

The World Sailing Council Meeting Minutes

The World Sailing Council met remotely via Microsoft Teams on 22 January 2025
at 12:00 UTC



Present	Position/Representing
1. Quanhai Li (CHN)	President
2. Özlem Akdurak (TUR)	Vice President
3. Daniel Belcher (AUS)	Vice President
4. Tomasz Chamera (POL)	Vice President
5. Beatriz Gonzalez Luna (MEX)	Vice President
6. Dave Hughes (USA)	Vice President
7. Line Markert (DEN)	Vice President
8. Josep M Pla (AND)	Vice President
9. Cory Sertl (USA)	Vice President
10. Stacey Clark (GBR)	Group A
11. Fiona Bolger (IRL)	Group A
12. Katrin Adloff (GER)	Group B
13. Martin Vogler (SUI)	Group B
14. Alexandru Micu (ROM)	Group C
15. Piotr Oleksiak (POL)	Group C (Alternate)
16. Corinne Migraine (FRA)	Group D
17. Emiliós Papathanasiou (GRE)	Group D
18. Fabio Mazzoni (ITA)	Group D (Alternate)
19. António José Cardoso de Barros	Group E
20. Remco de Goederen (NED)	Group F (Alternate)
21. Annika Ekman (SWE)	Group G
22. Andrus Poksi (EST)	Group G
23. Tatiana Ermakova (RUS)	Group H
24. Mohamed Al Obeidi (UAE)	Group I (Alternate)
25. Xu Lijia (CHN)	Group J
26. Abdur Rehman Arshad (PAK)	Group K
27. Malav Shroff (IND)	Group K
28. Shevaun Bruland (AUS)	Group L
29. John Philp (FIJ)	Group L
30. Luis Velasco (ARG)	Group M
31. Marco Aurelio de Sa Ribeiro (BRA)	Group N
32. Tom Clarke (BER)	Group O
33. Irina Perez (DOM)	Group O
34. Peter Hall (CAN)	Group P
35. Fred Hagedorn (USA)	Group P
36. Dina Kowalyshyn (USA)	Group P
37. Alain Alcindor (SEY)	Group Q
38. Jan Martin Wilschut (NED)	WS Classes Committee Chair
39. Matthew Allen (AUS)	Oceanic & Offshore Committee Chair
40. Sylvie Harle (FRA)	Women's Forum (Alternate)
41. Betsy Alison (USA)	Para Sailing Committee Chair

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In Attendance

David Graham	Chief Executive Officer
Urvashi Naidoo	Director of Legal & Governance
Nelia Smith	Director of International Relations & Corporate Affairs
Raksha Patel	Director of Finance & Business Operations

Scrutineers

David Tillett was in attendance as scrutineer for the meeting as the Chair of the Constitution Committee.

1. Opening of the Meeting

(a) Welcome from the President

The President opened the meeting and welcomed Council Members to the first Council Meeting of the Quad.

(b) Remembrance

The Council noted and paid respects to the members of the sailing community who had passed away since the last Council Meeting.

(c) Apologies for Absence and Alternates

There were no formal apologies. The Council noted the following alternates were appointed:

- In Group C, Ewa Jodlowska appointed Piotr Oleksiak as alternate.
- In Group D, Walter Cavallucci appointed Fabio Mazzoni as alternate.
- In Group F Peter van der Bossche appointed Remco de Goederen (NED) as alternate.
- In Group I Sheikh Ahmad Bin Hamdan Al Nayhyan appointed Mohamed Al Obeidi (UAE) as alternate.
- The Chair of the Women's Forum Elena Papazoglou appointed Sylvie Harle as alternate.

(d) Declarations of Interests

The Council noted the Register of Interest. Those members of the Council who were being proposed for Committee membership noted their conflicts for agenda item 5.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

(a) Council Minutes

Council noted the minutes of the meeting held in Singapore on 9 November 2024.

(b) Board Minutes

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Council received information that the minutes of the Board's meetings held on 10 November 2024, 7/8 & 19 December 2024 were available on the World Sailing website.

(c) Matters Arising.

There were no matters that were not already on the agenda.

3. Reports

(a) Presidents Report

The President provided a report on the global state of the sport. He thanked all members of sailing community for their commitment and support and looked forward to working with them in the forthcoming Quad. He reported on a positive meeting with the International Olympic Committee (IOC). IOC President Bach had congratulated World Sailing for a very successful quadrennial and its excellent contribution to the Paris 2024 Olympic Games and awarded the World Sailing President the IOC President's Award in Lausanne last December.

(b) CEO Report

The Council received a report from the CEO where he also congratulated the Council members on their appointments. The CEO outlined that this was the first meeting under the new governance structure and that World Sailing. He stated that the strength of World Sailing was in its unity and increased collaboration to foster innovations, resilience and growth of the sport.

4. Board Member Liaisons

The Council noted the Board Member's portfolios of liaisons as per the circulated paper ([Appendix 1](#)).

5. Committees and Sub Committees

(a) The Board had carefully considered all the nominations which had been submitted to the Executive Office for positions on the various Committees and Sub-Committees. The Board recommendations had been circulated to the Council prior to the meeting. The Vice Presidents presented their recommendations for each of their respective liaison Committees and Sub – Committees.

Council Member's discussed and made the following points: Those individuals who were nominated but not appointed to Committees should be considered for appointment to Commissions. Future focus on improved gender & geographical representation is paramount and if the nomination period is reopened, this should be strictly for the purposes of achieving gender balance.

The Council voted on the Board proposal to vote en bloc for all the Committees and Sub-Committees

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Proposer: President Second: Vice President Tomasz Chamera.

Decision: The Council agreed to vote en bloc on the Board recommendations.

34 approve 3 reject 1 abstain

- (b) The Council voted on the Board's recommendations for appointments to the World Sailing Committees and Sub Committees for the forthcoming Quad as per [\(Appendix 2\)](#).

Proposer: President Second: Vice President Tomasz Chamera

Decision – the Council approved the recommendations.

(33 approve 1 reject 4 abstain)

6. Any Other Business

- (a) The Chair of the Para Sailing Committee, Betsy Alison had notified in relation to an item on Para Sailing.

As the current Chair of the Para Sailing Committee, Betsy Alison advised the Council on the progress made with Para Sailing, Inclusivity and the bid to get Para Sailing back into the Paralympics. She also outlined the work of the Para Sailing Manager, Hannah Stodel and the inroads she had made in promoting inclusive sailing and para sailing development and this had led to increased participation for all para sailors across the regions. She urged MNAs to include para sailing events at their national events and support future para/inclusive sailing initiatives.

Vice President Cory Sertl commended the work of Betsy Alison as the outgoing Chair of the Para Sailing Committee.

- (b) Council Member Peter Hall (Group P) requested an AOB item to be added in relation to World Sailing Governance Reforms. He thought that the provision within the Constitution which provided for MNA/Member conflict of interests (Article 23 (5) (e)) should not be amended by written resolution. He believed that it was best practice to have open and transparent discussion on items that propose to amend the constitution. Many members expressed their views in favour and against.

The President closed the discussion by stating that all comments had been noted and that it was the Board's responsibility to look after all the MNA's. He thought it was important to have Town Halls and continue ongoing consultation. He confirmed that these matters were taken seriously and were still being discussed by the Board. His intention was to ensure all MNA's were engaged.

7. Next Meeting

Council quarterly meetings for 2025 would be published as soon as practicable.

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8. Closing

Council received closing remarks from the President.

The President closed the meeting.