

Athletes' Commission Minutes

The Athletes' Commission met in person at the World Sailing Annual Conference between 13:30 – 16:30 hrs on Wednesday 6 November 2024.

Please refer to the World Sailing website www.sailing.org for the details of the papers on the agenda and referred to in these minutes.

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|---------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Opening of the Meeting | 2. Minutes |
| 3. New Members | 4. Report |
| 5. Events | 6. Equipment |
| 7. Anti – Doping | 8. Safeguarding |
| 9. Transgender Policy | 10. Submissions |
| 11. Any Other Business | |
| 12. Closing Statements | |

Present:

Jo Aleh (NZL) – **Chairperson**

David Hughes (USA) – **Vice-Chairperson**

Lisa Darmanin (AUS)

Online

Pawel Kolodzinski (POL)

Henriette Smith (NOR)

Mari Erdi (HUN)

Valentin Bontus (AUT)

In attendance

Gillian Sanders – Integrity Manager

Urvasi Naidoo – Director Legal & Governance

Alexandra Rickham – Director of Sustainability

1. Opening of the Meeting

Welcome from the Chairperson.

The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Chairperson welcomed the new members of the Athletes' Commission and explained the process of being on the Athletes Commission and that they were representing all sailors across all categories from junior to

professional. The new structure was explained and that existing members David Hughes (DH) Pawel Kolodzinski and Pavlos Kontides would be joined by the new members, with the Chairperson's term ending and her standing down. A new Chair would be elected after the Conference. The new Chair would be a member of the World Sailing Board.

Declaration of interest – Henriette Smith holds a position on RS Venture Connect Board of Directors.

2. Minutes

The 2023 Minutes were noted having been circulated shortly after the meeting in November 2023.

Matters Arising -

The Hague Report:

The Report was received by the Athletes Commission. The Chairperson and Vice Chair raised concerns regarding the lack of access to the Hague venue prior to the World Championships in 2023 and the unsatisfactory distance to the racing areas for the sailors at that Championship. The Chairperson and Vice Chair emphasized that this should be rectified for the World Championships in 2026 and 2027.

Coach Boats restrictions imposed in the Hague should be avoided at the 2026/2027 Championships in order to take into account the wishes of the sailors.

Paris 2024 Survey: The Chairperson and Vice Chair stated that it would be valuable to obtain feedback/a report particularly with regards to the metrics from the athletes and also compare this to Tokyo 2020, so challenges and problems can be identified and rectified for future Olympic sailing regattas.

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3. New Members

The new Athletes Commission members all introduced themselves.

Urvashi Naidoo (UN) explained the new governance reforms. Athletes' Commission will become Athletes' Committee, and this would mean more involvement by the Athletes' Committee in the decision making process.

Elections for the new Chairperson for the new quad would take place after the Annual Conference.

4. Report

The Chairperson provided her report for 2024.

The year was a very busy one with events due to Paris 2024. The Chairperson acknowledged that a lot less happened on the Athletes Commission side due to the Olympic year.

The Chairperson's stated that her main subject matters in 2024 were:

- Evolution of equipment particularly with regards to 49ers and kites.
- IQ Foil and builders issues – World Sailing have been proactive in site visits to builders for inspections.
- Competition format changes – there was a discussion regarding whether it should be top 3 or top 4 athletes in the finals.

- Formats for LA 2028

Strategic Priorities for the next quad-

- Competition Formats for 2028
- Coach Boats/Coach Restrictions
- Use of technology and phones. Rules should also be consistent across World Series and Olympics so everyone knows what to expect.

5 Events

Olympic Vision

DH presented the Olympic vision and that sailing needs to ensure it's a viable product for the future. The Olympic Vision document had been circulated to all Athletes Commission members to read.

The World Sailing athlete quota for Olympics had been reducing each Olympic Games. It has been reduced from 350 to 330 since Tokyo. The 2028 quotas would be announced in the near future. Competition format issues, media engagement, cost/accessibility for athletes continue to be barriers plus the scheduling of events. Sailing needs to be global and IOC look closely at those metrics.

Items relating to events

Formats:

The Chairperson emphasized that competition formats would be important for the next quad. All the Athletes' Commission members discussed different format options and the pros and cons including the following:

- Shorter events
- 2 distinct formats – qualification, repechage, final
- Possibly no medal race in LA

The members acknowledged that there is a need to be proactive with regards to formats into 2025 as there was a concern that sailing might lose quota places at Olympics.

The Broadcast product was also considered – how to make it better and showcase the sport better was discussed. There needed to be consistent broadcast over the 4 years and not just at Olympics.

The World Cup Series was discussed by the Athletes Commission members, including calendar concerns.

6 Equipment

Alexandra Rickham (AR) presented her Agenda 2030 on sustainability with an emphasis on lifecycle of boats and equipment. There will be a research project over next 4 years into lifecycle.

The Athletes' Commission discussed the pros and cons of Supplied Equipment – long term view going forward as its more sustainable, less expensive, more accessible but concerns over condition of equipment if have no control over/ don't own. Athletes Commission concluded that more data is required on lifecycle of equipment.

The Athletes Commission discussed the issue of 'equipment mining' and purchasing substantial amounts of equipment to find 'the best' and the large cost involved in this.

7. Anti-Doping

Gillian Sanders (GS) presented the Anti-Doping Paper and gave an update on progress with WS anti-doping programme. It was confirmed that the Medical Commission had signed off the Anti-Doping plans for 2025.

8. Safeguarding

GS gave an update on WS safeguarding policy.

Athletes Commission discussed idea of mandatory reporting and utilizing Athletes Commission members better at events as a conduit for reporting. An Athletes Commission App was discussed, including a mechanism for reporting safeguarding concerns.

9. Transgender Policy

GS gave an update on the Transgender Policy and the minor amends to the policy since the Mid Year Council meeting. These would be presented for formal approval at the Council meeting on the 9 November 2024.

10. Submissions

None to be discussed.

11. Any Other Business - Items raised as per action points below.

12. Summary of Actions

Actions for the Athletes' Commission:

- a. To have a discussion on scheduling with WS Director of Events Jim Morris
- b. To hold elections for new Chairperson
- c. Engage with Classes to get feedback on the creation and testing of event formats.
- d. Establish a better 'partnership' with the Coaches Committee.

Actions for the Federation:

- e. Provide the Athletes' Commission with official reports and metrics from the Paris 2024 Olympics survey.
- f. Consider funding/budget of all AC Members attendance at Annual Conference.
- g. Consider a request from the AC that the Vice Chair has a proxy at Board.

13. Date of Next Meeting - To be confirmed – DH proposed online on 18 November 2024.