



Para Sailing FAQs

Why does sailing deserve to be reinstated for LA28?

Sailing is the world's most inclusive sport - everyone is included whatever their physical capability.

Why is this the case? World Sailing, the global governing body for sailing, does not distinguish between athletes based on their physical capabilities - both able-bodied and Para sailors are lining up on the same start line..

This is why in sailing you see athletes with a wide range of physical capabilities competing in competitions: athletes with congenital absence or partial absence of one or more limbs at birth, amputees and athletes with quadriplegia with minimal finger dexterity.

We currently have two single armed sailors looking to compete in the Vendée Globe - the solo non-stop race around the world - and we have athlete adventurers and racers with cerebral palsy controlling their boats simply by breath. How is this possible? This is all thanks to technological advances, boat and equipment manufacturers and the global sailing community coming together to make it happen, as well as our athletes: sailors are known for their resilience!

What are the key strategic priorities identified by World Sailing to grow the sport of Para sailing?

- Increase worldwide participation to 45 nations on 6 continents.
- Increase youth participation (below the age of 30) to 20% of total athletes.
- Grow the number of female participants to 30% and, ultimately, to 50% to achieve gender parity.
- Take a look inside World Sailing's Para 2020-2023 Para World Sailing Strategy [here](#).

How many sailors are officially registered with World Sailing?

Currently, 753 sailors are registered.

How has Para sailing increased over recent years?

Over the past five years, the number of nations with Para sailors participating in international Para sailing competitions has increased by 30%.

What type of boats do Para sailors race in?

Para sailors compete in a total of nine different classes (or types) of boat from single-person (male or female), two-person (male, female or mixed) and three person (male, female or mixed).

Three of these classes are currently selected for Paralympic Games pathway and qualifying international events:

- 2.4mR (single person, male or female)
- RS Venture Connect (two-person, mixed crew)
- Hansa 303 (single person, male or female)

Find out more:

[Classes](#)

What is the official criteria for Para sailors to compete?

Para sailing is open to athletes with many types of physical, sensory or intellectual impairments. The classification system is based on the IPC Classification Code. Athletes must present a permanent eligible impairment resulting from a recognized underlying health condition, and must meet minimum eligibility criteria in order to be allowed to compete.

Find out more:

[Para-Classification Rules for World Sailing](#)

When did Para sailing become part of the Paralympic Games?

Sailing was introduced as a demonstration sport at the tenth Paralympic Games in Atlanta (USA) in 1996. Sailing was included as one of the official Paralympic sports at the following five Paralympic Games, from Sydney (Australia) in 2000 through to Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) in 2016.

When did Para sailing get dropped from the Paralympic Games?

In 2015, it was announced that Para sailing was being dropped from Tokyo 2020, along with seven-a-side football, in favour of badminton and taekwondo. A total of 22 sports were contested at the Paralympics in Tokyo.

Why did World Sailing's bid for reinstatement for the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games fail?

World Sailing submitted a strong reinstatement bid for Paris 2024 which they believe met the criteria set by the IPC but this was rejected. The International Paralympic Committee (IPC) made the decision that the Paris 2024 programme would remain unchanged from Tokyo 2020.

How does the process for reinstatement work?

The process of sports bidding to be included in the Los Angeles 2028 Paralympic Games is expected to follow the process of previous Paralympic Games, however this is yet to be confirmed.

If the International Paralympic Committee was to follow the same four-step process as Tokyo 2020 and Paris 2024, the 2028 process would be:

- Step 1: request for Declaration of Intent (Q4 2021)
- Step 2: IPC Review (Q2 2022)
- Step 3: Los Angeles 2028 Application Package distributed (Q2-3 2022)
- Step 4: Full proposal to be delivered (Q3-4 2022)