

The Events Committee met online on Tuesday 2 May 2023 from 1900-2200 UTC.

Present:

John Derbyshire (GBR) Chair
David Abercrombie (NZL)
Aiko Saito (JPN)
Ben Remocker (CAN)
Piotr Oleksiak (POL)
Ke Su (CHN)
Marco Predieri (ITA)

Sofia Tedin (ARG) Vice Chair
Guillaume Chiellino (FRA)
Graham Biehl (USA)
Daniel Belcher (AUS)
Markus Schwendtner (GER) Olympic Classes
David Hughes (USA) Athletes' Commission

Apologies:

Anna Holmdahl White (SWE)
Walter Boddener (BRA)
Sarah Kenny (AUS) Vice President

Eliana Fierro (MEX)
Gelly Skarlatou (GRE)

In attendance:

Cory Sertl (USA) Vice President
Alastair Fox (Director of Events)

Matt Wheaton (Competitions Manager)
Michael Downing (Olympic Manager)

1. Opening of the Meeting

- 1.1 The Committee received an update from the Committee Chair.

The Chair welcomed the Events Committee to the online meeting and noted that there were 100 days until the opening ceremony of the 2023 Sailing World Championships and 451 days out from the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

The Chair also thanked all of the Working Parties, Sub-committees and Committee members for the work that they carry out between meetings.

- 1.2 The Committee noted the Declaration of Conflicts of Interest. There were no new conflicts to register.

2. Minutes

- 2.1 The Committee approved the minutes of the Events Committee meetings of Thursday 27 October 2022 (circulated and approved after the meeting). The minutes can be downloaded at <https://www.sailing.org/inside-world-sailing/organisation/governance/conferences/past-conferences/previous-conference-papers/>

There were no Matters Arising from the Minutes not covered elsewhere.

3. Update from the Board

- 3.1 The Committee noted the Board minutes from their meetings since last the Events Committee meeting.
- 3.2 The Committee received an update from the Events Committee Vice President.

Cory Sertl noted the decisions made on Russia / Belarus and confirmed the decisions that The Council has made regarding athletes, coaches, officials, and committee members.

In addition, there were updates on the work of the Olympic Commission Working Party, Special Events governance, the America's Cup partnership, Match and Team Racing. Cory Sertl also updated the Committee on the hard work of the Para World Sailing Committee despite the disappointing decision by the IPC not to include Sailing in the 2028 Paralympic Games.

4. Paris 2024 Olympic Games

- 4.1 The Committee received a report on the Paris 2024 Olympic Games from the Director of Events and Olympic Manager, including an update on the 2023 Test Event, the implementation of the Qualification System and new formats.

It was noted that Key the Board will approve the African qualifier at their Mid-Year Meeting.

The Olympic Manager gave an update on the test event that included the quotas and entry system, plans for digital officiating and in addition an update on the competition schedule for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games and the broadcast opportunities.

- 4.2 The Committee received an update from the Format Working Party on the formats for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

It was noted that the development of the Kite and Windsurfing formats was going well following reviews of the formats at the Princess Sofia Regatta the Semaine Olympique Française. Plans for digital officiating for the Kite medal series were well under way.

Recommendation not based on submission:

The Working Party would like to thank the RMSC and IUSC for their reports and is of the opinion that the Events Committee should encourage the RMSC and IUSC to continue working on the reports and implementation of digital officiating at World Sailing-sanctioned events.

The WP notes that it does not have expertise to evaluate the received reports in terms of technology and rules.

Whilst encouraging to press forward the WP would like to stress that using technology can be a tool in reaching our sport's strategic goals (sustainability/marketability) and is not a goal in itself.

5. The Hague 2023 Sailing World Championships

- 5.1 The Committee received an update on the Sailing World Championships in The Hague from the Director of Events, including plans for the Para World Sailing Classes, the implementation of the Qualification System and broadcast plans.

The Director of Events gave an update on the implementation of the quotas and qualification system and reported that for the Olympic Classes quotas were almost full. It was noted that in the Para events entries would be lower than the quotas, but MNA attendance was the priority.

Additionally, it was noted that planning for both The Hague venues and the Brassemermeer venue were well under way, as were the broadcast and technology plans.

It was noted that the key areas of discussion with The Hague Organising Committee had been:

- (a) Broadcast & Technology Plans
- (b) Budgets

- (c) Finalising the venue plans
- (d) Field of Play management and safety
- (e) Competition schedule
- (f) Spectator plans / ceremonies
- (g) Para Events at the Brassemermeer venue
- (h) International officials / national volunteers

6. LA 2028 Olympic Games

- 6.1 The Committee received a report from the Format Working Party on proposals for the LA 2028 Olympic Games.

It was noted that the Olympic Vision would be critical for setting a strategy for developing formats for future Olympic Games. Some MNAs have already tested some new formats. However, a key issue is what events can be used to properly test formats in the future.

7. Olympic Vision

- 7.1 The Committee received an update from the Olympic Vision Working Party established by the Board following the 2021 Annual Conference.

It was noted that work was continuing to finalise the Olympic Vision with work on the 4 pillars of Accessibility, Marketability, Sustainability and Diversity:

1. Marketability:

Attract a strong following across media channels and broad audience engagement

2. Accessibility:

Increase MNA participation, attract and retain more high-performance athletes and reduce cost to compete at the international level

3. Sustainability:

Increasing reduction of carbon footprint in connection with equipment, travel and events

4. Diversity:

Improved inclusivity and gender equality in athlete quotas and medal events for men and women, and for Olympic Class technical officials, coaches and World Sailing and MNA leaders

A Board led Working Party is working hard to review the key subjects and is finalising a paper that will be presented to the Council at the Annual Conference.

8. Regulation 23

- 8.1 The Committee received a report from the Regulation 23 Working Party.

The Chair of the Regulation 23 Working Party gave an update on the timeline for decisions and the key roles for the Events Committee and Equipment Committee. It was noted that a final report will be prepared for the 2023 Annual Conference following the publication of the Olympic Vision.

9. World Sailing Event Strategy

- 9.1 The Committee received a report from the Calendar Working Party with an update on the plans for the 2026 / 2027 Sailing World Championships.

It was noted that a paper is being finalised and that the key goal is to agree how the Sailing World Championships would be split – including where Para events would be included and potential new events.

9.2 The Committee reviewed plans to develop the World Sailing Event Strategy.

In particular it was noted that the LA 2028 and Brisbane 2032 Olympic Games would bring some significant challenges and opportunities for the calendar and event strategy.

10. Rankings

10.1 The Committee received a report from the Rankings Working Party.

The Chair of the Rankings Working Party noted that there was an opportunity in 2024 to reset the World Sailing Rankings database and that a budget would be needed to ensure that this work can be done. It was noted that if the work was not done then there would not be an opportunity to update the Rankings until after the LA 2028 Olympic Games.

It was agreed that the Rankings Working Party would review any potential changes required and finalise a report for the 2023 Annual Conference.

11. Youth Events Sub-committee

11.1 The Committee received an update on plans for the 2023, 2024 and 2025 Youth Worlds and received a report from the Chair of the Youth Events Sub-committee (YESC) on the strategic discussions for the future.

The Chair of the Youth Events Sub-committee noted that:

At the 2022 Annual Conference the YESC kick started a new phase of the wholesale strategic review of the youth events strategy. This was driven by the following key points;

- a) recognition that we live in an ever-changing world
- b) research undertaken in 2020 demonstrated areas of opportunity / risk - the need for enhanced sustainability / environmental focus
- c) looking for a stronger legacy – participation / volunteer development
- d) ensuring the YW is desirable for ALL MNA's
- e) making sure the YW is commercially viable / bid'able

The Events Committee agreed that it would review the strategy document and pass any comments on to the YESC.

11.2 The Committee reviewed Submission M02-23 from the Board regarding Regulation 24.5.5 and made the following recommendation to the Council.

Proposed: Markus Schwendtner, Seconded: David Hughes

Recommendation to Council: Approve

Unanimous

12. Match Racing Sub-committee

12.1 The Committee received a report from the Chair of the Match Racing Sub-committee.

The detailed report included updates on the Match Racing Rankings, 2022 and 2023 major events and plans for 2024, 2025 and 2026.

Match Racing Rankings:

The Gratings and Rankings working party has worked together with World Sailing staff, World Sailing IT and World Sailing IT partner Sotic to sort out the many challenges to publish correct rankings.

World Sailing board has supported the urgent task to sort out the challenges.

Now the Open and Women rankings are published.

Recommendation to the Board:

The Match Racing Sub Committee recommends that World Sailing Board of Directors continue to dedicate resources to make sure that the match racing youth ranking is worked on until published and that the user friendliness of the new platform is improved so that all necessary data is available for easy access for sailors, teams, and event organisers.

We strongly suggest moving in a timely manner on this matter and that World Sailing board receives regular progress reports until this matter is resolved.

13. Team Racing Sub-committee

13.1 The Committee received a report from the Chair of the Team Racing Sub-committee.

The Chair gave an update on plans for Team Racing World Championships and for plans for a Team Racing Rankings. A full report on the Ranking System and World Championship Bids will be presented at the 2023 Annual Conference.

14. Any Other Business