World Sailing Board Minutes

The World Sailing Board met by conference call on Wednesday 15 May 2024 between 10:00 – 13:00 UTC.

Present	**In Attendance**
1. Quanhai Li - President 2. Ozlem Akdurak – Vice President 3. Jo Aleh – Chair, Athletes Commission 4. Philip Baum - Vice President 5. Tomasz Chamera – Vice President 6. Yann Rocherieux – Vice President 7. Cory Sertl – Vice President 8. Marcus Spillane – Vice President	1. David Graham – Chief Executive Officer 2. Raksha Patel – Director of Finance & Business Operations 3. Urvasi Naidoo – Director of Legal & Governance 4. Nelia Smith – International Relations & Corporate Affairs

1. Opening of the Meeting

a) Presidents' Opening Remarks

The President welcomed everyone to the call and expressed his gratitude to various team members for their hard work and dedication, especially for the successful delivery of the Last Chance Regatta and the ongoing work being done on Governance Reform. He also updated the Board on his recent travel to Europe.

b) Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest

The President confirmed that he has concluded his duties as Chairman of the Samaranch Foundation and is no longer serving in any official capacity.

The CEO also outlined the process to be followed during the review of the World Sailing Championships tender, given the conflicts filed previously.

c) Approval of previous minutes

The minutes of the 25 March 2024 Board meeting were received and approved, subject to one amend being made in relation to the Far East agreement agenda item.

d) Matters arising

e) Decisions by email

The Board noted the following decisions made by email, since the last Board meeting.

- EDI Committee. Proposed amendments to the Constitution approved for circulation.
- February 2024 Minutes Final amendments agreed.
- Governance Reform Phase 2 documents noted ahead of circulation to stakeholders
- Racing Rules. Board delegated its authority to Vice President to approve changes to the racing rules.

2. Executive Office

a) Management Report

The Executive Office presented a comprehensive management report covering updates from the individual departments.

b) High Accuracy Trackers Update

The CEO updated the Board about the process currently underway of entering into a four-year contract with Swiss timing to provide high accuracy precision trackers for World Sailing competitions. In line with the WS Olympic Vision, the need to start digital officiating and improve the presentation of our sport is very clear.

c) Commercial Update

The Board received an update from the CEO on the recent commercial activities and pipeline.

d) 2024 Annual Conference Update

The Board received a paper specifically related to the official schedule and accommodation. The Hotel was confirmed as the Grand Park City Hall, Singapore and this information, along with the finalised schedule, would be published following the Mid-Year meeting of Council.
Decision – The Board approved the schedule as presented as well as the hotel option.

e) 2024 Elections

The CEO expressed his personal thanks to the Elections Committee which has been working in the background to ensure that that the forthcoming election process is transparent, fair and adheres to the guidelines stipulated in the World Sailing Constitution.
He noted the approval of a circular resolution by Council to amend the disciplinary regulations (Regulation 35) to include election related offences, meaning that a breach of the Election Rules could be a disciplinary offence under WS Regulations.
He went on to confirm that the Elections Committee would soon publish the Election Rules and the Candidate Application Pack and Form and highlighted the following key changes:

- Firstly, there would be financial limitations on the amount candidates could spend on their campaigns;
- Secondly, there would be reporting requirements in relation to campaign spending and
- Thirdly, that the period these new provisions relate to would commence on the 1st June 2024.

f) World Sailing Trust (WST) Update

The Board received an update from the CEO with regards to the recent engagement with the WST and their subsequent request for funding. Following discussion, the CEO committed to reporting back to the Board in terms of the details of the final MOU that was being prepared. A meeting between the Executive Office and the Trustees was to be set up to finalise the ways of working.

3. Legal & Governance

a) 2024 Mid-Year Meeting Council Meeting Preparation

The Director of Legal & Governance briefed the Board in advance of the Council meeting on specific items that required their attention.

b) Safeguarding

This is a standing agenda item. No new safeguarding matters had arisen since the last meeting.

c) Case List Update

The Board noted a supporting paper outlining the current live and ongoing legal cases and their respective updates.

d) Safety

This is a standing agenda item.

e) Review of temporary suspensions

The Board reviewed the temporary suspensions of Council Members, Committee Members and sailors. It was agreed that there had been no material change in circumstances and that the temporary suspensions would remain in place. The next review would be in three months.

4. Events

a) 2025 Youth Sailing World Championships

The Board noted a paper that requested the approval of a recommendation from the Bid Evaluation Panel to appoint Vilamoura, Portugal as host venue of the 2025 Youth Sailing World Championships to be held from 12 to 20 December 2025.

Decision – The Board approved the recommendation to appoint Vilamoura as the host venue for the 2025 Youth Sailing World Championships, subject to contractual arrangements.

b) 2026/2027 Sailing World Championships Host

The Board received a detailed update from the CEO with regards to the final recommendation from the Evaluation Panel.

Decision – The Board agreed with the recommended next steps and proposal from the Evaluation Committee.

c) Olympic ITO Reserve Appointments

The Board noted a paper from the EAWP related to the appointment of ITO reserves for the upcoming Paris Olympic Games.

The Board approved the recommendation, which was:

1. Approving the recommendations as given, to allow the Executive Office to appoint the reserve officials for the International Jury and complete the required administration to meet the extended accreditation deadline.
2. The EAWP proposed the Executive Office, in consultation with the Technical Delegates, be given authority to proceed with appointment for the International Jury or Race Management team should any reserves be required to fulfil a role.

d) MYM Events Committee Recommendations
The Interim Director of Events provided a verbal brief to the Board outlining key points from the Events Committee Mid-Year Meeting that took place earlier in the week.

5. Technical & Offshore

a) iQFOil 2028 Sail Sizes
The Director of Technical & Offshore provided a paper to the Board informing them that the iQFOiL Class is seeking approval from World Sailing for Class Rule Changes that would alter the equipment used in the next Olympic cycle. The Board noted the paper.

b) FX 2028 Hull
The Director of Technical & Offshore provided a verbal update to the Board.

c) Offshore World Championship Update
The Board noted a paper providing an update on the current status of the planning for the upcoming Offshore World Championship.

6. Finance

a) Q1 Management Accounts
The Board noted the Management Accounts as presented by the Director of Finance.

b) Audit Committee Report
The Board acknowledged receipt of the review paper from the Director of Finance.

7. Participation & Development

a) Para & Inclusive Strategy
The Board received the Para & Inclusive strategy which aims to demonstrate that sailing is accessible to all sailors with a disability by encouraging everyone to feel that there is a safe place for them in our sport. A key part of this strategy is to re-instate sailing in the Paralympic Sports Programme and remains as the backbone of the Para Strategy.
Decision - The Board approved the Para & Inclusive strategy.

8. Sustainability

a) 2023 Annual Report
The Board noted the 2023 Annual Sustainability Report which was included as part of the meeting documents.

9. AOB

a) 2027 European Games

Vice President Ozlem Akdurak raised a request for the Executive Office to send an official letter to the organising authority of the 2027 European Games motivating the inclusion of sailing. The CEO agreed that such a letter would be sent.

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