World Sailing Board Minutes

The World Sailing Board virtually on Thursday 6 February 2025 between 10:00 – 13:00 UTC

Present	In Attendance
1. Quanhai Li - President 2. Özlem Akdurak – Vice President 3. Daniel Belcher – Vice President 4. Tomasz Chamera – Vice President 5. Beatriz Gonzalez Luna – Vice President 6. Dave Hughes – Vice President 7. Line Markert – Vice President 8. Josep M Pla – Vice President 9. Cory Sertl – Vice President	1. David Graham – Chief Executive Officer 2. Urvasi Naidoo – Director of Legal and Governance 3. Nelia Smith – International Relations & Corporate Affairs

1. Opening of the Meeting

a) Presidents Opening Remarks
The President welcomed everyone to the meeting.

b) Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest.
There were no apologies for absence
Vice President Tomasz Chamera declared his continued interest in the World Championships in Gdynia, Poland.
Vice President Ozlem Akdurak declared she was the President of the Turkish Sailing Federation and therefore conflicted in relation to Agenda Item 6 (b).

c) Minutes
The minutes of the 30 January 2025 were being prepared and would be circulated by email for approval.

d) Matters Arising
Appear on Any Other Business

e) Decisions by email
There were none to note.

2. Executive Office

a) 2025 Annual Conference – The Chief Executive Officer updated the Board in relation to the Annual Conference, specifically that venues were being explored and it was a high priority to finalise the 2025 venue.

3. Events

a) 2026 Sailing World Championships Venue
The Director of Events joined the meeting. Valencia were still intending to host but had not yet been able to sign the Agreement. The Evaluation Panel had been concerned about the lack of financial commitment from Valencia and advised that this should be put to the original bidders again.
After some discussion about the exact guarantees which had not been given by Valencia, the Board agreed to continue discussions with Valencia giving a further deadline but to also commence other discussions in the background.

b) Event Appoint Working Group (EAWG).
Board liasions investigated the EAWG matters presenting remarks and concerns on its effectivity.
Based on recommendation, no candidates were identified to go onto the EAWG. It was proposed to take a temporary pause and work on further clarifications regarding how the EAWG operates. No EAWG would be in place but the proposal was that the Executive Office in conjunction with the Board liaisons would make the appointments for 2025.

4. Legal & Governance

a) Russia – It was agreed that a paper would be presented to the Board on options relating to permitting neutral athletes. In the interim three months the temporary suspensions would remain in place.

b) Nominations Panel – It was agreed that the Nominations Panel positions should be advertised. The Board agreed that the three (non-voting) Board Members on the Panel would be the President, Vice President Josep M Pla and Vice President Line Markert.

c) Appointment of Commissions
The Commissions as per the Appendix 1 were appointed.
It was noted that the Safety Commission needed to be members from existing Committees and Commissions and therefore the appointment would be deferred until after those persons had been appointed. It was noted that there were some vacant posts on the Medical Commission and that these should be from other regions rather than Europe.

d) Safeguarding (Standing Item)
The Board noted no new safeguarding matters.

e) Safety (Standing Item)
The Board noted no new Safety matters

f) Case List Update
Nothing pressing for the Board to note.

5. Participation & Development

a) Chinese Equipment Donations – the President asked the CEO to arrange a meeting with Vice Presidents Beatriz Gonzalez Luna & Daniel Belcher alongside the President and Council members from Africa & Oceania, those regions impacted.

6. AOB

a) Written Resolution

Vice President Ozlem Akdurak left the meeting as she was conflicted and did not take part in the discussion or the vote on this matter.

It was made clear that the Board were discussing this matter without knowing the results of the written resolution.

The President asked what the Governance Committee had decided.

The Director of Legal and Governance confirmed that the Governance Committee had asked for more legal advice before they could offer an opinion, and in particular case law and further research into the matter.

The Chief Executive Officer stated that significant sums had already been spent on the legal advice.

The Chief Executive Officer asked for Direction from the Board in relation to the next steps with the written resolution as the deadline had expired on the 5th February.

There was a detailed discussion. All members of the Board expressed their views. The general outcome was to follow the legal advice and communicate to the members in relation to the status of the written resolution, however there were concerns. The President asked the Board to present their final view via email as soon as possible.

Post Script – After the meeting, it was decided to wait until the Governance Committee had given their Interpretation on the topic. The Board agreed additional costs of further Legal advice up to £25k.

b) Eligibility application.
It was agreed to discuss this application via email.

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