

World Sailing
Youth Events Sub Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 5 November 2024

Location: Suntec Singapore Convention & Exhibition Centre

Commencement Time: 1030

Present:

Charles Glover (GBR) – Chair

Pei Ming Chung (SGP) – Vice-Chair

Elizabeth Kratzig (USA)

David Abercrombie (NZL)

Chris Caldecoat (AUS)

Alessandra Sensini (ITA)

Anne Malledant (FRA)

Sofia Papadopoulou (GRE)

Online:

Marianne Davis (CAN)

Lucia Bermudez (URU)

In Attendance:

Pedro Rodrigues – Events Manager

Jim Morris – Director of Events

Corinne Rolland-Mckenzie – Events Consultant

David Graham – Chief Executive Officer

Cory Sertl (USA) – Vice-President

Sarah Kenny (AUS) – Vice-President

John Derbyshire (GBR) – Events Committee Chair

Apologies:

Fatih Özmen (TUR)

Anastasia Maletina (RUS)* *temporarily suspended*

<u>Agenda Items</u>
1. <u>Opening of the Meeting</u> a. Chair's Opening Remarks The Chair thanked all members of the Sub Committee for their contributions over the past 12 months and also thanked Cory Sertl and Sarah Kenny for their support over the term and invited CS to comment. CS thanked the members of the committee and the chair and vice chair for their commitment and also gave thanks to the Italian Sailing Federation for a hugely successful 2024 edition of the Youth Sailing World Championships. b. Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest Marianne Davies and Lucia Bermudez joined remotely. c. Minutes of the meetings on 14 November 2023 Minutes approved.

d. No matters arising
2. <u>The 2023 Youth Sailing World Championships, Buzios, Brazil 8-16 December 2023</u> 3. <u>The 2024 Youth Sailing World Championships, Lake Garda, Italy 12-20 July 2024</u> a. World Sailing Technical Delegate and Events Manager gave a report on the last two Youth World Championships, Buzios in December 2023 and Garda in July 2024. Brazil - 400 athletes over 60 countries. Great collaboration between the MNA, city of Buzios and WS with a problem solving mindset and high quality of race management. Good level of food and accommodation, great support from OA. 3 racing areas with reliable wind and racing conditions. Challenge with the kites launching areas, delivery of the ILCA sails delayed and no tracking. Garda - 418 athletes from 70 countries. Great collaboration with host (federation, city, region). Problem solving mindset with strong race management. Split accommodation and shuttles worked well. Issue with delivery of IQ Foil's meant sailors had to bring their own equipment. b. WS Development Manager gave a report for the associated ENP programmes. Buzios ENP 22 ILCA sailors - 3 coaches. Garda 23 ILCA – 3 coaches, 10 iQFOIL – 5 coaches. 32 nations have been supported through the quadrennial c. Report on sustainability Buzios : Carbon neutral event (1 tree planted per sailor), waste cooperative partnership, partnership with Planet Patrol Mission (8000 pieces collected). Bronze level "Sea Clean regatta". Garda: Platinum level Sea Clean Regatta. Sustainability built in throughout the event planning and delivery with many initiatives to engage sailors. There was use of electric ribs for race management and robotic marks.
4. <u>The 2025 Youth Sailing World Championships, Vilamoura, Portugal 12-20 December 2025</u> a. The Technical Delegate reported that the contract is about to be signed and that the NOR should be issued before the end of 2024. It is to be staged using the same events and quota but with a plan to include a mixed team racing event in the ILCA6 ahead of the championship. The Team racing will allow mix nations. Accommodation will be centralised in one hotel and the entry fee will be increased to include tracking. There will be an extra fee for the team racing. It was noted that there has been strong support form the region and the government.
5. <u>Future Championships</u> a. It was confirmed that invitations and a press release had been issued inviting bids for the 2026 edition of the Youth Sailing World Championships, with an option for bidders to bid for a single or multiple years. Expressions of interest are to be received by 30.11.24 and final bids by 31.1.25 – a bid evaluation panel will be established to review the final bids.
6. <u>2026 Youth Olympic Games</u> a. The Olympic Sailing Manager submitted a report highlighting the current situation, which confirmed - the IOC has excluded some sports and sailing is lucky to remain in the YOG as

one of the 25 selected sports. WS will receive confirmation on the number of medals and athlete quota by the end of the year but is likely to be 2 medals and around 50 athletes. WS needs to optimise the opportunity by carefully selecting the equipment and format. With limited resources in the designated Olympic Venue, WS will need to provide services, equipment to enable successful delivery of the event.

It was noted that WS should focus on events that meet the metrics set out by the IOC and that can maximise the number of countries participating from Africa with the aim of leaving a meaningful legacy.

- b. Recommendation: Once the number of events and quota is confirmed by the IOC (due following the December 2024 session), a working party should be formed to work with WS staff to agree and implement a process to finalise events and select equipment.

7. Submissions

- a. No submissions to discuss.
- b. No recommendations on any other submission.

8. Youth Sailing World Championships Strategy

The chair presented a paper to all present (previously circulated to members of the Sub Committee) which outlined the concept for a Youth Sailing World Series.

The concept was based on;

- 4 venues hosting a 'regional championship' and located in 4 different regions around the world, enhancing accessibility a reducing cost to participants
- Each with a multi year hosting agreement (circa 4 years)
- Each to be promoted as a hub for wider / ongoing participation and volunteer development activity
- Each to become a potential base for other complimentary championships working closely with the Host, Continental Associations and Class Associations
- The top 4 winners in each class / event to 'win' a place in a World Series Final which would be hosted in one of the regional hubs providing equipment, accommodation and meals free

The chair invited feedback and comments from observers which included the following;

- 4 regions would not be enough to deliver the desired increased engagement and participation – minimum of 6, maybe more
- A novel and interesting concept, but please don't try to fix something which isn't broken – this is one of the best events WS has
- Regional hubs are a good concept for development but separate to the Youth Worlds
- Might this approach damage the 'pathway to the Olympics' and destroy the dream
- Could be an exciting opportunity to empower regions to 'shape' an event to better suit their region

After feedback the meeting was closed to observers for a 2 hour discussion around the concept and taking account of feedback from the observers.

The chair reopened the meeting and outlined the feedback and proposed direction.

It was suggested that the future strategy should be built on the following 3 pillars;

Competition – the Youth Worlds currently has many attributes as an elite / pinnacle event. It must be seen as aspirational and relevant (a must do event), with the very highest quality on-water delivery (venue, safety, race management) as well as a high quality off water experience (stress free for participants and team leaders/coaches, comfortable, memorable with a strong social and cultural essence).

Commercial Sustainability – the Youth Worlds has to be bid’able for host MNA’s with costs being as manageable as possible whilst at the same time remaining good value for competitors. The bidding process must give sufficient time for potential hosts to secure funding of all types (government / commercial) and it must also be attractive to potential WS partners and sponsors. It is felt that this pillar requires remedial focus and attention.

Development Activity – the Youth Worlds must directly deliver development activity as well as contribute to a longer-term legacy of development activities not just around participation, but also volunteer development. Whilst this area delivers some very positive activity, there is also opportunity for further enhancement.

Using the 3 pillars outlined, it was agreed that the future strategy should be evolved focussing on 4 area’s;

Multi Year Venue Agreement – it was agreed that there is significant potential around a multi year agreement, ideally 3 or 4 years, but perhaps even only 2. This would create the potential to create a hub for other competition as well as wider development activity which could have a sustained long term impact. It is felt that it would have a positive impact on the commercial sustainability for the hosts and other stakeholders such as the equipment suppliers.

More Efficient and Appealing – it was agreed that the competition structure and sport presentation be reviewed, also considering whether potential changes could mean the need for less equipment and therefore be more efficient. Ideas should be developed to make the event more commercially attractive as well evolving content to maximise its creativity and so enhance engagement and traction with consumers.

Structured / Formal Collaboration – there is recognised potential in engaging in more structured collaboration with other stakeholders such as the classes, continental associations and manufacturers to achieve a number of the objectives to develop the Youth Worlds and its development impact. This should be focussed on the ‘multi use’ of hub’s by all stakeholders.

Olympic Vision – evolution of the strategy must embrace relevant aspects of the Olympic Vision including cost reduction, sustainability and engagement, taking the opportunity to ‘lead not follow’ whilst ensuring it remains a relevant pathway to the Olympics.

The outgoing Sub Committee aims to create a framework to highlight the benefits and suggested actions around a multi year agreement as well as establishing whether there may be some immediate ‘quick wins’ to explore around the efficiency and appeal of the event.

It is suggested that the new Sub Committee use these outputs as the focus of their work in evolving the strategy over the next 12 months with a view to implementation no later than 2027.

9. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

The chair reiterated his thanks to the Sub Committee, staff and board for their hard work and support throughout the whole of this term.