

Change in Youth Sailing World Championship gender requirements

In the Youth Sailing World Championship, the event for skiff should be male/mixed

A submission from the Swedish Sailing Federation

Purpose or Objective

To reach the goals to have more female sailors and more nations participating in youth sailing.

To give the opportunity to as many skiff sailors as possible to be eligible for qualifying for the Youth Sailing World Championship and to encourage mixed sailing for youths.

To further develop mixed sailing on both youth and senior level.

To allow a MNA to send their best 29er crew to the event, if it's a mixed crew.

Proposal

To make a change so that the event for skiff in the Youth Sailing World Championship is male/mixed in instead of male.

Current Position

Today there is a male and a female event for skiff but there is no opportunity for a 29er mixed crew to participate.

The 420 can have mixed crews in the male/mixed Two Person Dinghy event.

See table below from NoR 2022.

3.7 A MNA may enter one crew in all or any of the following events:

Event	Equipment	Event	Equipment
Male Windsurfer	Youth iQFOiL (with 8.0m rig)	Male/Mixed Two Person Dinghy	420
Female Windsurfer	Youth iQFOiL (with 8.0m rig)	Female Two Person Dinghy	420
Male One Person Dinghy	ILCA 6	Mixed Two Person Multihull	Nacra 15
Female One Person Dinghy	ILCA 6	Male Kiteboarding	FormulaKite
Male Skiff	29er	Female Kiteboarding	FormulaKite
Female Skiff	29er		

In 2022 the number of nations in the different events and the number of competing sailors of each gender were as below (from results list):

Equipment	Female	Mixed	Male or male/mixed
ILCA 6	56		61
29er	23		24
420	21		23 (# of Mix unknown)
Youth IQ Foil	29		31
FormulaKite	9		19
Nacra 15		14	
Number of sailors F/M	182	7 + 7	212

We believe in allowing mixed crews in both Two Person Dinghy as well as well in the Skiff Class will increase the number of female sailors and make improve the balance between the female and male participants.

Reason

1. Mixed crews are excluded from the Youth Worlds, even if they are the ones who qualified in their country.

2. When pairing up in crews there is an incentive to sail with the same gender instead of choosing the partner that would make the best team. Also, any well-functioning mixed crew should not break up just so the sailors can qualify for the Youth Worlds.
3. Sailors could be excluded from participating because there is no suitable sailor available with the same gender, especially in smaller countries.
4. Mixed sport is coming more and more in eg the Olympics, and the youth competitions should go the same way.
5. Even though the Skiff event at the Olympics is male and female, there is still a reason to let the younger skiff sailors compete in mixed events, both for their development in the skiff class but also to have the opportunity for mixed sailing in any class. They may want to move into the Nacra 17 later, or to the 470. Both equipment's have mixed crews in the Olympics.
6. Lightweight female sailors could benefit much from a mixed opportunity in the worlds and will have a greater opportunity to qualify together with a male sailor.