

The Team Leaders and Coaches Commission met at the Suntec Singapore Convention & Exhibition Centre, at 1030 on 6 November and 0930 on 8 November 2024

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Present:

Nadine Stegenwalner (GER) Chair
Aiko Saito (JPN) Vice-chair
Michele Marchesini (ITA)

Yann Rocherieux (FRA) WS Vice President
David Hughes (USA) Athletes' Commission

In attendance:

Matt Wheaton (Competitions Manager)
Jim Morris (Director of Events)
David Graham (Chief Executive Officer)
Steve Smith (Head of IT and Digital Infrastructure)
Mark Robinson (GBR Team Leader)

Catherine Duncan (Training & Development Executive)
Corinne McKenzie (Events Consultant)
Fiona Kidd (Head of International Development)
Jaime Navarro (Director of Technical and Offshore)
Matthias Schmid (AUT Team leader)
Marcus Lynch (USA Team Leader)

Apologies:

Linda Toumi (TUN)

Walter Boddener (BRA)

1. Opening of the Meeting

- 1.1 The Commission Chair opened the meeting welcoming the members noting that Mark Robinson, Marcus Lynch and Matthias Schmid had been invited to observe the meeting, having all volunteered to be appointed to the Commission for the following term.

Aiko Saito was congratulated for receiving the 'Beppe Croce' trophy for her outstanding contribution to the sport at the Olympic Games. The members were introduced to the newly appointed WS Director of Events, Jim Morris.

It was noted that with the incoming WS governance model, the Commission request the facility to make Proposals (Submissions) to Council.

2. Minutes

- 2.1 The minutes of the 2023 Team Leaders and Coaches Commission meeting were approved and can be downloaded here: <https://www.sailing.org/inside-world-sailing/organisation/governance/conferences/past-conferences/previous-conference-papers/>
- 2.2 There were no matters arising not already included in the minutes.

3. Update from the Board

- 3.1 The members noted the minutes from the Board meetings since last the Team Leader's and Coaches Commission meeting.
- 3.2 The Paris 2024 Olympic Sailing Competition was deemed a great success by the Board with appreciation expressed to all involved; a post event survey was underway with a full report to follow.

The Board also noted other competition relevant to the Commission paying tribute to the success of the Youth Sailing World Championships held at Lake Garda and thanks were also given to Lorient Grand Large and the Royal Ocean Racing Club for a successful staging of the 2024 Offshore Mixed Double-handed World Championship.

The Board was pleased to recommend a new 5-year strategy 'ready for the future' which, combined with WS's Olympic Vision will provide clear direction for future decision making and further strengthen WS's contribution to the Olympic movement through to Los Angeles 2028 and Brisbane 2032.

4. Paris 2024 Olympic Games

- 4.1 WS CEO, David Graham presented a summary on the Paris 2024 Olympic Games to the Commission. It was reported that a post Games survey was conducted with all key stakeholders including Athletes, Team Leaders and Coaches with comprehensive feedback received which the Board will review and report upon.

The Commission requested that WS publish areas of improvement, action plans and it's priorities. It was also requested that the Office compile and share a comprehensive list of metrics and data derived from Olympic Sailing competitions held in Tokyo 2020 and Marseille 2024, for example the number of races, racing time, time held under AP, protests, and overall time on the water to assist in future scheduling and decision making.

The WS CEO and Commission re-affirmed the wish to work closely together throughout the next term to optimise the Team Leaders and Coaches' roles at events in line with the Olympic Vision and 5 year Strategy.

5. Sustainability

- 5.1 The Commission received a report from Alexadra Rickham regarding ongoing projects within the WS Sustainability Team

As reported in previous years and in line with the targets agreed within Agenda 2023 the reduction of support vessels (coach boats) remains a key priority at WS events. There have been great improvements in the reduction of support vessels, down from 600 at Santander in 2014, to 400 at Aarhus in 2018 and to 330 at The Hague in 2023, noting that the number of athletes remained largely the same over this period.

Coaches and National teams were thanked for their continued efforts and proactive measures to reduce the number of support vessels, noting that further reductions would be needed and are welcomed by most teams, with the exception of some smaller Nations due to the limits imposed on supporting their athletes.

The CEO encouraged the Commission to propose solutions that could be used to drive change within this area of the sport under the view of the IOC especially regarding safety, sustainability, overall cost of delivery and gender balance of Coaches and Race Officials.

6. Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games

- 6.1 The Commission received a brief update from the WS CEO following a recent site visit by David Graham and Micheal Downing to Los Angeles. It was reported that the Organising Committee hope to make their key appointments soon and are actively engaging with the Federation. The locations of the field of play, venue and boat parks are still to be confirmed and it was noted that training opportunities and facilities in Los Angeles will be challenging until decisions and agreements are in place. Sailing is anticipated to be within the Olympic 'bubble' mixing with other sports such as coastal rowing within the Belmont Pier region. The Commission recognised and well understood the challenges ahead and made the following recommendations:
- That an Olympic Test Event be held in 2027 to be positioned 10 days between conflicting regattas within Europe.
 - Ensure that appropriate training opportunities and facilities are made available to all nations and communicated well in advance of the 2028 Olympic Sailing Competition.
 - The value of Town Hall meetings was recognised, and it was requested regular dialogue is continued.

7. 2026 and 2027 World Sailing Championships

- 7.1 The WS Events Consultant, Corinne McKenzie gave a brief report on the World Sailing Championships planned in Valencia and Gdynia. It was noted that owing to the recent flooding that devastated areas of Valencia, the Yacht Club had not been in a position to finalise and sign the hosting contract. Gdynia, which will host the two-person championships is on track and it is hoped to sign the final agreement in due course. There would be open training opportunities and test events available for both championships with further details to follow. It was noted the Quota and Qualification is yet to be determined and expected in early 2025. As with the Olympic Games, it was requested regular updates via quarterly Town Hall meetings is upheld with MNAs and Team Leaders.

8. Participation and Development

- 8.1 Catherine Duncan, WS Development Manager gave update on ongoing projects on Coaches Development Programme which is available for Emerging Nations. Utilising Olympic Solidarity funding, a seven-week programme for training managers and coaches is currently held within the UK. A proposal to enhance this scholarship programme covering race management, campaign management, attracting sponsors, use of technology and social media was presented and supported by the members. The Commission endorsed the programmes and offered to consult further, as required.
- 8.2 Catherine continued with an update on WISH, 'Women in Sports High Performance Pathway', an IOC initiative to increase the number of female coaches across all Olympic Sports, WS has four coaches on the 18 month programme, with the application process to open again in 2025.
- 8.3 Fiona Kidd, WS Head of Participation and Development updated the Commission members regarding the coaches' registration project. The delay of implementing the project was noted. It was reported that a consultant had been contracted to review the wider World Sailing database for athletes, race officials and coaches. It was noted that review and development work would start immediately, subject to budgetary approval and funding received from the IOC.

- The Commission insist that World Sailing take the project forward as an urgent priority for the benefit of professional standards and development within the sport and safety of all Athletes.

9. Technical and Offshore

- 9.1 The WS Director of Technical and Offshore provided the members an update of ongoing projects within the department.

It was reported that following the Paris 2024 Olympic Sailing Competition, the WS executive office intends to be more involved and work collaboratively with the appointed Technical Committee for the Olympic sailing competition with a unified approach to policies. In conjunction to policies, there will be an Olympic version of the class rules, which is hoped will be adopted into Class Events.

- 9.2 An Equipment Committee Working Party was tasked with reviewing iQFOiL sail size for 2028. It was reported that following an assessment, a new Class Rule will be published and activated in 2025.

Following much debate, the Commission made the following recommendations:

- WS take increased control over the development of equipment and Class rules, noting the emotional and financial stress on Athlete's and their campaign budgets.
- Ensure that proposals for equipment changes are properly evaluated and tested

10. Safety

- 10.1 Michele Marchesini provided the Commission with an update regarding the World Sailing Safety Commission. This Commission called for standardisation and regulation of protective/safety equipment such as helmets and impact vests to be investigated by World Sailing. It was reported that World Sailing will establish a research partnership with 'Podium Analytics' and work was ongoing with an update to follow.

The Chair gave thanks to the work of the Safety Panel and Commission which lead an important area within the sport.

- 10.2 The Commission continued to discuss safety issues within the sport, which is a recurring agenda item and took the opportunity to share some of the ongoing areas of work with the three invited members and reiterated the importance of WS developing the Coaches' registration project.

- 10.3 The Commission endorsed submission 030-24 regarding Regulation 38 Safety Incident Reporting.

11. Youth Events

- 11.1 The Commission received an update on the Youth Sailing World Championships and future plans that may affect Team Leaders and Coaches. There was good debate regarding a proposed future event strategy and the members agreed that the Youth Worlds largely provide a motivation and spirit for youth sailors and facilitate an important pathway towards senior competition.

- The Commission strongly agreed that the current identity and format of the Youth Sailing World Championships should be retained as one entry per event, which is qualified at a National level, not continental qualification.

- It was agreed that hosting for multiple years in the same venue could make good financial and planning sense.

It was noted that WS plans to form a working party with Coaches representing a number of MNAs ahead of Vilamoura 2025 to ensure coaches are properly consulted regarding their requirements during the regatta, recognising the unique service they provide at this particular regatta.

12. Policies at World Sailing Events

- 12.1 The Commission reviewed Support Team Regulations (STR) that were in place at the Olympic Sailing Competition in Marseille. There were no major concerns regarding the regulations that were in place, however it was recommended that to simplify race documentation and align practices across regattas, World Sailing should incorporate the STR into the Racing Rules of Sailing.
- 12.2 Received an update on the coaches' registration project, as discussed in item 8.3
- 12.3 The members provided feedback regarding digital officiating and the rise of new technology within race management. There was a push for integrating technology into race management and officiating to enhance transparency and accountability, with discussions on potential applications for future events.

13. Any Other Business

13.1 'Grand Slam Sailing Series'

The WS Competitions Manager provided the members with a brief update on a developing event strategy involving WS and the Classic European Regattas which, some of the Team Leaders had been consulted directly upon. More details were reported to follow.

- 13.2 The Commission recommend that the Board and Event Appointment Working Party consider a greater weighting of the quality of key race official appointments over imposed gender and sustainability directives.

13.3 Closing

The Chair thanked the members, staff and observers for their contributions and closed the meeting with the following recommendations for the next term:

- Two, 2.5 hour meetings are scheduled at Annual Conference
- The next Commission should offer a wider representation of the sport from large and small Nations, as well as from different backgrounds, youth, offshore and keelboats.
- The WS Board and Executive Office must prioritise funding and resources to research and deploy the Coaches' registration project.
- The Commission request the facility to make Proposals to the Council, in addition to the WS Board.