

IFWC – FORMULA FOIL – TENDER PROPOSAL



Introduction

This proposal is submitted on behalf of International Formula Windsurfing Class (IFWC):

- a World Sailing Member Class since 2001;
- successfully organising formula foiling events and championships for 2 years;
- rules applied include RRS Windsurfing Edition.

Information and images from the [2019 Formula Foil World Championship](#).

Formula Foil enjoys support from the wider industry; with support for competitors at this world championship from:

Formula boards, foil specific: FMX, Future Fly, JP, PD, Starboard;

Foil brands: Aquaris, Boss, Exploder, Moses, NP, Phantom, Starboard, Z;

Sail brands: Challenger, GA, Loft, NP, Phantom, Severne.

This proposal represents a unified from the two windsurf foiling classes, IFWC and the International Funboard Class Association (IFCA) under the “**Formula Foil**” banner.

Summary of Equipment Proposal

Multi brand participation with regard to supply of the following:

1 Formula Foil board; 1 Foil; 2 Sails/Rigs.

Men and Women to share same equipment wherever appropriate.

IFWC Class Rules

The current version of Class Rules, published on World Sailing website, is yet to be updated after changes approved at the recent Annual General Meeting of the IFWC membership. It was decided to amend Foil Limitation as: 1 mast, 2 fuselage, 2 front wings and 2 back wings.

1 foil board - from the [WS/IFWC Production Board List](#)

FMX Racing Hyperion 184

Future Fly Flying Camel 175

JP Australia Hydrofoil 190 Pro

Patrik Diethelm Formula 180

Patrik Diethelm Formula 200

Starboard Formula 177 (2017)

Starboard Foil 177 (2019/2020)

2 further registrations are expected very soon, from 2 brands not represented above.

1 foil

Foil defined, according to class rules, as 1 mast, 2 fuselage, 2 front wings and 2 back wings.

Currently the IFWC has no limitation on dimensions of the foil components.

It is expected the class will introduce a ‘Production Foil’ rule irrespective of the outcome from this equipment selection proposal.

Many brands are building and marketing ‘production’ foils and this tender proposes that prototype or custom foils would not be eligible to participate in the sea trials.



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2 sails of different sizes for both men and women

- Men 9.0 sqm > 10 sqm
- Men 8.0sqm > 9.0 sqm
- Women 8.0 sqm > 9.0 sqm
- Women 7.0 sqm > 8.0 sqm

Two 'production' sails each of a different size for Men; two 'production' sails each of a different size for Women. Men and women may choose one sail from within the defined limits.

This component of the proposal is a deviation from current class rules both with regard to maximum permitted sail size and the limitation to 'production' sails.

The use of prototype and custom sails would not be permitted for the sea trials.

The reasoning for 2 sail limitation is based upon experience of top level competitors in 2019 Worlds, where 95% of men also registered sails of maximum 10sqm or less.

Current class rules for rig component limitations apply:

- maximum mast length of 6250mm;
- maximum internal length boom of 3010.

For the purposes of this tender proposal, and applied for sea trial participation, only 'production' masts and booms can be used. This is in fact the reality – we do not see custom components at Formula Foil events.

However, as with sails, class production lists do not currently exist for rig components.

Formula Foil Limited (FFL) - "Licensed" components

FFL Production Board List

FFL Production Foil List

FFL Sail Production List

FFL Rig (mast and boom) Production List

Production Registration Scheme a collaboration between World Sailing and the IFWC.

Licensing Scheme will define and list equipment eligible for Olympic competition, including qualification, and other events within **ultimate (competition) phase** of the Olympic quadrennial. As with the current Board Registration Scheme the management of both, ie extended Production and Licensing schemes, managed by World Sailing.

Sea Trials essential for defining the limitations required for the Working Party to recommend Formula Foil Limited for 2024.

Schedule for determining FFL & Olympic competition period

Sept 2019 – Sea Trials to establish class rule changes, revised limitations, for FFL.

December 2019 - should the Formula Foil tender be recommended, by the Working Party, to Council in November 2019, industry notified of changes and the next phase.

December 2020 – FFL registrations and evaluation of registrations.

December 2021 – Licensing & ultimate phase; equipment that can be used until day after 2024 Olympics.



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Purpose of the licensing phase is to ensure suppliers are compliant with the defined requirements for Olympic standard equipment – continuity of build quality and supply, price maintenance, warranty management, etc

Sept 2024 – new Olympic cycle begins.

The Formula Foil Open division ensures continuous development, allowing “**Evolution**” of **FFL** in readiness for 2028.

The IFWC proposal provides continuity in any decision to select FFL for the Olympic windsurfing event (Men and Women).

The IFWC consider this one of the major advantages of its proposal.

2020 Class Structure

A further advantage of the IFWC proposal is the existence of an established class structure, of long standing, with vast experience of organising and managing major championships. The IFWC benefits from provision of a full time office providing administrative and financial services. Plans if FFL succeeds in its objective to become Olympic, IFWC would include additional staff member to meet additional demands required of an Olympic Class. Establishment of a dedicated Technical Committee would be a priority.

2020 IFWC World Championships, 4 championships and 4 titles:

- Formula Windsurfing Open (FIN division)
- Formula Foil Open
- **Formula Foil Limited Men**
- **Formula Foil Limited Women**

Limited equates to Olympic class – as an IFWC division.

Summary of other advantages of IFWC proposal

In no particular order...

Multi brand/multi manufacturer participation ensuring production capacity to meet demand for, and worldwide distribution of, components; and contribute to price stability.

Multi brand participation would ensure increased support for Olympic windsurfing – from industry, media, public and the wider windsurfing community.

Multi brand participation will improve sponsorship opportunities for Olympic windsurfers and improve the financial support available to them.

Capable of performing in wide range of wind conditions (5 to 35 knots) and sea-states.

Equipment can be transported by aeroplane as hold baggage.

Appeals to a very wide range of competitor as well as to the public and media.

Attracts, and is compatible/competitive for, a wide range of competitor weights and physiques.



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Appeal

Foiling appeals to the current crop of Olympians – note the appeal (plea?) made to Council at this year's mid-year meeting.

Foiling appeals to elite windsurfers from other classes – eg IFCA and IFWC.

Foiling appeals elite windsurfers on the PWA World Tour.

Foiling appeals to the wider recreational windsurfer and amateur competitor.

Foiling appeals to women as it is less demanding upon the body, but is still a challenging, athletic and enjoyable discipline.

Foiling appeals to youth.

These comments are directly in response to comments received from windsurfers, primarily offered at events. The recently published survey results may even support this claim!

Youth Pathway

Techno293, the most successful windsurfing class in the recent history of competitive windsurfing, remains a pathway class to Olympic windsurfing. The starting point for junior/youth racers in our sport.

The Techno Class, in conjunction with IFWC, is currently evaluating the option of developing [Techno Foil](#) as a World Sailing Class and as a bridge between Techno 293 and Formula Foil Limited. [Short video presentation](#).

TAHE Outdoors FRA are boards and foils for competitors to try at this year's T293 Europeans (Israel) and T293 Worlds (Spain).

Formula Foil Limited - Youth

The Formula Limited division will attract youth; potentially, it could dramatically increase the youth participation in the Olympic programme.

Continental championships/ titles only for a youth specific sub division; unless, or until, a new World Sailing Class is desirable or essential.

Formats

Foiling lends itself to the variety of "racing" formats defined in RRS Appendix B – Windsurfing Competition Rules: *course racing, slalom, marathon*.

Fleet/group racing or elimination series options are compatible with foiling discipline.

Many exciting courses and formats are being developed by IFWC and partners.

These should be fully tried and tested at the sea trials

Costs of complete package

Between 11,000 to 13,000 euro – net of VAT

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Conclusions

IFWC proposal offers best option for trialling windsurf foiling capabilities against the current Olympic class.

Other options – Windfoil 1 and I Foil - would both fit within the IFWC proposal for Formula Foil Limited. IFWC offers a letter of support for these proposals and recommends all options be trialled under the Formula Foil banner.

The industry unanimously supports the move to windsurf foiling in the 2024 Olympics. A sample of manufacturers/brands were asked to support with details of their components. More offered support and hoped for the opportunity to participate further down the line – if and when FFL becomes Olympic!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Francesco Zarbo', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Francesco Zarbo, IFWC President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ceri Williams', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ceri Williams, IFWC Secretary