

The World Sailing Classes Committee will meet from 10:30 – 17:00 on Sunday, 23 October 2022.

Please refer to the World Sailing website www.sailing.org for the details of the submissions in these minutes.

Present:

Jan Martin Wilschut – Chairman

Markus Schwendtner – Vice Chair & Events
Committee rep.

Cory Sertl – Vice-President

Yann Rocherieux – Vice-President

Eric Faust – Equipment Committee rep.

Dimitris Dimou – Equipment Rules Sub-
Committee rep.

Alistair Deaves – International Measurers
Sub-Committee rep.

Apologies:

Michael Clark – Flying Fifteen Class Association

Class Representatives in attendance:

470, 420, Platu 25 - Dimitris Dimou

49er and 49erFX - Ben Remocker

Cadet - Jan Martin Wilschut

Finn – Robert Deaves

IKA classes - Markus Schwendtner

ILCA classes - Eric Faust

L-30 One Design - Klaus Wagner

Lightning - David Sprague

OKDIA - Alistair Deaves

Optimist - Fiona Kidd

Tornado - Jürgen Jentsch

World Sailing Technical and Offshore Department

Jaime Navarro – Director of Technical and Offshore

Antonio Saporito – Technical Specialist

Francesco Gulizzi – Technical Specialist

Katrina Ham – World Sailing Classes Executive

Pilar López Fernández – World Sailing Classes Executive

1 Opening of the Meeting

1.1 Welcome from Committee Chair

Jan Martin Wilschut welcomed Committee members and invited speakers and observers to the meeting.

1.2 World Sailing Vice-President Cory Sertl welcomed all meeting attendees on behalf of the board.

She thanked Jan Martin for his work engaging with classes over the past years. She highlighted the significance of classes in organising sailors and events and thanked committee members for their contribution to the sport's progress. She mentioned the board's progress on WS's financial stability and governance reform. Cory highlighted some of the benefits of the proposed changes and modernisations of governance. She noted that the board would welcome suggestions and feedback on future meetings as the board looks to minimise costs and maximise efficiency.

- 1.3. Committee members were asked to declare any conflict of interest that would conflict with the agenda and decisions to be taken. There were no noted conflicts of interest.

2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the World Sailing Classes Committee meeting of 24 October 2021 (circulated and approved after the meeting) were noted and approved. The minutes can be downloaded at [this link](#). There were no matters arising that were not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

3 Committee Reports

The following reports were distributed before the meeting and are available as supporting documents on the World Sailing website. No questions or comments were received during the meeting.

- a. Committee Chairman.
- b. World Sailing Classes Committee representative to the Events Committee.
- c. World Sailing Classes Committee representative to the Equipment Rules Sub-Committee.
- d. World Sailing Classes Committee representative to the International Measurers Sub-Committee

Fiona Kidd reported that the women's forum focused on safeguarding. In 2021, a safety-guarding committee was approved. She highlighted the significant progress in recent months.

Ben Remocker questioned the report on Regulation 23 and asked Markus Schwendtner for an update and a timeline. Markus said they are working towards the Mid-year meeting to have a proposal at the 2023 annual conference.

4. Executive Office Report – from the Technical and Offshore Department.

Jaime Navarro thanked the classes for their cooperation in these challenging years. He introduced the team members. Thanks were noted to Simon Forbes, who has recently retired. The team's top priorities are upholding the rules and identifying ways to add value to the classes. This year the team have been developing a framework for wing foil, the Olympic Equipment Policy, which focuses on how equipment quality affects athletes' costs and behaviours, the sustainability and fairness of the sport.

The team is also reviewing classes to identify those that do not comply with regulations. Looking ahead, the team strives to improve the service to classes, and part of the review will enable WS to focus resources on the classes that fulfil all the requirements. The office is looking at the possibility of allowing classes to hold a World Championship without being a WS class. The office is also looking to provide rankings for all classes and develop engagement with offshore classes, including double-handed ones.

The Technical and Offshore executive report included an update on the following areas:

a) In-House Certification Programme:

The In-House Certification report was distributed before the meeting and is available on the World Sailing website.

Francesco Gulizzi, World Sailing Technical Specialist, summarised the programme, remarking on the benefits to sailors of buying certified sails. WS runs the programme and trains the builders to ensure their sails are certified to the required standard. There are currently 25 World Sailing Classes, 4 MNAs and 34 sail lofts actively involved. He also mentioned ORC, Etchells and Shark 24, whom we are working with to join the programme. The objectives of the audit plan for 2023 can be found in the supporting paper.

Ben Remocker commented that he would like a 10-15min video to be made to explain the process of measuring sails to educate sailors.

Jaime Navarro noted that the system is for measurement control classes rather than for one design. He highlighted that there are already training programmes that could be extended.

b) Class Rules Change procedure

Francesco Gulizzi reported that there had been 83 CRC requests received. He noted that the office received 2 CR interpretations, but only 1 was published. Hereafter, Francesco summarised the CRC procedure and indicated there is a possibility for urgent requests in the system. He explained that WS's goal is to publish the CRC within a month of the meeting. He informed members that other information is available online. The current statistics show that 84% of CRC's are published within the timeline.

There were questions from Ben Remocker, Markus Schwendtner and Fiona Kid about the complexities of using the templates when complex re-writes are required.

Francesco explained that the templates are recommendations but not a requirement and mentioned the possibility of using tables for significant changes.

Markus Schwendtner suggests the possibility of doing the process online.

Ben Remocker requested the Class Rules on top of the WS page, as classes direct sailors to the WS site for rules.

c) Post-event Form

Pilar López explained the reasoning behind the form: to help classes comply with the regulations. It will be sent one week before the event and be pre-filled with the information already collected. The process will help the office review the WS status of the classes.

d) Classes Review Working Party- update

Pilar López noted that a working party determines whether classes comply with the regulations. The working party's objective is to identify classes that do not meet the requirements and the requirements that need to be updated. Pilar explained the review process and how the classes will be selected to be reviewed. This year, there were 20 classes reviewed. She explained the process, referring to Regulation 10.13. The exceptions for classes before 1997 will be maintained.

Ben Remocker asked about the requirement for distribution. He referred to the table in the WS regulations and questioned the purpose of the table.

Jaime Navarro noted that as a sport, we want to have standards but, through experience, recognise that some classes will not meet all requirements but offer something unique to the sport, and therefore we need a way to identify them. He noted that the Equipment Committee would be looking at it and would welcome feedback from the classes.

e) Satisfaction survey

Jaime Navarro noted the office would circulate a questionnaire to have better feedback from the Classes and the need to benchmark to enable measuring progress.

Markus Schwendtner noted that the Olympic equipment strategy would be much work, and they expect the office to have more staff.

Jaime Navarro noted that resourcing is under discussion, but they are looking at expanding to increase resources.

5. Update on Governance Reform

Marcus Spillane gave the update. Marcus noted the overwhelming majority of the MNA's support for the governance reform. He said the meetings were on Thursday and welcomed people to attend. The board is hopeful that changes will be adopted and has highlighted that it is a starting point, not an ending point. He also stressed that changes would not come into effect until after the AGM in 2024.

6. Submissions

The submissions can be found at [this link](#).

- 049-22 Open Events instead of Men's Events. Amends to Regulation 23.1.4 so that each of the four Olympic Events currently designated as "Men's Events" are renamed as "Open Events".**
Reporting Committee: Events Committee
Other Committee: CC

There was not a clear opinion about this submission, but it was noted that Classes are open to this approach when there is no link to Olympic events.

- 050-22 Regulations Governing Special Events -Proposal to set up a working party tasked with formalizing regulations governing special events with a set of key rights and obligations for special events**
Reporting Committee: Board
Other Committee: Equipment / Events /CC

Jan Martin Wilschut explained that some classes are impacted negatively by special events, giving examples of some youth events. There was an open discussion about the lack of consequences for special events that do not comply with the agreements.

Yann Rocherieux noted that the board is listening to committees; at this stage, the submission was rejected, but the board is looking to set up a working party with a timeline.

- 056-22 Regulation 10.11.9 - amend to Regulation 10.11.9 to include a procedure for managing evolution or changes to the Technical Specifications of equipment used by World Sailing Classes.**
Reporting Committee: Equipment
Other Committee: CC

Jurgen Cluytmans explained the reasoning behind the submission and the issues around approving changes to specifications.

There was an open discussion with a suggestion to reword the submission to provide clarification. Proposed by Markus Schwendtner and seconded by Dimitris Dimou.

- 057-22 Regulation 10: amendments to Regulation 10 to clarify the process for changing the class rules of World Sailing Classes (3 proposals).**
Reporting Committee: Equipment Committee
Other Committee: World Sailing Classes Committee, Constitution Committee

Proposal 1
Opinion: Approve

Proposal 2
Opinion: Approve

Proposal 3
Opinion: Reject

Jaime Navarro noted that it is helpful for WS to understand the Classes process for changing the class rules to be part of aspects that need WS approval. It was pointed out that communication between classes and WS is critical.

David Sprague noted that all the proposals add more class requirements.

- 058-22 Proposal to establish universality of the Equipment Rules of Sailing and provide stakeholders with a single rules book covering both the RRS and the ERS (2 proposals)**
Reporting Committee: Equipment/RRC
Other Committee:

Jurgen Cluytmans explained the submission and the reasoning for having two sections.

Markus Schwendtner noted that there are terms that are different in the two books.

David Sprague noted that the wording of universality seems to keep implying the use of the ERS among all classes.

059-22 Regulation 10.5 (f) (iii) to amend Regulation 10.5 to extend the grace period to have an International Measurer for World Sailing Classes due to Covid Pandemic
Reporting Committee: Equipment
Other Committee: ROC/CC

Jurgen Cluytmans explains the submission and that the seminars have restarted, but it still needs more time.

Dimitris Dimou pointed out that affected classes were absent from recent seminars.

Fiona Kid said it is essential for classes to get more communication from the office to be prepared.

025-22 Rule A2
Reporting Committee: RRC
Other Committee: ROC

It was noted that the submission was deferred for next year. The general opinion of this submission was positive, and all agreed it was a good direction.

7. Sustainability

About the Sustainability 2030 agenda, Alexandra Rickham noted the 56 deliverables' current status. She described how many assignments are related to classes, particularly those that are mainly technical in nature. Since the beginning, the emphasis has been on technical objectives and considering life cycle assessment.

Alexandra explained lifecycle assessments and the objective of establishing a baseline for future studies and decisions.

8. 2024 Other Committee's Agenda Items relating to World Sailing Classes

8.1. Sailor categorisation code

Glen Stanaway noted the importance of classes in sailing. He explained the sailor categorisation code and its ability to differentiate between athletes whose job is to improve yachts' performance. He noted that it allows the ability to separate and can lead to Corinthian prices. While often used offshore, he said that it can have uses in all forms of sailing and allows athletes to compete with like-minded people.

9. Other Items Related to World Sailing Classes

9.1. To discuss and share best practices on areas of interest requested by class representatives

a. Constituting classes and legal structure - request from the Contender class

There was an open discussion about the best practice for classes and the agreement that Switzerland could be the best country for classes to be constituted in. It was noted that one of the key issues in banking.

b. Third-party liability insurance - request from the International A-Division Catamaran Association

There is a growing concern around the classes about the lack of availability of third-party liability insurance. Scott Over from WS reported WS's communication with various insurers and the notion of global policies.

During the discussion, the classes identified an issue with the insurance policies being fit for purpose, especially outside Europe, and questioned if the quantities quoted were necessary.

It was suggested to separate the medical and boat aspects of the insurance.

There was a suggestion to distribute a survey to gather information from classes, including what nations are struggling to find insurance.

- c. MNA interference with class requirements for sailors to be members of a national or an international class to attend events - request from the IKA Class.

Markus Schwendtner notes the issues their class has found in certain countries with different systems around membership requirements.

Yann Rocherieux noted that it is something to investigate, and the Board will try to help the classes.

10. World Sailing Classes priorities 2023-2024

Jan Martin started an open discussion about World Sailing Classes priorities for 2023-2024.

Highlights:

Sustainability implications of the number of coach boats at events

The Committee discussed the potential of classes to select/restrict/ influence coach boats. But also noted that the coach boats can be considered safety boats in some youth events, so there is still a need for a certain number.

Importance of Safeguarding/code of conduct policies

Importance of Education of the classes

Classes are concerned about safeguarding policies and how to put procedures in place. And the influence of the coaches and families on the sailors and their behaviour.

Conducting a class survey on best practices

Conducting extra (virtual or hybrid) WS Classes Committee meetings during the year

The Committee suggested looking at the new regulations and how to minimise the requirements on classes, moving from shall to may. They also suggested surveying the classes to identify what priorities should be.

The Committee pointed out virtual meetings' benefits in engaging more classes and the potential desire for hybrid meetings during the year.

In those meetings, the classes could share best practices for managing a class.

11. Any other business

Markus Schwendtner raised an issue of International Juries at non-Olympic class events. He noted the struggles around costs and suggested putting a submission in to change the racing rules to allow 3-person juries instead of five.

Not any other matter arising, the Chair concluded the meeting.