

REPORT FROM THE TRANSGENDER POLICY CONSULTATION WORKSHOP

World Sailing have been working on a transgender participation policy and as part of working on the policy has been going through a consultation process. Given the unique nature of the sport of sailing, WS wishes to include the Classes and coaches in this process and share valuable insight and knowledge on this sensitive and ever-evolving topic. As part of the consultation, WS hosted a workshop for Classes and coaches, run by the WS Medical Commission. Workshop was organized on 27th March 2024. With presentations and discussion carried out virtually.

Workshop programme

1. Introduction	Medical Commission
2. A word from the CEO	David Graham
3. Consultation process to date	WS Legal
4. Medical Research	Stephane Bermon & Xavier Bigard
5. Legal background	Tim O'Connor
6. What it means to be 'gender-affected'	Tim O'Connor
Break	
7. Breakout sessions	
8. Next steps / post workshop Delphi Survey	Neb Nikolic
9. Questions	

Group 1

Dr Nebojsa Nikolic

Urvasi Naidoo (**WS**)

Miranda Merron (**Class 40**, coach)

Emma Westmacott (**Yacht Racing**, coach)

Olivier Bovyn (**Formula 18**)

Bertie Werley (**International Lightning Class Association**)

Ann Penny (**International GP14 Class Association**)

Michael Hecky (**International Star Class**)

Group 2

Dr Spike Briggs

Alice Hug (**WS**)

Maria Hackerott (**ILCA 4/6/7 & other classes**, coach)

Joe Glanfield (**British Sailing Team, all classes**, coach)

Head Doctor (**Polish Windsurfing Association**)

Group 3

Dr Xavier Bigard

Tim O'Connor
Gillian Sanders (**WS**)
Oli Woodcock (**British Youth Sailing Team, all classes, coach**)
Zara Davis (**ISWC & WSSRC**)
Irina Perez (**ILCA 6/7, IQFoil, FormulaKite, Sunfish, Optimist**)
Doug Walker (**UK 29er**)

After the meeting, based on minutes taken by WS staff, 10 major statements were identified:

1. Sailing is gender affected sport.
2. There is a need to protect and get more women into sailing sport. Where there is a female prize, it needs to be protected.
3. In sailing, gender is as important as height and weight.
4. Transwoman will also have psychological (conditioning) advantages as before the transition, they competed among men - in tougher competitions with more sailors.
5. Upper body strength (Male advantage)— is not a factor. The boats are designed so that they do not go faster - The harder you hike the faster you will be.
6. Board classes are the most affected by height and weight advantages.
7. Mixed crew big boats aren't gender-affected, however, there needs to be something in place to protect women's prizes e.g., first female etc.
8. Sailing at a club and junior level (mixed up to 16 yrs) should stay open (TG included)
9. Sailing at elite level should be stricter with categories, Male/female.
10. Open and Female category would be the fairest but also the most inclusive.

Main statements from the workshop were submitted to anonymous Delphi study survey to reflect the consensus on main issues. Results of the discussions were summarized in 10 statements and those who participated in workgroups were offered to evaluate them via *Qualtrix platform* and grade them as one of the following: *Acceptable; Abstain; Unacceptable*.

The results were analysed and arranged in three answer categories as follows: *strongly disagree; undecided; strongly agree*.

Three levels of agreement based on which subsequent discussions were held were:

1. Agreement: ≥80% of authors agreeing on the voting statement, without any author disagreeing.
2. Agreement with minority disagreement: ≥80% of authors agreeing on the voting statement, but with one or more authors disagreeing.
3. Disagreement: <80% of authors agreeing on the voting statement.

Participants were allowed to write a minority opinion in the event of disagreement with a statement.

Disagreement

Statement No 3. (In sailing, gender is as important as height and weight) was rejected after first round of voting.

Agreement

Statements 1, 2, and 10 reached threshold of 80% without *Abstained* votes (no *Unacceptable* votes):

1. Sailing is gender affected sport.
2. There is a need to protect and get more women into sailing sport. Where there is a female prize, it needs to be protected.
10. Open and Female category would be the fairest but also the most inclusive.

However, it is usual practice to include *Abstained* votes as *Agreement with minority disagreement*. After including *Abstained* votes, results were:

Agreement with minority disagreement

Statements 4, 6, 8 and 9 reached threshold of 80%:

4. Transwoman will also have psychological (conditioning) advantages as before the transition, they competed among men - in tougher competitions with more sailors.
6. Board classes are the most affected by height and weight advantages.
8. Sailing at a club and junior level (mixed up to 16 yrs) should stay open (TG included)
9. Sailing at elite level should be stricter with categories, Male/female.

Some of the statements included as *Agreement with minority disagreement* were discussed at the subsequent virtual meeting on meeting on 12.04.2024. Due to the shortage of time, voted statements were not revised after discussions and then subjected to a second round of confidential electronic survey what is the standard procedure in Delphi Survey method, but will be used in further consultation process.

Sincerely

Dr. Nebojša Nikolić,

WS Medical Commission