

The International Regulations Commission met at Suntec Singapore Convention & Exhibition Centre, Singapore at 13:30 – 17:00 hours (UTC+8) on Monday 4 November 2024

1. Opening of the Meeting	1	6. Regulatory Information from Regional and other Organisations	4
2. Minutes of the Previous Meetings	2	7. Reports from Commission Members	4
3. Commission - Terms of Reference	2	8. Safety	4
4. International Maritime Organization	2	9. World Sailing Sustainability Agenda 2030	5
5. International Standards Organization	4	10. Any Other Business	5

Present:

Alan MASSEY (GBR) - Chairman
Patrick LINDQVIST (FIN)

Eleni MATZARIDOU (GRE)
Michael MIFSUD (MLT)

Others Present:

Sarah KENNY - Vice-President

Katrina HAM (WS Offshore and Safety Manager)

Stan HONEY – Oceanic and Offshore Committee

Rebecca VIDELO (WS Sustainability Executive)

Jaime NAVARRO (WS Director of Technical & Offshore)
Richard HINTERHOELLER – Special Regulations Sub-Committee
Sarah TRESEDER - Constitution Committee
Stacey CLARK – International Group Chair

Apologies:

Sally GARRETT (NZL)

1. Opening of the Meeting

(a) A welcome from the Chairman.

Alan Massey welcomed Commission members to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance and contribution over the year. Citing 'near-miss' examples from South Africa regarding the requirements for liferafts and the IMO Polar Code, Alan Massey highlighted the importance of the work of the Commission to monitor changes that could disproportionately impact sailing. While highlighting the positive aspects of the sport and encouraging proactivity, Alan Massey also emphasised the importance of ensuring measures are fit for purpose. Acknowledging that it is not specifically the topic for the Commission, Alan Massey advocated the overarching topic of safety and its close links to regulations.

Vice-President Sarah Kenny welcomed members to Singapore and thanked the Singapore Sailing Federation and Tourism board for their hospitality. She gave an update from the Board covering a busy year for World Sailing including the Olympic Games, Youth Worlds and the Offshore Double Handed World Championships. Sarah Kenny also outlined the process in developing the World Sailing Strategy and welcomed members to look at the document noting key objectives regarding gender and para-inclusion. She thanked the Commission for their work over the quad while emphasising their key role in the sport.

(b) Apologies for absence.

Apologies were noted from Sally Garrett who was unable to attend the meeting. Alan Massey expressed his thanks to Sally Garrett for her dedication to the Commission by remotely attending meetings despite the time difference.

International Regulations Commission Minutes (cont.)

- (c) Declaration of conflict of interest

No additional conflicts of interest were noted.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meetings

- (a) Minutes

The minutes of the International Regulations Commission meeting on the 13 November 2024 were noted and approved.

- (b) Minutes - matters arising

Alan Massey noted some of the outstanding matters arising in the minutes. These included the justification for increased budget requirements. While acknowledging the benefits of remote attendance, the Commission highlighted the need for physical attendance both to represent visibly WS' interest in regulatory matters and to retain its consultative status with the IMO.

Alan Massey updated the Commission on the challenges of establishing communication with the International Wind Ship Association. Elena Matzaridou described the benefits of her attendance at the Our Ocean conference earlier this year. The Commission noted the positives for World Sailing interest in such events, even if not directly linked to the development of new or amended regulations.

3. Commission - Terms of Reference

The Commission reviewed the Terms of Reference as prescribed in the World Sailing Regulations. In doing so, the Commission questioned the wording regarding requirements for MNA's to report annually to World Sailing. Identifying that this practice is not formally conducted currently, the Commission agreed that it could be reviewed for a future submission.

Action – KH/AM to consider how this might be practically achieved within the WS Constitution.

4. International Maritime Organization

- (a) To receive a report on the IMO meetings attended by the World Sailing at IMO team (Alan Massey, Stuart Carruthers, Elena Matzaridou, Mike Mifsud, Patrick Lindquist) since the last meeting of the International Regulations Commission:

- i) MEPC 81, 22-26 April 2024 Marine Environment Protection Committee

Elena Matzaridou summarised the main points following her attendance of MEPC 81 and MEPC 82, noting the continuity of topics across the two meetings. She highlighted the main issues regarding climate change, the protection of marine ecosystems and biodiversity as well as the control of pollution and management of waste. While outlining the challenges around emissions, she noted that while there is strong desire for change, the developments are slow in addition to the challenges of infrastructure for mid-term solutions, raising the question of the feasibility of current targets. She reported on the increase in the use of wind assistance in the shipping industry.

Elena Matzaridou described the discussions regarding the protection of marine ecosystems, noting the establishment of a new PSSA (Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas) in Indonesia, making the list of PSSA's 17 worldwide. The members discussed potential trends and challenges regarding these zones, noting the potential opportunity for education on PSSA's as well as Emission Control Areas. The

challenges of creating realistic and proportionate regulations and guidance on certain Zones/Areas were highlighted, citing examples of the use of chartered sailing vessels for research in polar waters.

While outlining the progress on controlling pollution and waste management, Elena Matzaridou highlighted the requirement for shipping containers lost overboard to be formally reported from January 2026: a first, important step toward mitigating this serious hazard to smaller vessels. The Commission agreed it was positive progress in the interests of sailors worldwide. The challenges regarding end-of-life management of boats and reducing noise pollution were also noted. These were likely to have consequences for recreational as well as commercial vessels.

ii) MSC 108, 13-24 May 2024 Maritime Safety Committee

Alan Massey reported on the work in the Maritime Safety Committee. He reported on the 15% increase in piracy/armed robbery incidents from 2022-2023, reversing the downward trend observed over recent years. He also noted that the risk-management guidance published by World Sailing is still relevant. While describing the progress toward the development of regulations for autonomous shipping, Alan Massey noted concerns raised about potential changes to collision regulations that might result in more onerous responsibilities for sailing vessels. He noted and praised the EBA's (European Boating Association's) firm position in resisting any such change. Concerns regarding cyber security, as well as new, anti-bullying content in STCW maritime training courses, were also discussed.

iii) NCSR 11, 3-14 June 2024 Sub-committee on Safety of Navigation, Communications and Search and Rescue

Alan Massey described the work of NCSR, with particular regard to developments in satellite communications, technical improvements to navigational aids and amendments to the IAMSAR Manual, all of which might be relevant to offshore and oceanic sailing.

iv) CCC 10, 16-20 September 2024 Sub-committee on Carriage of Cargoes and Containers.

Referring to the importance of solutions regarding lost containers, Alan Massey reiterated importance of the recent progress made.

v) MEPC 82, 30 September – 4 October 2024 Marine Environment Protection Committee – see 4a(i) above.

(b) IMO Polar Code

Patrick Lindqvist reported on progress and challenges in engaging with experts in the field. He noted positive responses from Juha Karhu and Jon Amtrup who seem eager to assist in a review of the Polar Yacht Guide. He noted that the project is ongoing.

Action – PL to continue to encourage engagement from known polar sailing experts.

(c) 2024-2025 IMO Meeting Schedule

Alan Massey noted the current schedule of 2025 meetings as outlined by the IMO. He noted that a plan for attendance would be drawn up in the coming weeks to ensure meetings are adequately covered. Patrick Lindqvist noted that he might know another potential World Sailing representative to assist in monitoring meetings, who could attend concurrently for the Finnish Coast Guard.

Action – AM to investigate the feasibility of this proposal.

International Regulations Commission Minutes (cont.)

The IMO Meeting Provisional Calendar was noted as:

- i. MSC 109, 2-6 December 2024 Maritime Safety Committee
- ii. MEPC 83, 7-11 April 2025 Marine Environment Protection Committee
- iii. NCSR 12, 17-26 June 2025 Sub-committee on Safety of Navigation, Communications and Search and Rescue
- iv. MSC 110, 14-23 May 2025 Maritime Safety Committee
- v. CCC 11, 15-19 September 2025 Sub-committee on Carriage of Cargoes and Containers

5. International Standards Organization

Alan Massey referenced a report provided to the Commission by Stuart Carruthers. The report covered an update for ISO 12217 regarding stability, noting the need for World Sailing to continue to monitor how the standard is revised. Alan Massey also noted the report on ISO 12215 -9 regarding scantling and the progress made in reducing the risk of keel failures. While highlighting the proposed changes, Richard Hinterhoeller noted that the changes were recently approved by ISO in a vote of 12 to 1.

Katina Ham recalled the work to date regarding potential new standards for helmets as well as impact vests. Sarah Kenny emphasised the importance of these, citing examples of challenges in current Olympic Classes as well as the increased risks posed by foiling. The Commission noted the importance of industry collaboration, citing previous challenges regarding the development of a standard for quick-release harnesses. Katrina Ham reported on the importance of retaining Stuart Carruthers' expertise in taking these objectives further. Referring to the supporting paper, the Commission also discussed the changes to ISO 12401 regarding safety lines.

6. Regulatory Information from Regional and other Organisations

Alan Massey thanked Carol Paddison of the RYA for her detailed report. He also emphasised the work of the EBA in their pragmatic approach to challenges, giving examples of their successful lobbying against excessive measures such as compulsory record-keeping to address hull fouling and invasive species. He also reported on progress regarding a revision of the Recreational Craft Directive as well as resistance to a new European Boating Licence, given the availability already of the International Certificate of Competence. Challenges regarding licencing for communication equipment were also discussed, in addition to VAT, noise pollution and compulsory boat registration.

7. Reports from Commission Members

No members raised any issues to note from any national, regional or technical regulatory body.

8. Safety

(a) An update from the Safety Panel

Katrina Ham provided an update from the Safety Panel. She reported on statistics collected regarding incident reporting as well as feedback from the World Sailing Safety Survey. While discussing the challenges of incident reporting, Commission members agreed with the undesirability of a reporting gap between local clubs/events and MNA's which currently impacts on reporting to World Sailing. Alan Massey emphasised the

need for safety to be a priority in light of the significant number (7) of fatalities recorded in one year. The need for greater awareness of (an updated) Regulation 38 and incident reporting requirements was agreed. The Commission also noted the key role of Race Officials in the reporting of incidents.

While noting the challenges of lack of engagement, Katrina Ham highlighted the good work of Australian Sailing, the Royal Ocean Racing Club and the Royal Yachting Association in encouraging incident reporting and lessons capture.

- (b) To note submission 030-24 from the World Sailing Executive Board and the Oceanic and Offshore Committee Chair regarding Regulation 38 Safety Incident Reporting.

Alan Massey outlined the work of the Regulation 28 working party towards the submission. He noted the challenges and concerns of some MNA's regarding some of the proposed wording. He emphasised the need to establish a mature safety culture that would encourage more reporting, while recognising however the limited resources available to the Executive Office for managing any significant increase in reports.

9. World Sailing Sustainability Agenda 2030

- (a) To note that the World Sailing Sustainability Agenda 2030 is available [online](#)..
- (b) Other WS sustainability programmes can be found [here](#).

Rebecca Videlo reported on the progress made in the past year regarding the WS sustainability agenda. She highlighted the key areas of Agenda 2030 related to the Commission's work, as well as reporting on guidance produced to assist the wider community, including in relation to Megafauna. She also reported on the Sustainability report and the objectives for 2025. The Commission discussed the potential for guidance regarding sea grass as an area of growing importance in the community.

10. Any Other Business

There being no other business to conduct, the meeting closed at 1615.