

The Athletes' Commission met in person at the World Sailing Annual Conference between 13:30 – 16:30 hrs CST on Wednesday 15 November 2023

Please refer to the World Sailing website www.sailing.org for the details of the submissions and papers on the agenda and referred to in these minutes.

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|------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Opening of the Meeting | 2. Events |
| 3. Equipment | 4. EDI Presentation |
| 5. Anti-Doping | 6. Safeguarding |
| 7. Transgender Policy | 8. Submissions |
| 9. Any Other Business | 10. Actions |
| 11. Date of the Next Meeting | |

Present:

Jo Aleh (NZL) – **Chairperson**

David Hughes (USA) – **Vice-Chairperson**

Pawel Kolodzinski (POL)

Alice Hug – Paralegal

1. Opening of the Meeting

Welcome from the Chairperson.

The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted absences and apologies. It was noted that the Athletes' Commission had several in-active members. The end of the four-year term would be in May 2024, and there was a discussion around how to find new appropriate and committed Athletes' Commission members. The Athletes' Commission suggested that it would be beneficial to speak to the Classes, and request that they promote the opportunity of becoming an Athletes' Commission member to their athletes.

The last Athletes' Commission meeting was held online, shortly after the Sailing World Championships in the Hague. The meeting was used as preparation for the Annual Conference.

2. Events

SSL Gold Cup

Paul McKenzie (PM) joined the meeting to present the SSL Gold Cup event format and receive feedback from the Athletes' Commission. PM highlighted the lack of participation of high-profile athletes.

The plan for the event was for it to be run on a four-year World Cup cycle, which would be held two years either side of the Summer Olympics.

PM stated that the event was a great pathway for smaller countries where athletes might not have access to that size of boats through their local clubs.

Sailing World Championships 2023

It was noted that the Athletes' Commission had raised several issues with Michael Downing (MD). The issues which had arisen in the Hague were repeat issues from previous Sailing World Championship events.

The Athletes' Commission had requested to see a formal report from World Sailing on the Sailing World Championships 2023.

The Chairperson suggested that the Athletes' Commission formulate a list of everything that happened, both positive and negative, in the Hague, for World Sailing's records.

Paris 2024 Test Event

The Commission noted that all the issues which had arisen in the Hague had also occurred at the Paris Test Event. The main concerns were around the field of play, and its location and boundaries.

MD had informed the Athletes' Commission that, because of feedback from the Test Event, the following elements would be improved for the Paris 2024 Olympics:

- Shade
- Storage
- Field of Play
- Stickers

Youth Sailing World Championships 2024

The Vice-Chairperson raised concerns about the scheduling for staff at the Youth Sailing World Championships, due to the close time proximity with the Olympics.

Los Angeles 2028 Olympics

MD confirmed that the details for the event should be finalised by early 2025.

Concerns were raised regarding training ahead of the event.

Potential formats for the sailing disciplines was discussed and it was noted that there was a possibility that the Olympic competition could be a different format to other key sailing events. The Athletes' Commission would support World Sailing on new event format suggestions for future Olympics.

World Cup Regatta

It was agreed that the World Cup Regatta was a good idea, however it needed more marketing to become an event that sailors would aspire to participate in. It was suggested in the meeting that the event should have fewer entrants compared to other events.

3. Equipment

It was noted the development of the Equipment policy was ongoing.

4. EDI Presentation

The World Sailing legal team would present an update on the safeguarding and transgender policies at the Women's Forum at the Annual Conference on 15 November 2023.

5. Anti-Doping

Alice Hug (AH) presented the Anti-Doping Paper and gave an update on progress with anti-doping programme. It was confirmed that the Medical Commission had signed off the Anti-Doping plans for 2024.

6. Safeguarding

AH gave an update on the safeguarding policy, which had been signed off by the Medical Commission, and would be presented for formal approval at the Council meeting on 18 November 2023.

7. Transgender Policy

The Chairperson suggested there may be a need for Class specific policies.

Female kite athletes had been the main group to raise that their Classes would be gender affected.

The Athletes' Commission strongly proposed that that the policy could not be based on weight restrictions.

It was suggested that there was a need to consider other International Federations' policies when drafting the policy.

The Athletes' Commission agreed that medical research should be the fundamental factor when determining transgender participation at Olympic and international level sailing.

8. Submissions

To be discussed amongst the Athletes' Commission separately.

9. Any Other Business - No items raised.

10. Summary of Actions

Actions for the Athletes' Commission:

- Provide a 'wish list' for specific technology that athletes may want moving forwards.
- Request for appropriate member(s) of the Athletes' Commission to review competition documents for key events in the future.
- Prepare for the Class AGM in 2024, with a focus on recruiting new electees to the Athletes' Commission.
- Engage with Classes to get feedback on the creation and testing of event formats.

Actions for the Federation:

- Provide the Athletes' Commission with official reports from the Sailing World Championships 2023 and the Paris 2024 Test Event.

11. Date of Next Meeting - To be confirmed.