WHEN it comes to preparing for the windsurfing competition at this year’s SEA Games, the Singapore team have a sound strategy in mind. Instead of focusing on the RS:One – the class held to be introduced at the Myanmar Games in December – the team are training mainly on the Olympic class RS:X.

Unconventional, maybe. But not crazy – even when one considers how teams like the Philippines are considerably ahead in standard, while Myanmar are devoting all their time to the RS:One.

Said coach T.C. Chua, on the sidelines of the SIM Singapore Open Asian Windsurfing Championships, which ended yesterday: “Going from the RS:X to the RS:One is considered a step down. “We will use the RS:X as a training platform, then switch over a few months before the SEA Games, once the windsurfers have their RS:One,”

The RS:One was introduced in 2011 as a feeder class to bridge the gap from youth boardailing to the adult RS:X class. Chua, however, admits that this is a strategy Singapore has to adopt because of the need to focus on the Olympic RS:X class instead of devoting too much resources to a feeder class.

He is hoping to nominate three windsurfers through local qualifying events to compete in the SEA Games. Said Windsurfing Association of Singapore president Timothy Khoo: “For an experienced windsurfer, it is not that difficult to switch between the classes.”

Added windsurfer Chuah Jun Ler: “The RS:X is heavier and bigger, so when you go from that to the RS:One, you feel like you have an easier time handling the equipment.”

The 18-year-old took part in his first race on the RS:One at the recent world championships in Boracay, the Philippines last month, finishing an impressive 11th out of 25 competitors. “It is a difficult class to bridge the gap from youth boardailing to the adult RS:X,”

Chua, however, adds that this is a strategy Singapore has to adopt because of the need to focus on the Olympic RS:X class instead of devoting too much resources to a feeder class. He is hoping to nominate three windsurfers through local qualifying events to compete in the SEA Games. "It is a move the Singapore windsurfers' eye on long haul