

The Events Committee met online on Tuesday 4 March 2025 at 2100 UTC

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Present:

Wolfgang Mayrhofer (AUT) Chair	Paula Douat (COL)
Aiko Saito (JPN) Vice-Chair	Piotr Oleksiak (POL)
Anna Holmdahl White (SWE)	Saskia Clark (GBR)
Ed Russo (FRA)	Shevaun Bruland (AUS)
Ferran Muniesa (ESP)	Tayfun Erey (TUR)
Geoffrey Wooley (NZL)	Tian Wang (CHN)
Molly O'Bryan Vandemoer (USA)	Walter Boddener (BRA)
Markus Schwendtner (GER) Olympic Classes Chair	

In attendance:

Daniel Belcher (AUS) Vice President WS Board	Jim Morris (Director of Events)
Cory Sertl (USA) Vice President WS Board	Michael Downing (Olympic Director)
Lisa Darmanin (AUS) Athletes' Committee Vice Chair	Matt Wheaton (Competitions Manager)

Apologies:

Nuno Gomes (ANG)

1. Opening of the Meeting

- 1.1 The Chair and Vice Chair welcomed members to their first formal meeting of the term.
- 1.2 A quorum of 15 members was established.
- 1.3 Apologies for absence were noted.
- 1.4 The Committee noted the declarations made in the Conflicts of Interest register and urged all members to ensure they have made a recent declaration, even if they have nothing to declare (<https://www.sailing.org/inside-world-sailing/organisation/governance/integrity/conflict-of-interest/>).

2. Minutes

- 2.1 The Committee approved the minutes of 7 November 2024 (circulated and approved after the meeting). The minutes can be downloaded at <https://www.sailing.org/inside-world-sailing/organisation/governance/integrity/conflict-of-interest/>.

- 2.2 There were no Matters Arising from the Minutes not covered elsewhere.

3. Update from the Board

- 3.1 The Committee received an update from the Vice Presidents responsible for liaison with the Events Committee. They expressed excitement for this quad, with LA28 and BNE2032 on the horizon.

There is a determination to make the sport more financially and environmentally sustainable for athletes and MNAs.

The Vice Presidents recorded their thanks to the Chair and Vice Chair for their strong and encouraging start to their appointments.

- 3.2 The Committee noted the Board minutes from their meetings since last the Events Committee meeting.

4. Update from the Committee Chairs

- 4.1 The Chair and Vice Chair shared their thoughts on the term ahead, highlighting the large volume of work in the committee's remit and noting the considerable potential to provide a positive impact on the sport. Members, particularly those that have served within World Sailing previously, were encouraged to share their experience, knowledge and perspectives to assist the committee to positively impact the sport.

The Chair advised that he had received an invitation to join the Board's Invited Events Evaluation Panel.

5. Joint guidelines of Events Committee

- 5.1 A 'general statement' had been circulated to members as part of the draft Work Plan which presented guidelines and expectations for future activities promoting fair, transparent and respectful discussion.

The committee unanimously endorsed the statement and committed to working within the spirit of the statement.

6. Work Plan Review

- 6.1 The committee discussed the proposed Working Groups as set out in the Work Plan and their proposed remit. Five Working Groups were considered:

'Quota and Qualification LA28': The proposed remit was presented, and the 7 points were briefly summarised as to 'Provide the plan to be presented to Council'. The inclusion of Support Teams & Vessels and Digital Officiating was discussed as maybe outside the proposed scope of the WG but it was decided to leave it in this WG as there was not a better alternative.

'Brisbane 2032 and Beyond': The proposed remit was presented and addresses the Olympic Event review (scope and outcome), Invited Event development, Equipment Committee support, and the ambition for the 2032 Olympic Sailing Competition and beyond.

'Format': The proposed remit was presented as determining the competition format for the World Sailing Championships, 2028 Olympic Sailing Competition and the principles for the 2032 Olympic Sailing Competition.

'Affordable Olympic Sailing': The proposed remit was presented as to identify and address concerns about the rising non-material and material costs of Olympic sailing, including intangible individual and social impact as well as the financial. Members gave comments of thanks for addressing this challenging topic directly and offered to hand over information from their experience of recent MNA work in this area.

'Regatta, Calendar and Ranking': The proposed remit was presented as to address the structure of the Olympic sailing calendar and the implementation of the World Sailing Rankings. Members suggested to include Race Official training and Digital Officiating systems and their future integration in the scope of the WG. The Events Committee suggestion is that the WS Board leads the group responsible for conducting the review of the (at least 4) selected events and the Events Committee is represented by the EC Chair, EC Vice Chair and the Working Group Leaders (WGLs) of the Quota and Qualification LA28, Brisbane 2032 and Beyond, and Format Working Groups.

- 6.2 The committee discussed the proposed membership of the Working Groups as set out in the Work Plan and their proposed leaders. Five Working Group memberships were considered:

'Quota and Qualification LA28': Proposed members were presented and the proposed WG Chair addressed the members. It was suggested a member of the Team Leaders and Coaches Commission be added to the membership of the WG.

'Brisbane 2032 and Beyond': Proposed members were presented and the proposed WG Chair addressed the members.

'Format': Proposed members were presented and the proposed WG Chair addressed the members.

'Affordable Olympic Sailing': Proposed members were presented and the proposed WG Chair addressed the members. It was suggested a representative from Oceania and a representative of the Equipment Committee be added to the membership of the WG.

'Regatta, Calendar and Ranking': Proposed members were presented and the proposed WG Chair addressed the members.

- 6.3 The committee unanimously approved the following recommendation to the WS Board to establish five Events Committee Working Groups.

The Events Committee proposes to the World Sailing Board to establish the following Working Groups with the remit and term as outlined:

Quota and Qualification LA28

This working group addresses qualification for the 2028 Olympic Sailing Competition and the related competition policies.

Remit:

1. Quota and Qualification System LA28: Recommend to Events Committee the 2028 Olympic Sailing Competition Quota and Qualification System
 - a. Define minimum qualification standard
 - b. Define the continental quota reallocation policy
 - c. Assist the WS Office to finalise qualifier bid requirements
2. Monitoring: Monitor the implementation of the 2028 Olympic Sailing Competition Quota and Qualification System
3. Review qualification system: Review the 2028 Olympic Sailing Competition Quota and Qualification System outcomes

4. Qualification BNE 2032: Decide the qualification principles for 2032 Olympic Sailing Competition
5. Support Teams and Vessels Policy: Contribute to the definition of the Support Team and Vessel policies for the 2028 Olympic Sailing Competition and qualifiers
6. Digital Officiating Policy: Contribute to the definition of the Digital Officiating and related competition policies for the 2028 Olympic Sailing Competition and qualifiers
7. WSC Qualification: Recommend to Events Committee the 2030-2031 World Sailing Championships Quota and Qualification System

Term:

Aligned to the term of the Events Committee

Brisbane 2032 and Beyond

This working group addresses the future of Olympic sailing events in the BNE 2032 quad and lays the groundwork for the update to the Olympic Vision for 2036 and 2040.

Remit:

1. Event Review Scope: Decide at least 4 events from the 2028 Olympic Sailing Competition to recommend to Events Committee to put under review for the 2032 Olympic Sailing Competition
2. Event Review Outcome: Recommend to Events Committee the outcome of the review of each event
3. Event Trials: Work through a list of potential events to be invited to the World Sailing Championships or other major regattas to ensure that the events and formats that are being tested align with World Sailing's strategy and Olympic Vision.
4. Equipment recommendation: Support Equipment Committee with Equipment recommendation to Council for the 2032 Olympic Sailing Competition
5. Olympic Sailing Competition 2032: Establish greater detail of Brisbane 2032 Olympic Sailing Competition with particular reference to WS Olympic Vision, among others the requirements for the location for the sailing venue

Term:

Aligned to the term of the Events Committee

Format

This working groups addresses the format definitions for the World Sailing Olympic events and Olympic Sailing Competitions.

Remit:

- 1) Format LA 2028: Recommend to Events Committee the format of each event in the 2028 Olympic Sailing Competition
- 2) Format BNE 2032: Recommend to Events Committee the format principles for the proposed events in the 2032 Olympic Sailing Competition
- 3) Format progress monitoring: monitor progress of format development at:
 - a) World Sailing Championships and their test events
 - b) Olympic test event and Olympic Qualifiers including Last Chance Regatta
 - c) 2028 Olympic Sailing Competition
 - d) Olympic Class Worlds

e) Relevant Special Events

Term:

Aligned to the term of the Events Committee

Affordable Olympic Classes Sailing

This working group addresses the concerns about rising non-material and material costs of Olympic sailing, i.e., both intangible costs such as social impact on athletes and coaches, Olympic pathways etc. and tangible costs in terms of money spent on material, travel, campaigns and the like.

Remit:

- 1) Supplied equipment: Develop a workplan and recommend it to the Events Committee on
 - a) how to make all events supplied equipment by BNE 2032 (as per Olympic Vision) and
 - b) what formats enable supplied equipment to make Olympic sailing more affordable.
- 2) Material costs of competing: Develop a workplan and recommend it to the Events Committee on
 - a) how to reduce the material direct and indirect costs of competing in the Olympic arena, in particular linked (but not limited) to overall campaign, equipment, travelling, and coaching, and
 - b) include the opportunities and limitations linked with supplied, charter, and provided equipment.
- 3) Non-material costs of competing: Develop a workplan and recommend it to the Events Committee on how to reduce the non-material costs of Olympic campaigns, in particular linked (but not limited) to
 - a) physical and psychological effects of athletes and coaches being separated from their home environment, reduced individual well-being, and substance abuse;
 - b) negative effects of lead times of current Olympic pathways that lead to poor choices along the pathway by athletes, their parents, MNAs, and funding institutions;
 - c) the choice of equipment requiring weight and height of sailors that disproportionally favours certain demographics; and
 - d) the choice of events, formats and equipment and its effects on the participation of female sailors.

Term:

Aligned to the term of the Events Committee

Regatta, Calendar and Ranking

This working group addresses the issues related to scheduling Olympic Class regattas in a feasible way that is sustainable and optimises the sport's resources across the campaign cycle.

Remit:

- 1) Policy for Olympic Class regattas: maintain the policy for Olympic Class regatta date and venue approvals, in particular Class World Championships and European Championships, WS Events, and Special Events, specifically considering the reduction of amount and cost of travel, the carbon footprint, and sufficient times of rest
- 2) World Championships: Note all WS Class World Championships for the subsequent year after 1 October of each year

- 3) Olympic Class championships: maintain and implement policy for Olympic Class championships date and venue approvals
- 4) Grading: Grade Olympic Class events
- 5) Grading policy: Maintain and implement the policy for Olympic Class regatta grading
- 6) WS Ranking Calculation: Oversee implementation of WS Ranking calculation and releases
- 7) World Cup: Develop scenarios for the Events Committee to consider for a World Cup starting from 2026 calendar year, specifically considering accessibility, sustainability, financial affordability, and practical feasibility

Term:

Aligned to the term of the Events Committee

7. Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games

- 7.1 The Events Committee received a report on the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games, including an update on a 2027 Test Event noting limited updates since the recent report to the 2024 Annual Conference meeting. The IOC is expected to announce the Events and Athlete quota decision in April 2025 which will be the trigger for much of the committee's work. Considerable work continues to be done with the OCOG to assist them in deciding on where the Olympic Sailing Competition venue will be. The importance of a suitable Field of Play for Olympic racing and access to training, and the need for improvements in audience and spectator engagement are core factors in addition to the standard operating, community and financial considerations.
- 7.2 The Events Committee received a report on the development of the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Sailing Competition Qualification System. It noted the work from previous quad and briefly presented timeline of qualification decisions that the committee will need to make throughout its term.
- 7.3 The Committee received a report on format proposals for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Sailing Competition. The report noted the decisions of the 2024 Annual Conference Events Committee meeting based on lessons from Paris 2024 and working towards the Olympic Vision.

From the 2024 Annual Conference Events Committee meeting report, the priority to address is the outstanding Recommendation 4, 'complexity of racing' for Windsurfing and Kite so that the two events share the same format. Testing by the respective Classes is ongoing and feedback will be offered ahead of the Mid-Year Meeting.

Recommendation 6 from 2024 Annual Conference Events Committee meeting report addressed how to reduce the probability of medals being decided too early and suggested a reduction of race days from 5 to 4 for all events. A decision on the principles of the competition schedule to be made by the Mid-Year Meeting, ahead of proposal to OCOG and OBS. Thanks were recorded to the Leader of Format Working Party from the previous committee's term and for continuing the work whilst the new working groups are established.

8. Regatta, Calendar and Rankings

- 8.1 The Events Committee received a progress report on the 2026 World Sailing Championships and noted the previously announced host Valencia has experienced ongoing challenges. The hosting decision was referred to the Evaluation Panel and the WS Board and Valencia had been given until the end of

February 2025 to address the outstanding matters. WS staff were invited by the Board to identify further options. The intention is for an update to be offered this month on the scheduling and hosting of this edition of the championship and its test event. Members urged WS to reduce overall running costs of the championship to attract more bids.

- 8.2 The committee received a progress report on the 2027 World Sailing Championships in Gdynia and noted the Heads of Terms has been signed and the contract exchanged. Planning has begun with site visits scheduled to assist the finalisation of the contract.
- 8.3 The committee received an update on the progress of identifying and selecting Invited Events for the World Sailing Championships and noted the Evaluation Panel has been invited to convene to review proposals. The proposals are confidential, but it was noted several proposals suggested new equipment with no change to the events.

9. Proposals Assigned to Events Committee

- 9.1 There were no proposals assigned to the Events Committee.

10. Any Other Business

- 10.1 Concern was expressed about the current developments linked to the circular resolution to Members and the Extraordinary General Assembly that do not providing a fruitful climate and culture for the work of the Events Committee.

The Chair thanked the members and closed the meeting at 22:45 UTC