

US TALENT POOL

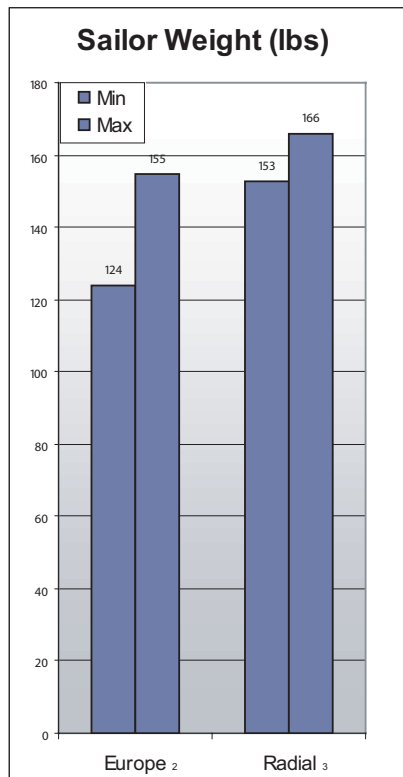
Because women and girls of a variety of sizes are competitive in the Europe, the pool of US sailors capable of competing at the Olympic level is larger.

The Europe, because of the wide range of body sizes it allows, is suitable for many competitors. Any other one-design class that does not offer methods for equalizing body size will develop very narrow height and weight ranges at the highest level of competition.

This graph demonstrates the range of competitive sailor weights in the Europe and Radial classes on the international level. The weight range for Europe sailors is 31 lbs., more than twice the 13 lbs. weight range demonstrated by Radial sailors. Little data exists regarding the other boats.

A majority of women fall in the weight range allowed by the Europe. In the United States, 75% of women between 20-29 are less than 5'6" tall¹, and 75% weigh less than 157 lbs. Most females in the US's strongest talent pool—college sailors—weigh less than 140 lbs.

A strict one-design boat such as the Laser Radial or Byte will have a narrow range of competitive heights and weights. By choosing either boat, the US and the world will be shrinking the pool of sailors capable of competing at the Olympic level, and the US will be less able to draw on its strongest talent pool—college sailors.



¹ <http://www.edc.gov/nchs/data/nhanes/t12.pdf>

² Europe data from the 2004 Olympic Games

³ Radial data per Brett Davis, Youth Laser Coach and per Laser data from the 2004 Olympic Games

SUPPORT FOR THE EUROPE...

In early October 2004, the US Europe Class launched an online petition to gauge support for keeping the Europe in the Olympic Games. To date, over 650 people have signed on to the following statement:

"Yes! I support an endorsement of the Europe dinghy by US Sailing and ISAF as the most appropriate singlehanded class for the Olympic Games."

Following are some of the many comments we received:

We will lose many talented sailors from around the world if the class is changed (especially from Europe). The Europe is suited to so many kinds of sailors (weights, heights, technical, and tactical). The Laser Radial is not.

-Sarah Blanck, 2004 Australian Olympic Team

My Olympic experience in the Europe Dinghy was fantastic. I found it to be a very fair class and the supplied boats levelled out the playing field. It's also a boat that works for a wider size range, so women can be successful in it. I personally think it's more fun to sail than a Laser Radial because of its additional controls and feel.

-Julia Trotman Brady, 1992 US Olympic Team

The Olympics represent the pinnacle of sport, and the Europe Dinghy is by far the most challenging and most rewarding single-handed boat available for women.

-Abigail Sloan Devlin, USA, 2004 Europe World Team

It is the best single handed boat that I have ever sailed. The carbon fiber mast/sail combo is excellent. It lets all sailors find what's comfortable for them, instead of having to settle for something standard which may not be the best option for their body type.

-Amanda Clark, USA, US Sailing Team (Europe & 470)

Please please PLEASE don't make it the Radial! Yuck!

-Rachel Guthrie, USA

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US Europe Class

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Making the Right Choice for the US in the 2008 Olympic Games



US OLYMPIC SUCCESS

The U.S. has a strong history of successful Olympic performance in the Europe.

The U.S. has medalled 2 out of the 4 times the Europe has been in the Olympics. No other country has medalled more than twice. The US has also medalled 3 times at the World championships and placed top 12 in 5 out of the last 8 worlds.

In contrast, despite the size of its U.S. class, U.S. Laser sailors have not medalled since the Laser was chosen in 1996, and the U.S. has placed top 12 in only 3 out of the last 8 Laser world championships.

US TECHNICAL LEADERSHIP

The U.S. is currently the world's technical leader in the Europe.

During the past quadrennium, the U.S. developed the most thorough and efficient sail and mast testing program of any nation in the world. Entering this quadrennium, the U.S. has the deepest knowledge base of any country.

OLYMPIC LEVEL PERFORMANCE

None of the other suggested classes can match the Europe for performance.

The Europe is a fast and challenging boat to sail. If you take the Europe sail area to hull weight ratio as 1:1 (100% performance) and derive a similar ratio relative to the Europe for the other proposed classes the results look like this:

	Sail Area (sq. m)	Hull Weight (kg)	Ratio Sail Area : Hull Weight
Europe	7.1	45	100%
Flash	5.5	55	83%
Zoom8	4.8	40	77%
Byte	5.4	45	76%
Radial	5.7	59	62%

COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS

Here are some Europe myths dispelled...

Myth: The Europe class is not a strong international class.

Fact: The Europe Dinghy class is one of the strongest singlehanded classes in the world.

Of 38 national Europe class associations, 36 participated in the 2003 Worlds. By contrast, the participation at the Radial Women's Worlds was 16 out of 78 national associations, and only 7 nations participated in the 2003 Byte World Championships. The US has sent a full team of 5 sailors, sometimes more, to the Europe World Championships for at least the past 5 years.

Female Participants (US Participants)	Europe Dinghy	Laser Radial
2004 Worlds	104 (5)	45 (1)
2003 Worlds	116 (6)	50 (2)

Myth: The Europe is complicated or "tweaky" compared to other boats.

Fact: All the singlehanded dinghies under consideration are relatively simple. By beginning to develop technical skills, the Europe can promote success in other Olympic classes.

Once a Europe sailor learns how to set her rake, her adjustments are limited to vang, outhaul, inhaul, cunningham and traveler. All of these controls exist on the Byte. Excluding the inhaul, all of these controls exist on the Laser Radial.

The Europe, by beginning to develop technical skills, furthers careers in other boats and can strengthen the entire U.S. Olympic program. Most Olympic sailors that medal conduct numerous campaigns and compete in more than one Olympic Games. Other Olympic boats, such as the 470 and Yngling, test technical skills. The U.S. needs to consider which boats will help sailors succeed across classes.

Myth: Getting Europe equipment is difficult.

Fact: Every year, more Europe equipment is available in the U.S. As the class grows, equipment will become even easier to attain.

The availability of competitive used equipment in the U.S. and Canada is the greatest it has ever been. All the European builders are used to shipping to the U.S. Chartering boats in Europe is easy to arrange, and generally builders bring all the needed equipment to the regatta site.

Myth: Campaigning a Europe is expensive compared to the Laser Radial.

Fact: Travel, training, chartering and competition costs do not vary significantly among the singlehanded dinghies. Europe equipment is durable and has a long competitive life.

Currently, all sailors who want to be competitive on the world level *must* travel to Europe to train and compete, regardless of which boat they sail. As a result, travel, training, and competition costs do not vary significantly among the singlehanded dinghies.

Due to the quality and durability of Europe equipment, the cost differential between a Europe, Byte, or Radial campaign is negligible. For example, serious Europe campaigners race their hulls for three years, use their masts for 4 years, and use sails for 12 days of international racing. Serious Laser sailors typically replace their hulls every 1 or 2 years, use their spars for 1 or 2 years, and their sails for 6 to 8 race days.

Myth: The US Europe class is difficult to join.

Fact: The US Europe class is cooperative & growing.

In the recent quadrennium, the U.S. Europe Class focused on improving teamwork, communication and class development. The class held open technical forums at every class meeting to share the latest in mast and sail development. In addition, the class participated in two Junior Olympics, is planning a pre-Leiter Cup event for Summer 2005, operates a grant program for development clinics around the US, and holds joint events and training camps with the Canadian Europe class.

"There is no comparison. The Europe Dinghy is far superior." -Paul Foerster, 2004 Gold Medallist