

Olympic Classes Sub-committee Agenda



The Olympic Classes Sub-committee met at the at the Suntec Singapore Convention & Exhibition Centre, Singapore at 10:30 on Monday 4 November 2024.

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Present:

Markus Schwendtner (Formula Kite) (Chair)
Marcus Spillane (VP)
Andreas Kosmatopoulos (470)
Ben Remocker (49er / 49erFX / Nacra 17)

Gonzalo Costa Hoevel (iQFoil)
Mirco Babini (Formula Kite)
Eric Faust (ILCA)
David Hughes (Athletes' Commission)

In attendance:

Jim Morris (Director of Events)
Corinne McKenzie (Events Consultant)
Dimitris Dimou (470)
Daniel Belcher (Q&Q WP Chair)
Alexandra Rickham (Director of Sustainability)

Piotr Oleksiak (Format WP Chair)
Matt Wheaton (Competitions Manager)
John Derbyshire (Events Committee Chair)
David Graham (WS CEO)

Apologies:

Santiago Lange (Nacra 17)

Michael Downing (Olympic Manager)

1. Opening of the Meeting

- 1.1 The Chair opened the meeting welcoming the members, observers and followed by introducing the newly appointed WS Director of Events.

2. Minutes

- 2.1 The Sub-committee noted the minutes of the Olympic Classes Sub-committee meeting of 13 November 2023 (circulated after the meeting). The minutes can be downloaded at <https://www.sailing.org/inside-world-sailing/organisation/governance/conferences/past-conferences/previous-conference-papers/>
- 2.2 There were no Matters Arising from the minutes not covered elsewhere.

3. Update from the Board

- 3.1 The Sub-committee noted the minutes from the Board meetings since last the Olympic Classes Sub-committee meeting.

- 3.2 The Olympic Classes Vice President provided an update from the Board since last the Sub-committee meeting.

The Last Chance Regatta and Paris 2024 Olympic Sailing Competition were deemed a success with appreciation expressed to Semaine Olympique Française, the French Sailing Federation, all volunteers, officials and staff. A comprehensive post Games survey was conducted which highlighted some important elements to address in particular: venue selection, race management, sport presentation and broadcast.

The Board paid tribute to the success of the Youth Sailing World Championships held at Lake Garda in July 2024 noting the event continues to showcase talent.

Thanks were also offered to Lorient Grand Large and the Royal Ocean Racing Club for a successful staging of the 2024 Offshore Mixed Double-handed World Championship, and all involved.

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 strengthening WS's contribution to the Olympic movement through to Los Angeles 2028 and Brisbane 2032.

4. Paris 2024 Olympic Games

- 4.1 The Sub-committee received a report on the Paris 2024 Olympic Games from the WS Executive and Technical Delegate at the 2024 Olympic Sailing Competition.

The World Sailing CEO reported that a post-Games review was underway with a select group of experienced Team Leaders and Athletes who has returned invaluable feedback. The Board and executive would be reconciling all comments and feedback with a full report to follow.

The CEO strongly encouraged the Olympic Classes to work proactively and collaboratively with other WS Commissions, Committees and the wider staff team.

Alexandra Rickham, one of the two appointed Technical Delegates continued the report and noted that one of the key points to take forwards to Los Angeles 2028 was the importance to forge strong relationships with the Organising Committee as soon as possible, holding regular multi-stakeholder meetings to address any problems collaboratively and sooner within the cycle.

A media report from Paris 2024 was presented by the WS Director of Communications and Digital which highlighted 14 areas of performance that are measured by the IOC, of which determine the sum of Olympic revenue that the Federation receives.

These measures provided a framework for plans that were successfully used alongside the wider media team, rights holders and Olympic Broadcast Services (OBS). The importance of effective media engagement strategies was highlighted and the need for better collaboration with broadcasters to improve the visibility and coverage of sailing events. It was noted that both engagement and reach on social media both outperformed that of Tokyo 2020 and key lessons learnt will be carried forward with OBS for Los Angeles 2028.

5. LA 2028 Olympic Games

The Director of Events provided the members with a brief verbal update noting that there is not much information to update on at this stage. Michael Downing and David Graham had recently conducted a short site visit to Los Angeles in October 2024, noting that the

Organising Committee hope to make key appointments soon however are engaging with the Federation and noted that the Competition schedule is due to be published mid 2025.

A Test Event is planned for 2027 and thanks were offered to Paris 2024 for strongly advising to the IOC this take place. It was noted that training opportunities and facilities in Los Angeles will be challenging and the exact venue is still to be confirmed. Sailing will be within the Olympic 'bubble' and will mix with other sports in the Belmont Pier region.

- 5.1 The sub-committee were presented with a comprehensive report from the Format Working Party which made proposals for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Sailing Competition. The members of the working party were thanked for their detailed analysis and constructive review with some great proposals that would subsequently be put forward to the Events Committee and Council for approval.

6. World Sailing Championships

- 6.1 The Director of Events reported on progress of the 2026 World Sailing Championships in Valencia from the, including an update on the 2025 test event. It noted that Contract negotiations continue but are halted temporarily whilst the Yacht Club co-ordinate relief efforts following the recent disastrous floods within the city. It was desired that the contract would be agreed before the end of the year with further details around a Test Event to follow.

- 6.2 An update on the 2027 World Sailing Championships in Gdynia was given noting that Heads of Terms had already been signed and the Long Form Agreement is well underway. Training opportunities will be made available from 2025 in conjunction to a Test Event, with further details to follow.

It was noted that Test Events draw a lot of resources from teams and WS should ensure that on balance the correct measures are tested without impacting the calendar too heavily.

7. World Sailing Event Calendar

- 7.1 The Calendar Working Party Chair provided an update on the Olympic Calendar until Brisbane 2032. It was noted that the framework of the calendar was drawn up several years ago and that little has changed. The World Cup Strategy was welcomed and the working party will be looking to ensure that is scheduled correctly alongside other 'perennial' regattas.

The challenges of adapting to the dates of Continental, Regional Games such as Asian Games and PanAm Games were noted and there was discussion about offering flexibility to allow teams to compete at these.

8. Race Officials Updates

- 8.1 The sub-committee received a brief report from the Event Appointment Working Party, noting that the incoming WS Board would likely be reviewing the group and it's direction going forward.
- 8.2 The implementation of Digital Officiating at World Sailing competitions was discussed by the sub-committee. It was noted that without the expert knowledge and experience of the Olympic Manager, discussion on this topic may be limited however it was remarked

that Digital Officiating would be a key priority within WS's 5 year 'ready for the future' strategy.

The need for improved communication between race management and the wider organising committee was highlighted with recommendations including establishing clear protocols for race management decisions and embracing the use of technology to aid decision making to improve transparency and accountability, with further discussions on potential applications for future events.

9. Technical Update

9.1 The sub-committee received an update from the Director of Technical and Offshore which featured activity reports from within WS and the Equipment Committee.

It was noted that the Olympic Class Agreements had been circulated and conversations are currently ongoing.

A new manufacturer certification system is being implemented to ensure quality control in Olympic classes. Emphasis was placed on simplifying class rules to minimize confusion and penalties applied during competition.

Regarding Class Rules, it was commented that Classes have different approaches to tackle the same issue, the example offered was the definition 'high visibility'. It was requested for a united approach, with the equipment committee to certain challenges would be appreciated and would in turn simplify the rules and reduce uncertainties at the Olympic Games.

10. Submissions

10.1 There were no relevant submissions for the Olympic Classes to make recommendations to the World Sailing Classes Committee.

11. Any Other Business

11.1 Sustainability

The Sub-Committee received a progress report from the Director of Sustainability on the 56 deliverables within Agenda 2030 and it was noted that good progress towards achieving at least 23 of these targets had been made. It was expected that an Olympic Charter may be used to align the Olympic Classes with some of these deliverables. Further updates were made regarding:

- Using the 'Classic Regattas / World Cup regattas as a platform to standardise practices such equipment recycling, eliminating single use plastics.
- Life Cycle Assessment project in collaboration with the Olympic Classes contract is due to be signed very soon with further details to follow.
- The use of supplied equipment, as per the guidance of the Olympic Vision.
- Ambitions strategies to achieve gender parity of Race Officials across all WS competitions, noting that there was only a 2% improvement in female appointments at the Olympic Sailing Competition from Tokyo to Paris.
- Further reduction of support Vessel numbers at WS competitions.
- Decarbonisation and efficiency of race management vessels
- Biodiversity, bio security and marine megafauna.

11.2 Closing

The Vice President closed his term with the sub-committee with the following statements.

The VP noted that within his 20 years sitting on the sub-committee, very few women had joined the table and it was worth encouraging female athletes particularly within the Olympic Classes to follow this pathway.

Secondly, the VP encouraged members to engage with the WS office in particular Jim and David to solve some of the issues, work together for the athletes who are the ultimate stakeholders.

It was confirmed that an election between the members has been held in advance and it was agreed that Markus Schwendtner would continue to Chair the sub-committee with Eric Faust as Vice Chair.

In Closing the Chair thanked the members and staff for the past four years and looked forward to another term working together.