



World Sailing

Para Inclusive Strategy 2024 – 2029

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Our North Star



Sailing is accessible and inclusive to all, endeavouring to remove any barriers to participation



Sailing generates engagement with the wider sailing community by creating a modern vision of our sport



Sailing creates opportunities for social impact and change



Sailing positions itself with the best chance towards reinstatement to the Paralympic Games

“We know a life on water unlocks so many opportunities for people with a disability, we know how inclusive Sailing is, and we are determined that Para Sailing will continue to go from strength to strength.”

David Graham, World Sailing, CEO



The Future

Our ambitions are to ensure sailing is one of the most inclusive sports and to secure a return to the Paralympic Games.

The Para Inclusive World Sailing Strategy 2024-2029 is a new, bigger and broader approach which we believe will position World Sailing as a global leader of inclusive sport.

Whilst looking to the future of our sport, we are also ambitious for the positive impact sailing can have for people with disabilities off the water as well as on the water.



Vision

Sailing is recognised as a truly inclusive sport in which everyone regardless of disability, condition or illness feels welcomed and supported to get the best out of their life on the water.

Mission

A sport which is growing participation at every level whilst broadening the community it supports and improving the accessibility of sailing.

Objectives

Maintaining a secure competition program of annual international events, robust anti-doping, Para classification compliance, and a safe sport commitment.

Strategy

World Sailing is focusing its efforts on four strategic goals to support our ambitions for Para Inclusive Sailing; Inclusion, a modern vision, social impact and change, and reinclusion to the Paralympic Games.

CEO Foreword

Sailing has a unique capacity to include people of all ages, genders and abilities. It is one of very few sports in which people with and without a disability can participate on equal terms.

We have witnessed undeniable success within Para Sailing, from making its debut at the Sailing World Championships in 2023 and becoming a permanent part of the event going forward, to countless inspirational stories of sailors discovering the sport and being able to live a life without restrictions on the water. All of this has been against a backdrop of incredible global expansion of the sport.

World Sailing is committed to growing Para sailing in collaboration with its Member National Authorities (MNAs), at major events, and within the committee structure of the world governing body to achieve its goals.

Para Inclusive Sailing is an integral part of our sport. The organisation will continue to encourage MNAs to make sailing a more inclusive and welcoming sport for both competition and recreation at a local and national level. World Sailing strives to foster ongoing development and provide an exciting international program of inclusive competitions.

The World Sailing Para Inclusive Strategy 2024-2029 explains our vision for the future of the sport and how we as the governing body for the sport of sailing aims to achieve our targets.

David Graham
Chief Executive Officer, World Sailing.





Introduction

World Sailing is committed to growing Para sailing in collaboration with its Member National Authorities (MNAs), at major events, and within the committee structure of the world governing body to achieve its goals. The organisation will continue to encourage MNAs to make sailing a more inclusive and welcoming sport for both competition and recreation at a local and national level.

World Sailing strives to foster ongoing development and provide an exciting international program of inclusive competitions.

In collaboration with our member federations, we have achieved significant progress: over the past five years, the number of nations with sailors participating in international Para sailing competitions has increased by 30%. We also saw growth in Youth and Womens participation in Para Sailing Events: Youth participation increased from 16% to 19% and Womens participation went from 23% to 27%.

Significant process was also made in developing resources and creating regional development hubs through the Inclusive Development Program.

The Para World Sailing Strategy 2024-2029, outlined on the following pages, builds on this success.

“Disability is never the limitation, rather it is the social and environmental factors that create disadvantage. A shared desire to overcome is the driving force.”

Hannah Stodel
Para World Sailing Manager





2024 - 2029 Strategy

1. INCLUSION

2. A MODERN VISION

3. IMPACT & SOCIAL CHANGE

4. REINSTATEMENT
IN THE PARALYMPICS

Goal 1 Inclusion



1. INCLUSION

2. A MODERN VISION

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4. REINSTATEMENT
IN THE PARALYMPICS

What does true inclusion look like?

True inclusion is sailing for everyone with no limits, removing any obstacles and barriers and creating equal opportunities for everybody to compete on an equal platform.

Full, equitable engagement is best achieved by creating a safe environment that is welcoming, respectful, and where individuals are supported to fully participate and contribute.

Inclusion aims to diversify and broaden the range of disabled people sailing, along with increasing participation by women and youth.

The effort also brings Para sailing in line with the World Sailing sustainability agenda regarding development goals around inclusion..

Strategic Priorities

- Increase the diversity and broaden the range of disabled people competing in the core program of events, including those with invisible disabilities that affect their daily life.
- Encourage those without disabilities to compete and sail alongside Para sailors in open style events.
- Diversify participation by growing the number of countries regularly competing across all disciplines in line with the IPC requirements. Targeting 40 nations across five International Paralympic Committee continents.
- Uplift women's participation by bringing Para sailing in line with World Sailing's development goals of achieving gender equality, including competing teams, shore crew, race officials, and governance bodies.
- Expand youth engagement by focusing on growing youth and young adult participation to at least 30% of under 30s at both grassroots and elite level.

Tactics

- Inclusive Development Program (IDP) – a holistic redesign of the former Para Development Program. Using the IDP to create a foundational base of regional development focus, upskilling programs, centres, coaches and sailors to drive development.
- Ensure accessibility standards in line with Agenda 2030 that not only meet the criteria, but also exceed it; showing that sailing creates a welcoming, safe and supportive sporting environment.
- Inclusive Sailing Series – a series of events that give everyone a chance to compete regardless of disability, with no barriers to participation.
- Inclusion World Championships - develop an event platform that celebrates all individualities of disability both on and off the water and fosters a more inclusive sailing community. An opportunity to celebrate Para inclusivity within sailing and to bring the community to an event that is more than sailing.
- Para Sailing World Championships - host Para competition within inclusive class World Championships.
- A quadrennial World Sailing Championships which includes the Para Sailing World Championships alongside the Olympic Class World Championships.

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IN THE PARALYMPICS

Goal 2 A Modern Vision



1. INCLUSION

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3. IMPACT & SOCIAL CHANGE

4. REINSTATEMENT
IN THE PARALYMPICS

A Modern Vision

Those who are already a part of the global sailing community know that it is a welcoming and friendly community, as diverse in equipment as it is in its participants. Within sailing there is something for everyone and it is a sport that is constantly developing and changing.

The aim of this strategy is to demonstrate that sailing is accessible to all, encouraging everyone to feel that there is a place for them in our sport.

Sailing has the power to increase the visibility of important issues in the modern world, such as climate change, mental health, and human connection demonstrating that the sport goes far beyond the time just spent on the water. We need to utilise these distinct qualities to create a truly global impact and to ensure the sport is environmentally and socially sustainable for the future.

Strategic Priorities

- Change perceptions by breaking down the negative stereotypes associated with sailing.
- Demonstrate how the sport of sailing addresses issues important to the community.
- Make information accessible to all. Promote a community ethos that supports the growth of individuals and creates an environment for shared resources.
- Embrace change and establish a culture which is aware of our changing world and adaptive to keep the sport relevant for all.
- Insight and research undertaken to understand barriers to participation.

Tactics

- Gather insight to understand the barriers to participation for people with a disability.
- Leverage media to help promote Para sailing and change people's perception of the sport. Demonstrate that disability is not a limitation, but rather social and environmental factors create disadvantage.
- Promote shared information and resources, encouraging individuals to contribute information so it becomes self-sustaining.
- Broaden the sport to include new disciplines to create wider interest and increase participation.
- Align with the World Sailing Sustainability Agenda 2030 and produce accessibility standards that go beyond wheelchair accessibility.

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Goal 3 Impact & Social Change



1. INCLUSION

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IN THE PARALYMPICS

Impact & Social Change

Sailing has a powerful impact on the social, physical and psychological wellbeing of persons with disabilities. Through sailing, people gain self-confidence, independence and tools they can use in their everyday lives in daily activities.

The objective is to promote the capacity of sailing to provide social, personal and skill development opportunities that may not otherwise be available and to foster the abilities and qualities that Para sailors have to offer.

Strategic Priorities

- Create a self-sustaining network to encourage participation in Para Sailing and include people from every aspect of the sport.
- Develop and promote opportunities for participation by disabled people from marginalised socioeconomic backgrounds due to the rising costs of participation.
- Showcase the powerful positive impact sailing has on mental health, physical wellbeing, and a variety of personal and professional skills.

Tactics

- Implement initiatives that will connect a global network of sailors, coaches, race officials and technical staff who support each other, to grow the sport.
- Share Inclusive Program Models that demonstrate that learning to sail promotes social inclusion and empowerment for persons with disabilities.
- Enable communication platforms that share resources throughout the community.
- Reinforce the power of sailing to improve well-being by using sailing activities to foster positive attitudes about mental health and well-being while overcoming negative stereotypes.

1. INCLUSION

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Goal 4 Reinstatement in the Paralympics



1. INCLUSION

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4. REINSTATEMENT
IN THE PARALYMPICS

Reinstatement in the Paralympics

A key part of this strategy is re-instatement in the Paralympic Sports Programme.

Being part of the Paralympic Games provides an aspirational pinnacle event for athletes to strive for.

The International Paralympic Committee (IPC) evaluates numerous factors and criteria when selecting sports for the Paralympic Games Sports Programme. The process is complex and competitive, and this strategy seeks to provide Para sailing with the best chance to return to the Paralympic Summer Games.

Strategic Priorities

- Meet and exceed the minimum worldwide reach target of 32 countries across three IPC regions that are widely and regularly participating in competitions on an annual basis.
- Provide a clear and comprehensive Quadrennial Competition calendar of events coordinated by World Sailing.
- Maintain clear alignment with the IPC Athlete Classification Code, whilst continuing to innovate.
- Conduct a robust anti-doping program that includes education, athlete testing, and a commitment to clean sport.
- Encourage the implementation of the Safesport program within all Para Inclusive events and ensure that sailing is widely recognised as a welcoming and safe sport where anyone can participate.

Tactics

- Conduct regional Inclusive Development Programs, to build a legacy program of Sailing Centres, Coaches, Race Officials and a network to support the growth of inclusive sailing from the grassroots up.
- Maintain an ongoing quadrennial competition program that is clearly structured with championships that offer athletes from all regions of the world sufficient opportunities to continually engage in meaningful competition.
- World Sailing's 2024-2027 competition program will include:
 - Quadrennial World Sailing Championships featuring Para sailing events.
 - Annual Inclusion World Championships – an annual combined world championship, aimed at a broader community to build participation and offer top level competition.
 - Annual Para Sailing World Championships held in conjunction with identified inclusive class World Championships – The annual competitions of the Para and Para preferred classes will be awarded their world titles within the class world championships.
 - World Championships held at a minimum of every four years for blind, intellectually impaired and high-support needs athletes.
 - Support for a Deaf World Sailing Championships
- Maintain compliance with the IPC Athlete Classification Code.
- Maintain compliance with the World Anti-Doping Code through event and out of event testing, athlete training workshops at events and online accessible resources, using an athlete testing pool based on the current sailor rankings.
- Maintain and regularly update the World Sailing ranking lists.
- Champion heroes of Para Sailing through great story telling.

Para Inclusive Sailing – A New Beginning

Sailing has the opportunity to reimagine how one of the world's most beautiful sports engages with sailors around the world and challenges everyone to remove the barriers to participation.

The new World Sailing Para Inclusive Strategy demonstrates how our sport is refocussing on what is important to our community - building a solid foundation to increase participation and engaging with a much broader group of sailors.

The four pillars of this strategy support that; inclusivity, social impact and change, creating a modern vision, and aiming to secure reinstatement to the Paralympic Games.

Building a truly inclusive sport is an ambition to which everyone in sailing can contribute and the World Sailing Para Inclusive Strategy should be used as a guide for anyone who wants to help. Building a truly inclusive sport is an ambition to which everyone in sailing can contribute and the World Sailing Para Inclusive Strategy should be used as a guide for anyone who wants to help.





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