

October 2026

To World Sailing Council Members, the Board and Member National Authorities

Formula Kite must be an explicit choice for Brisbane 2032

Dear Council Members, Board Members and MNA Representatives,

The International Kiteboarding Association asks you to ensure that retaining the Men's and Women's Formula Kite Events with new equipment is explicitly assessed and offered as a distinct voting option before recommendations for Brisbane 2032 are finalised.

Give Council a genuine choice

The sole Events Decision recommendation approved for Council, Recommendation 1 (WHITE), replaces Formula Kite with Wingfoil Freestyle-Slalom. BLUE A and BLUE B were not approved. This is a committee recommendation, not a final World Sailing decision. Council can consider the further process; that process must include an explicit retention alternative. A vote against replacement should not leave the future of Formula Kite undefined. The framing of the options must not predetermine the outcome.

Apply the same evidence standard to replacement

The Final Report itself **identifies unresolved risks in wingfoil's** light-wind reliability, equipment maturity and international pathways. It also acknowledges that the **intended cost benefits remain uncertain** until the equipment and provision model are determined. These are material questions for Olympic delivery. They require a transparent comparison with retaining and reforming Formula Kite, including the cost to MNAs of changing disciplines. Projected benefits should not be treated as established advantages.

Retain an Olympic discipline and select new equipment

Formula Kite is an established Olympic discipline, delivered at Paris 2024, with athletes, national programmes and youth pathways already in place. That does not guarantee retention, but replacing it requires a demonstrated comparative case. Regulation 11.5(a)(iii) provides a route to retain an Event while selecting new Equipment. IKA proposes a simpler one-design equipment package aimed at affordability, durability and wider accessibility. This alternative deserves assessment against the same criteria as replacement, with equipment-selection criteria developed for the decision.

THE OPTION TO INCLUDE

Retain the Men's and Women's Formula Kite Events, with new equipment selected within those Events.

Retaining Formula Kite with new equipment is a concrete proposal for Brisbane 2032. It must be assessed alongside replacement and put explicitly to a vote. The outcome must be determined by an informed choice, not by the omission of an alternative.



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President | International Kiteboarding Association

