

Para World Sailing Committee Annual Report to Council

During 2022, the committee's focus has been supporting the preparation of World Sailing's application for reinstatement in the LA28 Paralympic Sports Programme and maintaining an active schedule of development and competition events for para sailors.

The LA28 application documented World Sailing's capacity to deliver an outstanding competition that will:

- attract the world's best para sailors from all continents
- have equal numbers of male and female athletes
- include sailors with high support needs and a variety of impairment types
- be conducted and officiated at the same high standard as the Olympic Sailing competition
- be colourful and engaging for spectators and media
- provide a level playing field for athletes of varying impairments

Four medal events across three disciplines (two-person and one-person keelboat) are proposed with some of the events using provided equipment. A process of regional qualification events to ensure broad national representation is also incorporated.

Sincere thanks to the World Sailing staff for their diligence with the exhaustive application process and to the members of the committee who contributed.

The application was also supported by the #SailToLA and #BackTheBid social media campaign which promoted para sailing events and the achievements of para sailors to a global audience.

The application was lodged in July and we await the announcement by the International Paralympic Committee at some time between November and January with some anticipation.

Significant progress has also been made toward achieving the objectives set out in the Para World Sailing Strategic Plan 2020-2023.

Goal 1 - Increase worldwide participation to 45 nations on 6 continents by the end of 2023

By July 2022, World Sailing had athletes from 41 nations on 5 continents actively competing.

Five Para Sailing Development Program (PDP) clinics for sailors and coaches have been scheduled in 2022 - March in Oman, June in Italy, July in Singapore, October in Japan and November in Oman. The first ever Para Kiting development clinic was held on Lake Garda in June and the program continues to introduce additional nations to para sailing.

Goal 2 - Expand Competition

The PWSC has focused on 5 major events scheduled in the latter part of 2022:

- Inclusion World Championships sailed the SV14 in August (GER)
- Para World Sailing Championships sailed in the Hansa 303 and Liberty in October (JPN)
- International Championships for Athletes with Intellectual Impairment sailed in the Hansa 303 in November (AUS) – Inaugural event for this athlete group
- Single Person International Championships sailed in the 2.4mR in November (USA)
- RS Venture Connect World Championships in November (OMA)

Goal 3 - Effective Marketing and Communications

During 2022, the #SailToLA and #BackTheBid campaign initiated in mid-2021 rolled on with strong support received from Olympic athletes, SailGP teams, legends of the sport and the broader sailing community. A steady stream of para sailing information was disseminated

through the sailing.org website (6 articles per month), social media channels and circulation of the para sailing e-newsletter.

Goal 4 - Governance and Rules

The PWSC remains extremely active and has held seven online meetings since the beginning of the 2022. Para Sailing resources are populated on the World Sailing webpages and the committee has continued its periodical review of key documents. Most notably, the Para World Sailing Race Management Manual will be included within the World Sailing Race Management Manual as an appendix and the World Sailing Rules of Para Classification System have been reviewed to maintain compliance with the IPC Classification Code.

Para World Sailing Manager since 2016, Massimo Dighe, left World Sailing at the completion of the LA28 application to join the International Paralympic Committee as Deputy Director of World Para Sports. The Para World Sailing Committee is grateful for Massimo's commitment and contribution over the past six years and wishes him well in his new role.

The committee has welcomed champion para sailor Heiko Kroger (GER) as a new member. Heiko replaced Jens Kroger on the World Sailing Athletes' Commission in late 2021.

Overall, 2022 has been a very productive year for the Para World Sailing Committee and we remain hopeful of receiving some good news about our Paralympic aspirations in the coming months.

David Staley – Vice-Chair

On behalf of Chairperson Betsy Alison and the Para World Sailing Committee

October 2022