

The Para World Sailing Committee met at 1030 on Wednesday 7th November 2024 at the Suntec Conference Centre in Singapore.

Please refer to the World Sailing website www.sailing.org for the details of the submissions on this agenda. The Committee may make a recommendation to Council on any item of its agenda.

1. Opening of the Meeting	1	8. Inclusive Development	
2. PWSC Chairs Annual report	SP	Program	15
5		Events	16
3. Para World Sailing Committee		9. Recommendations Not Based	
Working Parties	6	on Submissions	19
4. Sustainability	10	10. Equity, Diversity and Inclusion	
5. IPC - Hannah Stodel, Para		Forum	20
World Sailing Manager	11	11. Development Symposium	20
6. Communications	13	12. Any Other Business	21
7. Para World Sailing Strategic			
Plan 2024 – 2029	14		

1. Opening of the Meeting

Welcome and opening remarks from the Chair and Vice-chair
Betsy Alison noted that the PWSC is a very active committee and meets nearly 45 times a quadrennial, including the working parties. The PWSC meets virtually every month throughout the year, and then in person once a year for the Annual Conference.

She observed that there was a large body of work completed on communication through the Back the bid campaign was incredibly positive despite the result. It increased positivity and

Para World Sailing Committee Agenda (cont.)

encouraged a large response from the wider community to support the campaign. Unfortunately, the bid was unsuccessful with reinstatement into the Paralympic Games, but a lot of the work was then rolled into the North star of the new Para Inclusive Strategy for 2024-2029, which is a very clear outline of our vision for Para inclusive sailing for the future.

It was noted that the revamped Para Development Program into the Inclusive Development Program led by Hannah Stodel and World sailing, with a 3-pronged approach, development of starting programs, development of coaches and support of coaches and athletes at events. It is extremely successful and has encouraged participation by new countries and has reenergised participation by existing MNA's.

It was noted that there has been a large push in communications through townhalls, newsletters, forums as hearing what the sailors want and need is a way to deliver back to them the events, scheduling, training opportunities etc.

It was also noted that there has also been a push of information towards MNAs, and how important it is that Para Inclusive sailing is a part of the larger conversation through the Council and Board etc.

There has also been an improvement in the relationship with the IPC through better communication, which is important to the future bid campaigns, and it has also given us a better vision of how the IPC see inclusion.

Para World Sailing Committee Agenda (cont.)

Betsy observed that significant work has gone into improving the ranking system, and despite the challenges faced, we are in a much better place with regularly updated rankings.

Inclusion has been a big part of the work that the PWSC has done over the past quad, however it was noted that participation is the focus that enables us to grow competition and improve the quality of that competition, with our ultimate aim of returning to the Games.

The Committee has been addressing the challenges of costs to sailors, using a model that focusses on imbedding Para titles within class world championships, therefore making it cost effective for sailors to attend these events.

Betsy celebrates the fact that the Para classes are now a part of the World Sailing Championships alongside the Olympic Classes for the first time in 2023 at the Hague, which is great recognition and acceptance of the sailors, but also fantastic to see how embraced the Para side of the sport was.

Finally, the committee thanks our 2 VPs; Cory Sertl and Marcus Spillane, for their engagement and support.

Cory Sertl, Vice President

Cory noted her thanks to the PWSC for the incredible engagement with the committee and observed that this committee shows so much volunteerism from around the world.

Para World Sailing Committee Agenda (cont.)

Cory observed that she had learned so much from the committee, especially with regards to Para classification and how a lot of our community were excluded from competition and how the new direction and understanding of Inclusion is incredibly positive and exciting for our sport. We have a wonderful sport where we can include everyone, and why not?

Cory noted that she had the opportunity to attend the Olympics, and that she came away from the Games knowing that sailing deserves to be in the Paralympics.

Cory also noted her thanks you to David for stepping in during Betsy's absence. She also noted that Betsy is an inspiration to us all and thanked her for the leadership of the committee as well as her amazing performance at the World Sailing Championships.

Apologies for absence

i) Jenny Davey CAN

ii) Alfred Pelinka AUT

iii) Heiko Kroger GER

No response

iv) Abdulkarim Derouiche TUN

v) Cristian Frers ARG

Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

None declared

Para World Sailing Committee Agenda (cont.)

Minutes of previous meeting (15th November 2023) -

It was noted the minutes of the Para World Sailing Committee meeting of 15th November 2023 at the World Sailing Annual Conference have been shared with the committee ahead of the meeting.

Minutes approved.

Matters Arising from the minutes

To consider any matters arising not covered elsewhere on this agenda.

Decisions by email

It was noted that there was 1 decision made by email, and that was regarding the awarding of the Para World Titles to the World Sailing Championships for 2027 to Gdynia, Poland.

The PWSC voted in favour of awarding 3 Para titles to then event.

2. PWSC Chairs Annual report SP

Betsy noted that her report was published and put in the provided "Prep folder" received by all members of the PWSC.

She observed that the Para Inclusive strategic plan is a much bigger and broader approach, and that its focus on the 4 key pillars; inclusivity, a modern vision, social impact and change and reinstatement to the Games are a big step forward, positioning World Sailing as a global leader in Inclusive sport.

Para World Sailing Committee Agenda (cont.)

It was noted that one of the areas that the IPC criticised us on was the lack of a centralised calendar that is managed by the International Federation. She noted that the work was ongoing to achieve this, and that events had been held around the world, including inaugural events in Germany, as well as opportunities within SailGP and the Americas Cup.

Betsy noted that the work of World Sailing's outreach has led to accurate data on 33 countries competing on a regular basis and that we have a further 7-8 countries that are in the process of building programs, working towards that status. The goal of 40 countries in the next 4 years should be achievable.

Betsy encouraged all MNA's to continue to support the Para side of the sport and help sailors attend events, especially regional competitions as all participation makes a difference. She noted that World Sailings strength is that it represents all sailors from all nations of all shapes, sizes and abilities.

She finished by thanking Vice Chair, David Staley and the PWSC for the last 4 years of work making the sport better for sailors with a disability. Betsy also thanked Cory and Marcus and the rest of the Board for allowing her to serve as Committee Chair for the last 10 years, and finally observed that everyone can participate in this amazing sport.

3. Para World Sailing Committee Working Parties

To note the members of the working parties

Para World Sailing Committee Agenda (cont.)

To receive a brief update on the Working Parties (5 minutes per WP)

i. Classification Working Party

Bernard was not present to report on the Classification WP.

ii. Equipment Working Party

Report received by email and included in “Prep Folder” for PWSC.

Alfred Palinka leads the equipment working party, and his report noted there is a path of continuity in the disciplines; the One Person Technical 2.4mr, the One Person Non-Technical Hansa 303 for both men and women, and the Two Person Technical RS Venture Connect. He noted that those classes remain unchanged for 2024 and 2025 due to international distribution and high acceptance among the sailors.

It was observed that whilst the boats currently in place seem to be the best choice, the World Sailing Board previously approved a list of “Para Preferred” equipment to enable sailors without access to the Para classes the opportunity to receive ranking points and attend events.

iii. Athlete Rankings Working Party

Report received by email and included in “Prep Folder” for PWSC.

It was noted that the biggest challenge with the current rankings system is the manual data entry, and MNA's are encouraged to send data into World Sailing.

Para World Sailing Committee Agenda (cont.)

One of the other issues we face with the current World Sailing rankings is that a lot of athletes do not have a Sailor ID, and that prevents them from gaining ranking points.

iv. Communications Working Party

Yuki Hagiwara noted that there were many difficulties when it came to communications, especially as World Sailing deals direct with the MNA's and not groups. It was suggested that to maintain a centralised calendar, a web page specifically for Para Inclusive Sailing should be created.

There was also a discussion about the use of other platforms, and how social media might amplify the voice of the sailors.

v. Regional Development Working Party

vi. Report received by email and included in "Prep Folder" for PWSC.

Emma Hallen noted that the Regional Development WP has been doing a lot of work over the quad, but that it was rightfully interrupted by the Back the bid campaign.

Emma noted that the WP continue work on building resources, and that the current focus is the online platform.

She also noted that the IDP is the cornerstone and a fundamental part of regional development, and that if the focus is to grow and increase participation, the program needs to continue. Noting the IPC targets of 32 countries competing on a regular basis across 3 continents, we need to focus on not only elite participation, but also grass roots.

Para World Sailing Committee Agenda (cont.)

Emma also noted that there were issues with the Inclusion World Championship around documentation, and that there was an opportunity to get the event off the ground.

vii. Inclusion Working Party

viii. Report received by email and included in “Prep Folder” for PWSC.

David Staley noted the members of the working party; Jenny Davey, Jens Kroker, Emma Hallen and Alison Weatherly.

He noted that the WP had created a draft of the group’s goals, as well as the definitions of inclusivity and what an inclusive event could be.

a. Agenda 2023, Number 38. Accessibility standards.

ix. Documents Working Party

Report received by email and included in “Prep Folder” for PWSC.

David Staley noted that the working party has been looking at key documents, the most significant was the Para Inclusive Strategy. This was launched in May 2023. And published in June 2024 once approved by the World Sailing Board. He observed that the PWSC had opportunity to contribute to the strategy, and that there was a shift in priority and structure of the document, with the emphasis on inclusive sport.

David also noted that the WP has worked with the Race Officials committee over the quad, including updating the RMM to include Para Race management as Appendix Y.

Para World Sailing Committee Agenda (cont.)

It was noted that there are other significant changes to come, including the update of the Para classification manual in line with the new IPC classification code.

There will also be updates to the RRS, including a review of appendix CBS in relation to Blind match racing.

The WP has also made progress creating SI/ NoR templates specifically for Para Inclusive Events, along with event agreements for the delivery of those events.

David concluded with an update of the work that is being done to create an International Technical Delegate pathway.

4. Sustainability

The PWSC received a report from World Sailing Sustainability Manager, Rebeca Videlo.

It was noted that Agenda 2030 has 56 targets spilt over 6 operational areas and it covers both environmental and social aspects of sustainability. There are 7 areas that directly relate to Para Inclusive sailing.

One of the main focusses of the Sustainability Team in partnership with development has been the accessibility guidelines. These provide a starting point for venues and event's organisers that goes beyond the physical aspects of venue accessibility.

Rebecca noted that another big project for the Team this year was the RS Venture Connect World Championships. This included a new initiative called the "Swap Shop" that created a stand at the Championships that allowed sailors to donate clothes and to

Para World Sailing Committee Agenda (cont.)

take what they need. It was a hugely successful initiative that saw over 70kg of kit change hands. The really interesting thing to note was the swapping of single gloves and boots, something that could only be useful in the Para Inclusive Sailing community.

It was noted that RS also wanted their event to reach Sailors for the Sea, Clean Regatta event status, by looking at the overall sustainability of the event. RS and the World Sailing office worked together to reach silver status.

Rebecca encouraged other events within in the Para Inclusive community to aim to achieve this status. There is a checklist publicly available on the Sailors for the Sea website. The details are also available on the World Sailing website under the Sustainability section.

Rebecca also observed that the World Sailing Sustainability sessions are being rolled out for Season 2, and that there would be a Para Inclusive session around the day for persons with a disability in December.

5. IPC - Hannah Stodel, Para World Sailing Manager

- (a) IPC Classification update, including IPC Classification Conference
 - i) IPC approach to inclusion and inclusive events
 - ii) 2032 application

Para World Sailing Committee Agenda (cont.)

Hannah Stodel outlined the IPC Classification Code, and the need to be compliant with the new code that updates in January 2025.

The IPC Classification Conference was hosted at the new head office of the IPC in Bonn, Germany, and Hannah noted that she was joined by international classifier; Helen McKenzie NZL. 147 countries and International Federations were represented.

It was noted that the new code is based on compliance in 22 criteria, and it is estimated that Para sailing is not compliant with 10 of those criteria.

(A report of the Conference and the criteria workshop data is available in the PWSC Prep folder.)

It was also noted that the new code comes into effect in January, and International Federations have until September 2025 to perform a “health check” that will be issued in December 2024.

The cost of classification was also discussed, along with a question raised as to whether other sports charge for the classification of their athletes. Currently sailing does not charge for classification, even though there are inherent costs to having Para Classification at events.

Finally, it was noted that despite there being a lot of work that needs to be completed to bring classification in line with the new IPC code, we are in a good position to complete this work, and the new PWSC, along with the new Head of Classification (once

appointed) are implored to support the World Sailing Executive office.

6. Communications

WS Director of Communications, Scott Dougal

- i) Report on 2024 Communications plan and results of Para Inclusive output on the WS website, Para Inclusive Newsletter.
- ii) Recommendations for 2025 media plan for Para Inclusive Sailing

Scott Dougal noted his thanks to the committee for the invitation to speak and updated the committee on the work that has been done following the Annual Conference in 2023, in Malaga.

It was noted that the new World Sailing Para Inclusive Strategy document has become the anchor from which most communications would be based, and that further work would be required with the communication plan to cover the next 4 years. The importance of the campaign for the Brisbane 2032 was noted, and the plan for future communications needs to be finalised.

It was noted that there was a lack of communications around some recent Asian Championships, and members and observers were reminded that stories need to be sent in to World Sailing in order to be published.

It was observed that there should be a set format for the Para Inclusive newsletter, and noted that there is, including the sailor's insight and experts corner areas, with the only exception being when the rankings are published, as those take priority over other stories.

It was observed that another key part of the communication strategy has been the use of the sailor's forum; currently sitting at 1.1k members. This is an incredibly useful tool that includes posts regarding events, training opportunities, as well as many class discussions etc.

7. Para World Sailing Strategic Plan 2024 – 2029

- i) To discuss the new Inclusive strategic plan

Hannah Stodel noted that the aim of the new strategy is to make the sport of sailing a leader in inclusivity and that the focus is accessibility and enabling everyone to sail.

It was noted that the new strategy was created following an extensive review of the previous strategy, and the feedback from the LA 2028 bid campaign for reinstatement by both the PWSC and the World Sailing Executive office.

It was noted that there are 8 key criteria that the IPC look at when evaluating sports, and that out of the 8 criteria, sailing is green in 4 areas, amber in 2, and red in 2. The amber areas of the sport are anti-doping and classification, and the red areas are

Para World Sailing Committee Agenda (cont.)

the event calendar and the participation numbers around the world.

World Sailing has since undertaken a review of the anti-doping testing pool and is now providing regular education at International and World Championship events.

The office and the International Classifiers are also in the process of evaluating the changes to the Classification code by the IPC and will be re-writing the rules for Para Sailing accordingly.

It was noted that the main issue with regards to the calendar of events was not the lack of events, but that the calendar is not centrally managed by the World Sailing Executive office. Work is being done to create a Para Inclusive calendar.

Finally it was noted that the worldwide reach of the sport was the final red area, with data for the LA 2028 bid showing 29 countries. Current data as of the end of 2023 was 33 countries from the 3 continents.

It was noted that all the information regarding the strategy is available on the World Sailing YouTube channel following the Para Inclusive Strategy Webinars that were presented earlier this year. The new strategy documents are also available on the website.

8. Inclusive Development Program

To receive a report on the 2024 IDPs and an overview of the plan for future development, as well as the schedule for 2025.

Para World Sailing Committee Agenda (cont.)

IDP-P UK (RS Venture Connect World Championships)

It was noted that the IDP in Rutland preceding the Para World Sailing Championship for the 2-person technical, hosted at Rutland sailing club was very successful with registrations from 30 teams and 15 countries to engage in the World Sailing provided training. World Sailing provided 2 coaches: Simon Rosier AUS, and a trainee coach, Bridgette Nee GBR. The RYA then supported the program by providing a further 2 coaches: Brett Cockayne and Becky Ellis.

The feedback for the IDP-P was again hugely positive with a rating of 4.33 out of 5, and a net promoter score of 89.

IDP-C/P Singapore (Asian Inclusive Sailing Series)

The IDP-C/P was a hybrid model of both the coaching and the performance modules of the inclusive development program and was once again hosted in Singapore at the Republic of Singapore Yacht club. 23 participants from 10 countries took part in the IDP, with coaching provided by the Para World Sailing Manager, Hannah Stodel and coach Grant Alderson AUS.

Again, the feedback of the IDP was positive, with a rating of 4.8 out of 5, and a net promoter score of 80.

2025 Schedule

The target for 2025 is to run 6 IDP's.

Events

Reports of previous events

- i) Blind Match Racing World Championships – Bernard Destrube (International Classifier)

It was noted that the Blind Match Racing World Championships were hosted by the Base Nautique in Sciez. 8 teams from 5 countries took part in the event. It was noted that the Appendix CBS (specific to Blind match racing) needed to be rewritten, and that a working party has been formed following the World Championships to undertake this work.

- ii) 2.4mR One Person Technical Para Inclusive World Championships.

The 2.4mR One Person Technical Para World Championships were hosted by Kiel Yacht Club. 86 participants from 17 countries, with 21 Para entries (with results taken retrospectively from the inclusive results). It was noted that this event struggled significantly with the costs of Race Officials, and it has been requested that a review of these requirements be undertaken.

- iii) RS Venture Connect Two Person Technical World Championships - Dan Jaspers, RS Sailing on behalf of Venture Connect Class.

The Two-person technical World Championships were hosted by Rutland Sailing club, with 33 teams from 16 countries. The event was raced inclusively, with sailors being able to self-certify that they had a “disability, illness or condition that impacts their daily life”, and Para Sailors

Para World Sailing Committee Agenda (cont.)

using the standard classification system. Results for the Para and Inclusive rankings were pulled retrospectively from the overall results.

It was noted that again this event struggled with the costs of hosting Race Officials.

Promotion of Events

iv) Town Halls (pre-event to be held quarterly as needed)

v) Sailor Forums (at/during events)

It was noted that having sailor forums at every World Championship event was important, and the Town Halls prior to the World Sailing Championships in 2023 were incredibly useful in getting information to competitors and coaches.

vi) Increasing and encouraging participation at events

vii) External awareness – communication with organisations/entities outside of the WS family

2025

viii) Hansa Class World Championships with Para One Person Non-Technical World Championship March 2025, AUS

David Staley noted that preparations are well underway for the One-person non-technical World Championship, hosted by the Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club in Sydney, with officials appointed, and the process started for the

recruitment of the volunteers to support the event. There is space for 100 boats, with up to 50 charter boats available.

It was noted that there will be 3 Para World Sailing Championship titles, as well as several international titles.

It was observed that there would need to be an audit performed of accommodation options, especially regarding accessibility. There are 50 accessible bunk style rooms available at the University of NSW.

David noted that it is hoped that there will be an Inclusive Development program prior to the World Championships that will support participation, particularly for emerging nations.

It was observed that there is currently no event agreement in place between the host club and World Sailing.

9. Recommendations Not Based on Submissions

To consider recommendations to Council not based on submissions that are deemed urgent and requiring action by Council.

To discuss a recommendation not based on submission to change the regulations regarding Para World Championship events that are hosted within the Class Events.

It was noted that currently the regulations on event organisers to host the Para World sailing titles within class championships are creating undue burden.

Para World Sailing Committee Agenda (cont.)

The PWSC Request review of Regulation 24.6 and its requirements based on unburdening Event organisers for the Para World Championship (Yellow paper submitted)

Moved by Betsy Alison, seconded by David Staley.

5 votes for, 0 votes against. No abstentions

It was recommended that the Para World Sailing Committee changes its name to reflect the new strategy and focus to become the Para Inclusive Committee.

Moved by Betsy Alison, seconded by Bernard Destrube.

5 votes for, 0 votes against. No abstentions.

10. Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Forum

It was noted that the Women's forum is about to transition to the Equality, diversity and inclusion committee within the new governance structure.

Hannah Stodel observed that the Women's forum this evening would have a session segment that would be exclusively for diversity and inclusion, and that committee members Yuki and Emma would be joining a panel discussion.

11. Development Symposium

Para World Sailing Committee Agenda (cont.)

Following the World Sailing Annual Conference, Fiona Kidd observed that there will be the Development Symposium, which has been running for around 10 years following the conference.

This year, the aim is to do something a little different and to greatly increase participation. Previous editions of the Development Symposium have had around 30-40 participants, whereas this edition has 97 registered. It was observed that there are 4 themes, with 12 sessions and around 25 speakers attending.

12. Any Other Business

None.

The meeting was closed at 1705.