

WORLD SAILING CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE REPORT 2024

Over the past year the Constitution Committee has considered and assisted World Sailing in respect of a number of matters, including the following:

1. Advising stakeholders including the Board, Committees, CEO and the Office in respect of the Constitution and Regulations, on matters that arise that require the Committee's advice or opinion.
2. Advising on substantial revisions of the WS Regulations and the Constitution to allow participation of neutral athletes at the Paris 2024 Games.
3. Reviewing constitutions and other documentation relating to WS National Authority membership. Advice was provided during the year in respect of process for the suspension of an MNA member. One new membership application from the Sailing Federation of Tajikistan is currently in process.
4. Reviewing documentation in respect of WS Class Association members. Two new applications from the RS Venture Connect and X15 classes are currently in process. Advice was given to the 2.4mR Class regarding their updated constitution.
5. Providing interpretations of the WS Constitution & Regulations, under the provisions of Regulation 16. One formal request for interpretation was received in the past 12 months, the response to which was published on the website.
6. Assisting the CEO and Legal department with a range of ad-hoc legal matters including two referrals to the Court of Arbitration for Sport, a High Court action, questions of eligibility and general governance matters.
7. Advising submitters regarding their proposed Submissions to Council, and reviewing all relevant submissions prior to both the 2024 midyear meeting and annual meeting.
8. Assisting the Board and the Governance Sub-Committee in respect of the ongoing Governance Review including reviewing all draft documentation.
9. Providing guidance regarding the 2024 Presidential and Vice-Presidential elections, including review of the draft election rules, nominations and election procedures.
10. Reviewing the draft Safeguarding Policy and the amended Transgender and Non-Binary Policy in conjunction with the Legal team.

Following an extensive consultation process, World Sailing has implemented substantial governance reform during this term. The documents have been widely circulated, supported by a series of explanatory meetings. Full copies are available on the website. Council will consider the next tranche of governance changes at annual conference, including a review of which matters are written into the Regulations, and which are expressed in a new Policy Register.

All stakeholders are reminded of the importance of familiarising themselves fully with the new governance documents. Particular attention is drawn to the changes relating to Submissions and those designed to enable more consultative and effective decision-making going forward.

As the 2020-2024 term draws to a close, I would like to express my thanks to the President, Vice-Presidents, all Constitution and other Committee Members and to the World Sailing Secretariat for their hard work and assistance. Much has been achieved and I look forward to further progress in the coming quadrennial.

David Tillett AM
Chair, WS Constitution Committee
October 2024