

IF Sustainability Project
**WORLD SAILING
CHALLENGE 2024**



Photography © World Sailing

NOC AND IF SUSTAINABILITY CASE STUDIES

The world faces significant challenges across a wide spectrum of economic, social and environmental matters. The Olympic Movement has both an opportunity and a duty to actively contribute to the global sustainability debate in line with its vision of “Building a better world through sport”.

With this in mind, and in response to Olympic Agenda 2020, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) launched the International Federation (IF) Sustainability Project in 2016 to obtain an overview of IFs’ sustainability initiatives – identifying common topics, challenges and good practices while also sharing information among the IFs.

One outcome of the project was a series of case studies illustrating how IFs are actively contributing towards a more sustainable world.

As part of the IOC’s objective to “profile the role of the Olympic Movement in sustainability through the aggregation of information and collective reporting”, it was agreed that the identification and sharing of information contributes to the holistic integration of

sustainability and should be continued. These case studies, which now also showcase National Olympic Committees’ (NOCs) best practices, form part of a strategic support system given to the Olympic Movement through the [IOC Sustainability Strategy](#).

Each case study is aligned with one or more of the IOC’s five sustainability focus areas: infrastructure & natural sites; sourcing & resource management; mobility; workforce; and climate. They are also aligned with one or more of the United Nations’ (UN) framework of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which provide a common framework for organisations to explain how they plan

to contribute to sustainable development and tackle the key global sustainability challenges. This framework is pivotal for the Olympic Movement – in September 2015, the UN General Assembly confirmed the important role that sport can play in supporting the UN’s 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its SDGs.

The IOC provides support to NOCs and IFs in the definition, design and development of their sustainability strategies.



“Sport is also an important enabler of sustainable development. We recognise the growing contribution of sport to the realisation of development and peace in its promotion of tolerance and respect and the contributions it makes to the empowerment of women and of young people, individuals and communities as well as to health, education and social inclusion objectives.”
Paragraph 37, UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Each NOC/IF sustainability project contributes to one or more of the IOC's sustainability focus areas and one or more of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

IOC FOCUS AREAS



UN SDGs



A NEW SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT CHALLENGES ORGANISERS TO REDUCE CARBON EMISSIONS AT THEIR EVENTS



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OBJECTIVES

The World Sailing Challenge 2024 aims to:

- Implement new guidelines to keep improving sustainability practices at World Sailing events.
- Use sport as a catalyst for innovation that has a positive impact on the wider marine industry.
- Raise awareness about sustainability and inspire other sports organisations to introduce similar initiatives.

On 4 July 2019 at the Monaco Solar & Energy Boat Challenge, World Sailing launched its ambitious Challenge 2024 initiative – pushing the boundaries of low-carbon innovation for support boats at international events.

Challenge 2024 has been partly inspired by World Sailing signing up to United Nations (UN) Climate Change's Sports for Climate Action framework in December 2018, and is directly aligned with World Sailing's Sustainability Agenda 2030 targets. Linked to the use of coach and support boats during competitions, the two main objectives – both safety-dependent – are to:

- Reduce the number of coach boats with combustion engines that are allowed at World Sailing-organised Olympic-class events by 50 per cent (vs 2017) by 2024.
- Specify that all official boats used at World Sailing-organised Olympic-class

events are not solely reliant on fossil fuels for propulsion by 2025.

World Sailing sought expertise from leading marine institutions such as the University of Southampton and Delft



University of Technology, establishing data-based parameters in order to build more environmentally friendly boats in the future. These parameters include data on electric propulsion and life-cycle assessments for the boats concerned.

At the launch of Challenge 2024, World Sailing presented alongside Formula E, the International Automobile Federation's auto-racing class specifically dedicated to electric cars, which has accelerated investment from the automotive sector in electric technologies. World Sailing has adopted a similar approach with the aim of applying the model not just to its own events but to the wider marine industry, so similar boats can be utilised for rescue and recreational activities.

BENEFITS

- By calculating the carbon footprint of an event, an IF can identify ways to reduce its impact on the environment.
- Partnering and collaborating with expert stakeholders can strengthen IF initiatives.
- By using an event as a catalyst for environmental and social innovation through sport, an IF can have a positive impact on the wider sports industry.

EVALUATION

By implementing a long-term sustainability initiative with a defined timeframe and clear objectives, World Sailing has reinforced its contribution to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, in line with World Sailing's own Sustainability Agenda 2030. As proof of the initiative's effectiveness, the organisers of the 2022 Sailing World Championships in The Hague (Netherlands) have already expressed their bold commitment to use zero-emission rigid-hulled inflatable boats (RIBs). The ambition has also been shared with the Paris 2024 Organising Committee for the Olympic Games so the two organisations can collaborate on transitioning to low-carbon support boats.



“WE WANT TO REDUCE THE CARBON FOOTPRINT OF SUPPORT BOATS AT SAILING EVENTS. OUR MEMBERS HAVE AGREED TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF SUPPORT BOATS AT OUR EVENTS, BUT WE ALSO WANT TO ENCOURAGE A LOW-CARBON FLEET THAT WOULD BE ACCESSIBLE TO ALL.”

DAN READING, WORLD SAILING HEAD OF SUSTAINABILITY