

## **Olympic Reality (To Concerned Sailors, by Paul Henderson CAN, past-President IYRU/ISAF)**

For a decade now World Sailing has been manipulated by those who say Sailing must gear itself to TV and spectators with contrived technology, ridiculous formats and Mixed Events.

These misguided gurus have promoted that Olympic Sailing must do so to get more IOC \$\$\$\$. Sailing got \$15.4m + all our officials paid for by the IOC.out of RIO2016, about the same as 50% of the 28 Olympic Summer Sports.

The threat is that if Sailing does not change we will get turfed from the Games.Nonsense!! Sailing is considered one of the 25 Core Olympic Sports. Contrived concepts like ridiculous Medal Race, Off-the-Beach Foiling Kites, 48 Hr Offshore, Slalom Formats is jumped on to bring more TV and spectators. Ho Hum! Same OLYMPIC TV Ratings!

Does anyone think that NBC is going to stop televising the Marathon or Dream Team Basketball or France against Brazil Football to spend 48 hrs watching a drifting mixed sailboat race in the Mediterranean?

**Heroes and Nationalism is what sells. Sailing should be racing in widely sailed known equipment in International Classes owned by the sailors who have trained at the numerous traditional Regatta Weeks. How can a new concept with only 12 entries allowed be inclusive?**

Stop the focus on new Technology and contrived racing Gimmicks which are the fantasy of what must be thought up by non-competitive sailors. Please delete the offensive motto now being pushed by a non-sailor, i.e. *Sport/Nature/Technology*

Forget about how the IOC might funnel more \$\$\$ into the new World Sailing London Office and realize that the Olympic Games is not about winning medals or getting more media exposure but it is *"A Life Altering Experience for any athlete who is so honored to be able to call themselves an Olympian"*.

An Olympic negative which is causing many cities and countries to stop bidding is the cost and the lack of legacy left with decaying "white elephants" most sports leave. A positive that must be sold about Olympic Sailing is look what happened with the Marinas:

- 1) Totally revitalized the decaying and polluted waterfront of Barcelona 1992.
- 2) Changed Kingston from a penitentiary town to a wonderful sailing tourist hub 1976.
- 3) Weymouth ramshackled old sheds became a magnificent Sailing destination. 2012
- 4) Qingdao Marina endowed China with a world class facility. 2008.
- 5) Enoshima has been a very successful marina since 1964 and will again be the host 2020.
- 6) Kiel was totally revitalized in 1972.
- 7) Acapulco facility is still vibrant to this day 1968.

Sailing leaves a great legacy when properly done so dwell on the legacy left and the fact that the Olympic Games are for the athletes!!!

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