

Kim Andersen
President of World Sailing

June 2019

Dear Mr Andersen,

Following the controversial decision made by the World Sailing Council in November 2018 to drop the Finn from the Olympic programme, and the voting scandal surrounding that decision, we respectfully ask that you support, by whatever means necessary, the return of the Finn class into the Olympic programme.

We are all writing to express our concerns at the following

- Contrary to World Sailing policy and IOC guidelines, the removal of the Finn means that sailors above 85 kg are now discriminated against in Olympic sailing. Following the loss of the Soling and the Star, the Finn was the last remaining boat suitable for heavy sailors. Data from the 2018 Aarhus Sailing World Championships shows us that Finn sailors are unique in the current Olympic classes with bodyweights above 85kg.
- The removal of the Finn sacrifices perhaps the most athletic sailing class within the Olympic programme, and one that is most closely aligned to the Olympic ideals. Sailing should be embracing and marketing the bigger sailors, not discarding them. What other sport would miss this great opportunity?
- After the 2020 Olympics there will be no events at all in the Olympic Sailing programme for male athletes over 85kg so these athletes will be lost to Olympic sailing. Even the Mixed Offshore Keelboat will inevitably favour athletes of lower body weight.
- The Finn class has the greatest pedigree, history, and heroes in the sport of sailing. To remove it from the Olympic programme would be a massive loss for the sport. The class creates huge media interest because of its heritage as well as because of its athletic and powerful sailors. Its legacy can be seen right across the sport. To remove it from the Olympics is a huge risk to sailing and the IOC.
- The removal of the Finn breaks a long held and vital pathway from youth classes to America's Cup and The Ocean Race. Once sailors grow too large to sail a Laser, and many do, there will be no further step within Olympic sailing. The pathway is broken.

It is perhaps worth noting that never in the history of the sport of sailing has there been so much anger, frustration and disaffection at a decision made by World Sailing. Taken in the context of a number of other recent criticisms of World Sailing, it would appear to us that many changes have and are being made against the wishes of a large number of sailors worldwide.

Removing the Finn from the Olympics will disenfranchise a huge group of sailors across the world from Olympic sailing, and indeed from World Sailing. As Finn Masters, this decision does not affect us personally, but acutely affects the opportunities open to the hundreds of young sailors we see in our class, and those who might join the class later in life because they outgrew being competitive in any other dinghy. Something very valuable to sailing is in danger of being lost.

We feel this is an injustice and discrimination and therefore, we respectfully urge you to support the Finn to be reintroduced into the Olympic programme after 2020 as the only class on the Olympic sailing programme truly suitable for sailors above 85kg.

Yours sincerely,

[Handwritten signatures and names of sailors from various countries:]

- DEU-2
- BRN 32
- RETROKOTAIKI
- POAS I
- FILIPESHIC
- AUS 5
- RUS 18
- Funcky
- Andy Edison
- Gerardo Sebe Esp 99
- BRN 300
- Jara Shin
- M. J.
- BRN 300
- NED 10
- FRA 30
- YUKHAB 202E8
- to S.
- Robert D...
- GRE 10
- SUN 598
- Hauptop
- FRA 311
- NZL 15
- Bas
- Juchman
- AUS 6
- 7. B...
- DEU 18
- Ruud
- Bo...
- Ned 4
- FRA 35
- UKR 14

BAH
D. [Signature]

Rules
USA 117
USA 117

Udo [Signature]
GER 226
M. [Signature]
GER 567

~~Olson~~
DEN 13

~~Udo~~
DEN 22

MARCIN GREGOROWICZ
DEN 9
SWI 54

Udo Mueck
GER 909
ESP 35

~~FRASZ~~
SWE

~~[Signature]~~
GER 5

BOGUSZAN NOWAKOWSKI
POL 26

Desh Udo [Signature]
GER 505

~~[Signature]~~
DEN 298

~~[Signature]~~
SWE-14

~~[Signature]~~
SWE-2

P. [Signature]
SWE 11

Mats R. [Signature]
SWE 21

~~[Signature]~~
GER-8

~~[Signature]~~
MED 50

FREDRIK LEANED
SWE 5

ESP 39
~~[Signature]~~

~~[Signature]~~
POL 64

~~[Signature]~~
GER 2

~~[Signature]~~
DEN 201

Daniel Mates
SWE 15

Uwe Bestel
GER 62

Jani Oulku
POL 3

Jan Kominel
POL 127

Rinar H. Steinsen

[Signature] (BRA 97)

[Signature]
GER 700

RUS 117
[Signature] (ANDREW BILLS)
SWE-20
[Signature]

[Signature]
BRA-11

[Signature]
BRA 44

Deh MARIANI 15 Charles Steiner USA 32

SWIF5

US 74

AVT 333

W. J. Smith
GBR 208

GER 175

MICHAEL MICHÄL

RSA 1

NED 1
H. W. J.

head of
GER 71

FRAGG

W. H. G.

GER 43

M. J. G.

DEN 20

P. J. G.

GBR 77

S. N. G.

Russell New
- GBR 40

Pat Healy
CAN 15

GBR 635

R. W. A. Hart
GBR 631

Formerly EQSC de.

Richard Phillips
GBR 42

Pat Healy
GER 111

J. H. G.
GER 84

RSA 592

GER 876

Sui 65

Exc. R. Anderson
ARG-1

J. H. G.

V. J. G.

M. G.

Raymond Alin
SWE 10

D. Sundman
GER 45

J. H. G. 5014

James Hunter
USA 23

CZE-1

H. H. G.

GER 169

MED 887

W. H. G.
GER 264

head 2

Sui 80

Appi
Sui 51

U. H. G.
GER 5

Ry 841

Sui 88

Lars Hall
DEN 6

Antonio Parra
~~ESP 313~~

Joseph Rochet
FRA 40
DEN 246
Jens Kristian
And

HARALD U.
NOR 2

GER 479

Den 25
M

Miscellaneous
ESP 334

W. van Vreesen
NED 1015
Th. van Vreesen

GER 322
P. Hilli

VED 931

GBR 754
I. Bredew

GBR 34
And

GER 60

ITA 2000
P. ...

NER 877

M. Schnelberger
AUT 73

ITA 9

GER 19

J. ...
GER 767

SWE 4

SWE 59

SWE 734
P. ...

ESP 555

SWE 100
HP Hylander

GER 26
M. ...
151000

CZE 311
M. ...

GER 178
M. ...

ESP 757

SUI 36
Jans

Pak
ESP 318

Joh. ...
AUS 10

Kare W. ...
SWE 201

Joh. ...
GBR 61

V. ...
CZE 222

RUS 73

GBR 21

GBR 1

Peter ...
SUI 13

Old Vanguard DEN 201

J. ...
SUI 27

Andr. ...
POL 73

FRA 63

FRA 748

Prissem
NED 1009

Spanner AUS 245

RUS 111700
Small
ANDREW BILL

Ali Sermetli
RSEA.
HUS 51
Lm 1

GBR 78
Rob Temple

HUN 50
Ahoi Lohds
HUN - 2
Göör R

FIN 50
Freddy Marzulli

SWE 72
Lm 1

MAXIM
BNE 58
(73)

FIN - 201
KRISTIAN SPOBERG

SWE 72
Lm 1

SWE 35
Lm 1

GER 17
Ned 12

GER 17
Lidre Schule
HENRI RATT

NEO 7
GREN SCHWANN

GER 710
WAGNER KESSEL
ESP 260

GER 103
V. Chad

Ditly Hilles
GER 180

NEA 111

DEN 249
Skullen

GER 800

SWI 721
BIRTHPLACE OF ...
UPP Sa 19

FRA 23
Lm 1

GER 194
Lm 1

FRA 60

Thomas
Santola SC 11 63

GBR 74
Gorm

FRANK WAGER
DEN 19

PETER NERLSEN
DEN 195

Lou DEN 825

NOR 555

ROBE NOR 13

DEN 211

ARNE RIPPENBERG
NOV-4
AR

RWS 212 FANTASTICA
Linné
GER 471
Wohr

Marie Ahlhed
DEN 7

Aut. N. H. MS 221

Frank M. Amstel NOV-5

Karl Middel
NOV 55

MS 80

GER 711
Bauer