World Sailing Board Minutes

The World Sailing Board met by conference call on Monday 25 March 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 thanked them for their attendance. He proceeded to highlight the importance of the Q1 Regional Town Hall meetings and communication and connectivity with our stakeholders in the build-up to the Olympic Games and the Annual Conference in Singapore. He went on to thank the Governance Reform working party for their commitment and encouraged everyone to continue with the good momentum that has been built.

b) Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest
Vice President Sarah Kenny sent apologies.
Vice President Tomasz Chamera reminded the Board that he previously declared his involvement in personally preparing the bid from Poland for the 2026/2027 World Sailing Championships & Youth Match Racing World Championships. The Board noted the declaration.

c) Approval of previous minutes
The minutes of the 19 January 2024 Board meeting were approved, to be published.
The minutes of the 7 February 2024 Board meeting were approved, subject to amends being made that were raised during the meeting.

d) Matters arising
The following matters were raised:
- Regulation 35 amendment in relation to a breach of the election rules
- Offshore World Championships Update
- Request from Hellenic Sailing Federation

e) Decisions by email
The Board noted a supporting paper outlining the decisions made by email, since the last Board meeting. Three eligibility applications were granted, and one was denied.

2. Executive Office

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

b) Commercial Update
The Board received an update from the CEO on the recent commercial activities and pipeline. The announcement of Kuehne and Nagel as the new Global Logistics partner was well received and several other advanced conversations are receiving focus to try and achieve a positive outcome.

3. International Relations & Brand

a) 2024 Annual Conference Update
The Board received a verbal update from the Director of International Relations covering key subjects including contract, budget, accommodation, flights & meeting schedule.
The Board reiterated that every effort must be made, by the Executive Office and the Singapore Sailing Federation, to ensure a range of hotels are offered to delegates at various price points, in addition to preferred rates/discounts from Singapore Airlines.

4. Legal & Governance

a) 2024 Mid-Year Meeting Submissions
The Board received and reviewed the urgent submissions filed to the Executive Office.
Decision – The Board approved the publishing of three submissions (MY09-24; MY10-24; MY11-24). The Board noted that all three submissions related to Regulation 23 and agreed that a note on the ongoing work being carried out on Regulation 23 should accompany the publication of the submissions.

b) Recommendations not based on Submissions – Safeguarding Policy and Procedures Amends
The Director of Legal and Governance presented amends to the Policy and Procedures which incorporated suggestions raised at the Annual Conference and had been reviewed by the Chair and Vice Chair of the Constitution Committee.
Decision – The Board approved the amendments to the policy subject to any final amends from the Board to be sent by email. The policy would be tabled at the Mid-Year Council meeting for approval.

c) AIN Applications
The Director of Legal and Governance advised that the following individuals had applied for AIN status for the Last Chance Regatta. All applicants had completed the declaration of neutrality and passed an initial vetting process.
- Elizaveta Zherebtsova Nacra 17 sailor from Russia
- Mikhail Ushkov Nacra 17 sailor from Russia
- Anastazja Valkevich – Iqfoil sailor from Belarus
- Tatiana Drozdovskaya – ILCA 6 sailor from Belarus
- Sergey Morozov – Support Person from Belarus
- Ivan Sventukhouski – ILCA 7 sailor from Belarus

Decision – The Board approved the six applications.

d) Contracts
The Director of Legal and Governance presented three contracts for approval.
The PWA Special Event Contract – Approved subject to an inclusion on safety.
The Far East Development Contract –some matters still needed to be finalised before the contract could be approved.
The 2024 Annual Conference Host Contract – Approved.

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

f) Case List Update
The Board noted a supporting paper outlining the current live and ongoing legal cases and their respective updates.

g) Safety
This is a standing agenda item. Vice President Philip Baum updated the Board on the progress that the Safety Commission was making in relation to Regulation 38. It was agreed that a similar update would be provided to stakeholders during the Mid-Year meeting. It was also agreed that in future, any new contracts being negotiated with Classes and Special Events would include safety requirements.

5. Events

a) Youth & Women Match Racing World Championship Bids
The Board noted a verbal update from the Interim Director of Events and Vice President Cory Sertl about the most recent planning for the 2024 and 2025 events.

b) 2026/2027 Sailing World Championships Update

The Interim Director of Events provided a verbal overview of the current process and the immediate next steps taking place to ensure completion at the Mid-Year meeting.

6. Finance

a) Draft Accounts (up to December 2023)

The Board noted the Draft Accounts as presented by the Director of Finance.

b) Management Accounts to Feb 2022

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

c) WS Investment Fund

The Board acknowledged receipt of the review paper from the Director of Finance.

d) MNA Debtors list

The Board received an updated MNA Debtors list.

e) Debt Write Off (Armenian Sailing Federation)

The Board heard a request from the Armenian Sailing Federation to write off their historic debt to again be in good standing as a member.

Decision – The Board approved the request to write off a total debt amount of £220.

7. Communications & Digital

a) Olympic Measures

The Board noted a paper for information from the Director of Communications. The paper outlined the International Olympic Committee (IOC) measures for the performance of each sport on the Olympic programme against a set of criteria and some of the steps World Sailing was taking to improve its performance against them.

b) E-Sailing Update

The CEO provided an update to the Board with regards to the current status of the eSailing workstream as well as the plan for the 2024 season. He highlighted that there was a specific focus on developing a longer-term strategy that would be shared with the Board in due course.

8. Participation & Development

a) Steering the Course

The Board received the 2024 Steering the Course strategy which communicates World Sailing's activity in developing women's participation in the sport globally.

Decision - The Board approved the 2024 Steering the Course strategy.

9. Any Other Business

a) Offshore World Championships Update
   Vice President Philip Baum provided a comprehensive update to the Board.
b) Regulation 35 Amendment in relation to the elections, the Director of Legal and Governance confirmed that this work was still ongoing.

Closing Remarks

The President thanked everyone for a productive meeting. As the final preparations for the Olympic Games are underway, he passed on his congratulations for the Olympic Vision document which was published earlier and also advised that Vice President Sarah Kenny would be the primary IOC point of contact on behalf of the Board for 2024.

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