class fully paid Members. The Quorum requirements at a General Assembly were met as per Constitution 6.8 and therefore was declared valid.

The meeting was closed to observers.

Welcome by the President of the Class

Ronnie Meir thanked the delegates present for making themselves available to discuss these important issues.

Introduction of the meeting by the Manager of the Class

Gonzalo Costa Hoevel summarised for the delegates present the content of the meeting held between Paris 2024, Sestar (the equipment supplier for the Olympic Games) and the iQFOiL Class on Friday 9 June 2023. Following this meeting, the Executive Committee drafted the 1st submission, based on what was accepted by Paris 2024 Organising Committee, the main points of which are as follows:

Two delivery dates to meet Paris 2024 requirements:

1st delivery - in May 2024 - Week 20 or 21

1 boom, 4 foils, 4 masts

Being discussed: 1 Optional Training Sail if accepted by Paris 2024 Organising Committee

2nd delivery – end of June or beginning of July 2024 - Week 26 or 27

1 board, 3 sails with the Olympic Games design.

Both being delivered in Marseille Olympic Venue

Submissions

The voting system was described.

Submissions were voted in the following order:

EGM 01-23 (ExCom) – Allocation of Equipment for the Olympic Games 1

Purpose:

Distributing iQFOiL equipment to selected sailors two months before the official Olympic Games windsurfing events provides them with sufficient time for training, adjustment, and optimization. It allows sailors to become fully acquainted with the equipment, adapt their tactics, and mentally prepare themselves for the challenges of the Olympic Games, ultimately enhancing their performance and ensuring a fair and competitive event.

Nicolaj Kruppa – DEN Delegate

In his opinion, it's not acceptable to have so much equipment made available for the Olympics.

It's not a good signal that the Class is sending out in terms of its environmental policy.

Given that this is a "One Design" Class, the athletes should have one set to compete and one spare.

Nicolas Huguet – FRA Delegate

Don't think we should compare it with other Olympic series, as many of them are based on a 'bring your own' model. The athletes therefore had all the time they needed to make their equipment reliable.

iQFOiL equipment has specific design characteristics that can impact an athlete's performance. As such sailors need to adapt their techniques to leverage the specific features of the equipment and build confidence in its performance, and reduce any potential anxiety or uncertainty associated with using new equipment.

Christian Bratsch – AUT Delegate

Why is Starboard the only supplier authorised to provide equipment for the Olympic Games, even though the Class is a "brand open Class"?

Gonzalo Costa Hoevel – iQFOiL Class Manager

Paris 2024 has chosen to contract only with Sestar.

Bernt Blankholm – NOR Delegate

How will the equipment be tracked between the time it is distributed and the start of the official races?

Gonzalo Costa Hoevel – iQFOiL Class Manager

The equipment will be scanned when it leaves the factory and it will be scanned again on site before the official races.

The scan protocol was tested by World Sailing at the 2023 Open European Championships in Patras, Greece and tested again at Sonic factory in China.

JP Tobin – NZL Delegate

Why choose to distribute the equipment 2 to 3 weeks after the SOF?

This makes logistics complicated for countries outside Europe.

So why not plan a single distribution?

Gonzalo Costa Hoevel – iQFOiL Class Manager

The Class has offered to distribute the equipment just after the SOF, but the final list of countries selected for the Olympic Games is not yet known until week 20. We therefore need to wait until all the countries selected are known for a fair distribution of the equipment, all countries will thus receive the equipment at the same time.

Boards and sails will be marked with the Olympic colours. In order not to use stickers, the printing will be done directly at the factory.

Paris 2024 does not wish to unveil this equipment more than one month before the official races.

This is why the Class proposal to deliver the boards and sails at the same time as the rest of the equipment was rejected by Paris 2024.

To give athletes as much time as possible to test the equipment, the Class has proposed two different delivery dates.

YES	NO
57%	43%

YES: 57% - Approved

EGM 02-23 (FRA) – Allocation of Equipment for the Olympic Games 2

Purpose:

About the number of items of equipment distributed to athletes.

Gonzalo Costa Hoevel – iQFOiL Class Manager

The proposal to give 4 sails to the athletes was rejected by Paris 2024 at the meeting on 9 June. They will not be going back on this decision.

As such, no vote is necessary.

EGM 03-23 (CHN) – Allocation of Equipment for the Olympic Games 3

Purpose:

Plan a single delivery date for all the equipment

Gonzalo Costa Hoevel – iQFOiL Class Manager

Boards and sails will be marked with the Olympic colours. In order not to use stickers, the printing will be done directly at the factory.

Paris 2024 does not wish to unveil this equipment more than one month before the official races.

This is why the Class proposal to deliver the boards and sails at the same time as the rest of the equipment was rejected by Paris 2024.

As such, no vote is necessary.

EGM 04-23 (FRA) – Allocation of Equipment for the Olympic Games 4

Purpose:

Plan a single delivery date for all the equipment on week 21 at the latest.

Gonzalo Costa Hoevel – iQFOiL Class Manager

Same problem as in the previous Submission

Paris doesn't want to unveil the Olympic designs so soon.

As such, no vote is necessary.

EGM 05-23 (ExCom) – Allocation of Equipment for the Olympic Games 5

Purpose:

Providing the iQFOiL equipment to all sailors simultaneously, only when Olympic Venue opens in Marseille, promotes uniformity and standardization in the competition. It ensures that all athletes are using the same gear, eliminating the possibility of the equipment being modified which could have an impact on the fairness of the competition. Standardization helps maintain the integrity of the Olympic Games and ensures that results are based on the athletes' skills and abilities rather than equipment optimisation.

**** WARNING ****

The Olympic Sailing Venue is scheduled to open late. In addition, the iQFOiL events will be the first to be raced.

As such, there will be very little time to test all the equipment provided.

YES	NO
35%	65%

NO: 65% - Not approved

EGM 06-23 (FRA) – Allocation of Equipment for the Olympic Games 6

Purpose:

Clarify the definition of spare equipment and the way to access it during the Olympics.

Gonzalo Costa Hoevel – iQFOiL Class Manager

Takes note of the fact that a meeting will have to be scheduled with World Sailing on the conditions of access for athletes to their spare equipment.

Will the equipment be available on the water? Only ashore?

But from the meeting the Class already had with Paris 2024 and World Sailing, they were aligned with the idea that sailors will be able to choose their spare equipment from the equipment pack and have easy access to it.

Jacco Koops – NED Delegate

If we go back to what happened at the Rio Olympics, for example, planning, as we are doing now, how the spare equipment will be made available to the athletes is a real step forward.

Barry Edgington – GBR Delegate

I agree with Jacco, this opportunity is a first in the history of Olympic windsurfing and it's a chance we must seize.

YES	NO
100%	0%

YES: 100% - Approved

EGM 07-23 (FRA) – Allocation of Equipment for the Olympic Games 7

Purpose:

Public toss of allocation of the IQ Foil equipment

Gonzalo Costa Hoevel – iQFOiL Class Manager

This is how World Sailing plans to proceed. A dedicated team will be in charge of this protocol.

YES	NO
96%	4%

YES: 96% - Approved

EGM 08-23 (FRA) – Allocation of Equipment for the Olympic Games 8

Purpose:

To avoid “on purpose” warranty claim

Gonzalo Costa Hoevel – iQFOiL Class Manager

A meeting with World Sailing will also have to be organised on this subject.

Barry Edgington – GBR Delegate

On this point too, it is important to talk to World Sailing in order to plan the follow-up of the equipment from its distribution to the first official races.

Christian Bratsch – AUT Delegate

There should also be a clear procedure regarding connected damages/cost in case of warranties.

Jaroslaw Miarczyński – TUR Delegate

What if someone’s equipment gets stolen?

YES	NO
79%	21%

YES: 79% - Approved

EGM 09-23 (ExCom) – Selection procedures for the iQFOiL World Championships 1

Purpose:

-Increase the efficiency and high standard of the worlds where unlimited entry can create an issue for the number of heats and course fleets and provision of course race management. Also, for event organisers,
-Ensure the quality and safety of the fleet. Make these championships the pinnacle of the class run events and hence...

-Support world-wide continental and iQFOiL Games structure and participation. Broaden the base and create access opportunities more locally/regionally therefore reducing costs and carbon footprint.

-Increase race management expertise around the regions

Eli Zukerman – ISR Delegate

Can we specify whether the quotas refer to Nations or Sailors?

Gonzalo Costa Hoevel – iQFOiL Class Manager

Quotas refer to athletes

Nicolaj Kruppa – DEN Delegate

Thinks that, for the 2024 World Championship, taking the 2023 Allianz Sailing World Championships as the main reference perhaps protects the top sailors a little too much to the detriment of the younger athletes who are making progress.

In addition, the system may force some riders to travel around the world to obtain their selection, which is not sustainable.

An Open Week system ahead of the Championship might be an idea worth exploring.

JP Tobin – NZL Delegate

What happens when a rider who takes part in Open Week doesn't make the cut for the Main Event? Does he go home?

It's pretty tough for those who come from a country outside the European zone.

Nicolas Huguet – FRA Delegate

If we manage to set up an U23 World Championship, it could be a gateway for young athletes to reach the senior World Championships.

Jacco Koops – NED Delegate

Valuing a 'second tour' may be a good idea, but we mustn't forget that, given the number of competitions that already exist, it will be the athlete who pays in the end.

YES	NO
63%	37%

YES: 63% - Approved

[EGM 10-23 \(FRA\) – Selection procedures for the iQFOiL World Championships 2](#)

Purpose:

Define a fair and clear qualification for IQFoil world championship limited to 100 entries to Men and 100 entries to women.

Please also note that each nation may select no more than 6 athletes.

Riccardo Chicco Belli – ITA Delegate

I won't be holding an event with just 100 sailors (100 Women/100Men)

150 seems more coherent if we want the Class to remain inclusive, the World Championship to welcome the best riders and the quality of the races to be maintained.

Eli Zukerman – ISR Delegate

It should be left to the MNAs themselves to qualify the sailors who will take part in the World Championship. Otherwise, there will probably be no young athletes at these major events.

YES	NO
29%	71%

NO: 71% - Not approved

[EGM 11-23 \(FRA\) – Selection procedures for the iQFOiL World Championships 3](#)

Purpose:

Increase the efficiency and high standard of the world championship where unlimited entry creates an issue for the race management in order to deliver quality racing on the water. (Number of heats to deal with, course fleets, adaption format on the water...)

Develop the gender equity and women entries in iQFOiL

Thomas Poggemann – GER Delegate

Insofar as, with 100 sailors, we're still obliged to divide the fleet into Gold and Silver, this probably won't solve all the problems linked to race management.

In this respect, it would probably be better to choose between 80 or 150 racers.

YES	NO
32%	68%

NO: 68% - Not approved

EGM 12-23 (FRA) – Slalom Race Management: Number of boards per heats for the OG

Purpose:

Too many boards on the starting line during slalom increase the chance of early starts / general recalls. It's a really big problem until now and we need to resolve it ASAP so we don't waste time during a racing day.

Nicolaj Kruppa – DEN Delegate

It would probably be preferable to set up a proper elimination system for this option.

This will allow the best sailors to race against each other and to compete in a direct battle.

Gonzalo Costa Hoevel – iQFOiL Class Manager

This would undoubtedly be the best option, but the problem is that to set it up you need direct refereeing on the water to be able to move forward with the finals. With the possibility of having protests, that would double the time.

Ewa Jodlowska – iQFOiL ExCom Member

In addition, it is preferable that the race format for the Olympic Games should be the same as that which the sailors are used to for other iQFOiL events.

YES	NO
31%	69%

NO: 69% - Not approved

EGM 13-23 (FRA) – Slalom Race Management: Number of boards per heats for iQ Events

Purpose:

Fairness and Equality + Decrease the pressure on Race officer + Avoiding losing time on water and wind window

Ewa Jodlowska – iQFOiL ExCom Member

Reducing the number of sailors per heat to 20 may, on the contrary, make the management of slalom races critical.

We also saw at the 23' European Championships that even with 3 riders there can be BFDs.

The option that the Executive Committee is currently working on is a standard penalty system for athletes who have multiple BFDs.

A submission to this effect will be presented at the next AGM.

YES	NO
38%	63%

NO: 63% - Not approved

EGM 14-23 (FRA) – Slalom Race Management: Proceeding on heats after a General Recall

Purpose:

The slalom format has a really poor ratio between time of racing compared to time spent on the race course. We must make it somehow more efficient for all the actors!

Ewa Jodlowska – iQFOiL ExCom Member

It's not certain that this proposal will enable the slalom races to move forward more quickly. In fact, by the time the team on the committee boat reviews the video and announces the BFDs, the racers are back in the start area, ready to go.

YES	NO
38%	63%

NO: 63% - Not approved

EGM 15-23 (FRA) – Marathon Race Management: Route options made available to sailors

Purpose:

To prepare for races the week before and develop the strategic work.

To ensure that all requests and administrative prohibition are anticipated.

Gonzalo Costa Hoevel – iQFOiL Class Manager

It seems difficult to make publication of the Marathon courses compulsory, as this often depends not on the Class but on the Organising Authority.

However, it's clearly something we are aiming for already. That's what we tried to do at the 23' European Championships and what we're working on for the PARIS 2024 Test Event - Marseille.

YES	NO
58%	42%

YES: 58% - Approved

EGM 16-23 (ISR) – Medal Series Race Management: Medal Races format

Purpose:

Making the MEDAL SERIES MR1 Course more tactical and less open to random wind shift

Gonzalo Costa Hoevel – iQFOiL Class Manager

The ExCom understood the philosophy of the submission:

Protecting the leader + Encourage close racing + Forcing at least two tacks.

However, this format clearly gives even more importance to the start and the ExCom believes it gives to much protection to the sailor who arrives first at the first mark.

Nicolas Huguet – FRA Delegate

Does not see the point of this change. On the contrary, it seems important to keep the game open. Especially on the quarter final for example.

YES	NO
8%	92%

NO: 92% - Not approved

EGM 17-23 (POL) – Race Management: Changing Class Rules divisions from U21>U23**Max Wojcik – POL Delegate**

Purpose:

To give enough time for young athletes to develop skill and body mass for IQFOiL in Senior Fleet

To increase protection period in national associations for funding and support.

Due to increased funding and prolonged support for U23 athletes, growing the IQFOiL Senior Class



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Ewa Jodlowska – iQFOiL ExCom Member

Some other Olympic series have already made this choice, such as the 49ers, so it should be possible to defend this with World Sailing.

YES	NO
70%	30%

YES: 70% - Approved

2023 International iQFOiL Class Association Extraordinary Meeting of the General Assembly ended at 16.05