

Olympic Format Test Event



ILCA 6 and 7

World Sailing is currently reviewing the Olympic sailing format for 2028 and beyond. At the Annual Conference in November, the Events Committee endorsed the testing of a new proposed format featuring “points capping” from the Opening Series and a Finals Day comprising two single-point races. This format will be voted on by the World Sailing Council in December.

In the lead-up to this decision, World Sailing has encouraged events to trial the proposed format to gather athlete and coach feedback. With Australia’s strong ILCA fleets, Sail Melbourne has been identified as an ideal opportunity to test the new system providing valuable insights for both World Sailing and the athletes experiencing the format first-hand.

Consequently, the ILCA 6 and 7 fleets at Sail Melbourne will compete in the proposed Olympic format, which is described in the following extract from the Sailing Instructions Addendum A.

A-4 ILCA 6 & 7 - Olympic Format Test Event

The event will consist of a three-day Opening series followed by a one-day Final series.

The ILCA 6 and 7 will sail as separate fleets.

Opening Series

9 races are scheduled over 3 days, with 3-4 races a day. The race target time is 30 minutes.

A boat’s series score will be the total of her race scores in the Opening series. When from five to nine races have been completed, her series score is the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.

At the end of Opening series, the top 10 ranked boats from each fleet will advance to the Final series. The Opening series scores will be carried over; however, they will be adjusted so that;

- a. no competitor will have more than a 9 point gap from the boat in front or behind them, and
- b. no boat from 4th to 10th will have a gap greater than 18 points to 3rd.

Boats which do not qualify for the Finals Series will continue sailing in the Opening series, with no adjustment to scores. Up to 2 races will be conducted on one day.

When more than nine races have been completed, a boat’s series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her two worst scores.

All boats continuing in the Opening series will be ranked in order below boats sailing in the Finals series. This changes SI 15.

Finals Series

Appendix MR Umpired Medal Racing Version 2025-01 will apply.

The Final Series will consist of two single point races. The race target time is 20 minutes.

The final event score will be the adjusted score from the Opening series plus the two Finals race scores. Scores from the Finals races shall not be discarded.

If there is a series score tie between two or more boats at the end of the Finals series, the tie will be broken in the order of the scores in the last race. This changes RRS A8.

If no races in the Finals series are sailed, the Opening series results will be considered as final results for the event.

The Start

The Finals series races will be started by using the following signals. This changes RRS B3 26 and F3 26.

Finals series races will be started using the P flag for the first attempt.

Minutes before starting signal	Visual signal displayed	Visual signal removed	Sound Signal	Means
7+	Orange starting line flag		one	Attention signal race will start soon
6	Class flag P or starting penalty if required (U, or Black) Rule 42 (flag O/R if applicable)		No sound	Class to start and applicable rules
5	White flag with the number 5		One	Warning signal
4		White flag	One	Preparatory Signal
3	Pink flag with number 3	Blue flag	One	Three minutes
2	Red flag with number 2	Pink flag	One	Two minutes
1	Yellow flag with number 1	Red flag	One long sound	One minute
0	Green flag	Yellow flag	One	Start signal
+1		Green flag and Class Flag, P, U or Black and O/R)	No sound	

