

Safety Panel Update

1. Safety Panel

The Safety Panel was established in 2017 to assist the Board in ensuring safety in the sport of sailing. After changes to the composition following staff changes, the Safety Panel has been meeting regularly since the start of 2023. During the monthly meetings, the Safety Panel reviews incidents logged and discusses safety related matters which are then reported to the Board.

The current members of the Safety Panel are:

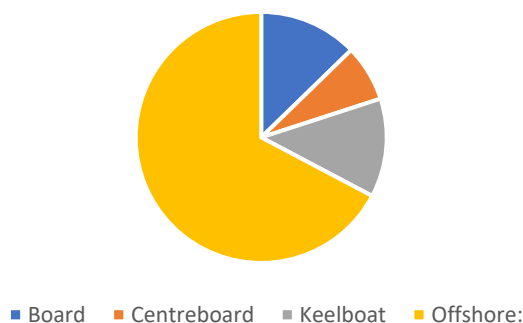
Katrina Ham – Offshore Executive
Jaime Navarro – Director of Technical and Offshore
Alastair Fox – Director of Events
Urvashi Naidoo – Director of Legal and Governance
Matthew Wheaton – Competitions Manager

2. Incident Reporting

Incident reporting requirements are outlined in Regulation 38 which requires MNAs, Classes and Rating Systems to report incidents. Launched in 2018, the [World Sailing Incident Reporting Portal](#) allows easy logging of incidents. Reported incidents are [logged online](#).

In the year to 1st October 2023, 55 incidents were added to the [Reported Incident List](#). Please note that 2 of these incidents occurred prior to that period.

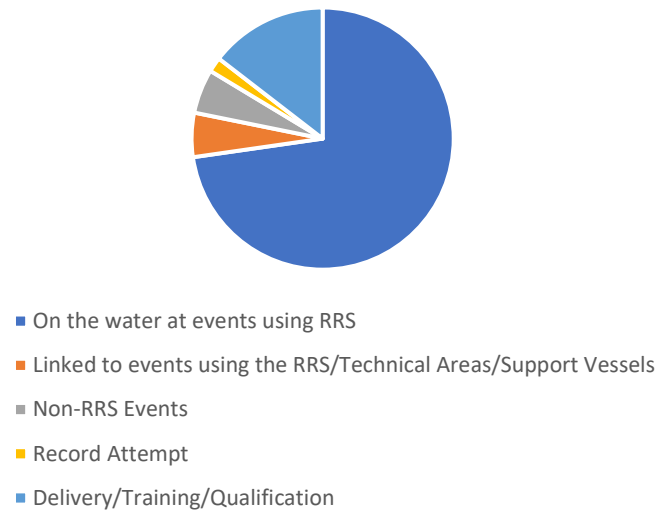
Incidents Category 01/10/22 - 01/10/23



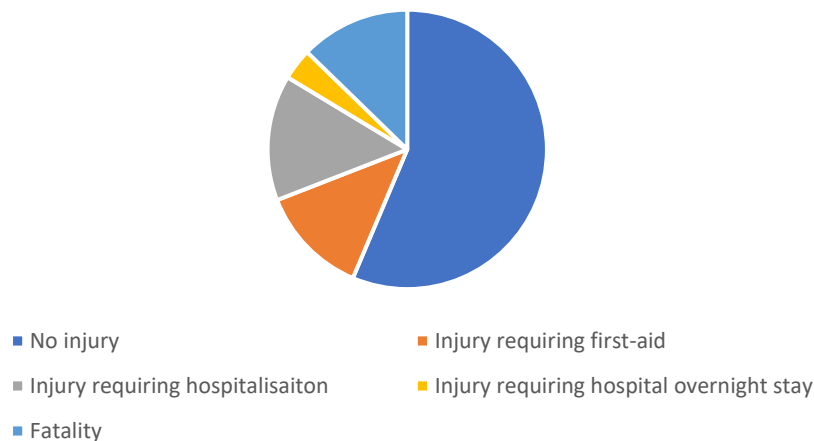
	<i>Number of Recorded Incidents</i>	<i>Percentage of all Recorded Incidents</i>
<i>Involving a WS Class</i>	23	38%
<i>Involving a WS Special Event</i>	7	12%
<i>Involving foiling</i>	15	25%
<i>Involving a head injury</i>	7	12%

Please note that while linked to WS Classes, not all incidents occurred at Class organised events.

Incident Contexts - 01/10/22 - 01/10/23



Incident Injuries Sustained - 01/10/22 - 01/10/23



Please note that 7 incidents resulted in 8 fatalities of which 2 are not confirmed.

During the follow up on incidents, the Safety Panel has identified a number of challenges:

- Despite requirements under Regulation 38, a general lack of engagement from stakeholders including MNA's, Classes, Rating Systems and Event Organisers. This results in an increased workload on the Executive Office and limits the resources available to follow up with wider stakeholders. A lack of willingness to provide details once requested also hinders the Safety Panels ability to understand the causes of incidents and therefore be able to provide guidance and share learnings.
- A number of incidents identified occurred during events that do not use the Racing Rules of Sailing. This poses challenges to incident investigations and limits World Sailing's ability to influence the events as there is no jurisdiction. However, this presents a reputational risk as the general public's perception will not distinguish and it will reflect poorly on the sport.

- A lack of reporting from World Sailing Special Events. Of the incidents recorded linked to Special Events, only 1 was reported directly to World Sailing by the Special Event concerned.
- An increase in the number of mega-fauna strikes recorded. This topic has been widely covered in general media. World Sailing is currently working on guidance on this topic.

The Safety Panel has also noted positive observations of the past year including:

- The number of incidents reported by World Sailing Race Officials either at events or who became aware of issues in the wider community.
- The Safety Panel would like to note the work of Australian Sailing regarding Incident Reporting and highlight the quality of the Incident Reports shared.

3. Safety Focus

With an increased focus on Safety, the Safety Panel has taken the following steps:

- Articles to share best practice with the wider sailing community. To increase the sharing of best practices, regular articles on particular areas of safety identified by the Safety Panel are published and circulated. The articles are written in collaboration with industry experts focusing on a specific area of Safety and are available [online](#).
- Increased awareness of the requirements and the reporting portal. While outlined in the Regulations, there is a clear need to increase awareness of the requirement to report incidents and the [Incident Reporting Portal](#). To increase awareness of the requirements and portals the follow steps have been taken:
 - Classes are reminded when reporting on World Championships.
 - Classes will be reminded when completing annual reports.
 - It was the focus of the initial safety [article](#) communicated to World Sailing stakeholders including Classes, Rating Systems and MNA's.

To further develop the focus on Safety, the following objectives have been identified by the Safety Panel:

- Upgrading of the Incident Reporting page to make it interactive (eg: ability to search by category). This has been raised by various stakeholders however is not possible with the current technical provider.
- Upgrading of the Incident Reporting Portal to add additional features and questions (eg: additional fields added regarding mega-fauna strikes). This has also been raised by various stakeholders however is not possible with the current technical provider.
- Definition of incident. Identified as an issue during the Oceanic and Offshore Committee meeting at the 2022 Annual Conference, the definition of “incident” needs to be reviewed. Given the wide variations in the sport, and the desire to capture incidents that might not result in injury or damage to equipment due to the possible “lesson learned”, it needs to be further defined and clarified in the incident reporting process and requirements.

4. Safety Commission

At the 2023 Mid-Year meeting, the Board's submission to establish the Safety Commission was approved. With the guidance of Vice-President Philip Baum (Board liaison for safety) the Executive Office identified nominees from the various Committees and Commissions outlined in Regulation 8.15.2. The Board has appointed the following members to the Safety Commission:

1. Nicholas Sloane – Chair
2. Vice-President Philip Baum (Vice-President)
3. Nebojsa Nikolic (Medical Commission representative)
4. Sally Honey (Oceanic and Offshore Committee representative)
5. Shevaun Bruland (Equipment Committee representative)
6. Jo Aleh (Athletes Commission representative)
7. Michele Marchesini (Coaches Commission representative)
8. Walter Boddener (Events Committee representative)
9. Christophe Gaumont (Race Officials Committee representative)

The Safety Commission will meet for the first time at the 2023 Annual Conference.