

World Sailing
Growth of Sailing Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Wednesday 16 April @ 1000 UTC

Location: Online via Microsoft Teams

<u>Present:</u>	
Malav Shroff (IND) – Chair	John Philp (FIJ)
Inga Jakobsone (LAT) – Vice Chair	Raynor Haagh (NZL)
Mengdi Zhang (CHN)	Sigrid Beckmann (MEX)
Mandiaye Diouf (SEN)	Maciej Szafran (POL)
David Covo (CAN)	Stratis Andreadis (GRE)
Barbora Bachrata (SVK)	Abdur Rehman Arshad (PAK)
Alain Alcindor (SEY)	Albassel Ebrahim (EGY)
Mohamed Alobeidli (UAE)	
<u>Also in Attendance:</u>	
Beatriz Gonzalez Luna (MEX) – Vice President	Tomasz Chamera (POL) – Vice President
Catherine Duncan – WS Development Manager	Fiona Kidd – WS Head of International Development

1. Opening of the Meeting

- a. Opening Remarks – Chair
Malav welcomed everyone to the second meeting of the committee.
- b. Introduction of New Vice President
Malav noted that the committee had been assigned a new Vice President to support the committee's work and welcomed Tomasz Chamera.
Tomasz said he was very glad to support the committee and was looking forward to being involved.

- Competitive Sailing Presentations

Each Regional working group presented their review of competitive sailing.

- Asia

Mohamed Alobeidli began by presenting the review from Asia. He began with their roadmap areas for the next 7 years, these were:

- Equipment – Not all countries have access to all Olympic equipment and pathways
- Training – for Coaches and Race Officials
- Events – how to create a road map through events, to competitive sailing in Asia.
- WS Programmes – Utilising existing opportunities through WS programmes.
- Technology – integrating technology whether is race management technology or eSailing
- Youth & Para – pathways for athletes in these two spaces
- Performance Training – training camps and events for sailors.

Mengdi Zhang then presented 4 ways to try and tackle some of the areas outlined by Mohamed:

- Enhancing Talent Development – this is through introducing courses to support the education and development of athletes

- Build Asian Sailing Events – integrating existing events into a tiered competition systems
- Establish affordable sailing programmes – offering open days, family friendly experiences and involving schools
- Community built Sailing Programmes – establish sailing cooperatives where members share ownership of club boats

- **Europe**

Borka Bachrata presented the update from Europe, focusing on the following areas:

- Performance Sports/Sports Management – improve accessibility of Olympic and professional paths and develop professionals working in performance areas, ensuring also that safeguarding is fully embedded.
- Costs of participation for international regattas” (the bigger events costs is quite an obstacle for MNAs when sending their national teams or athletes)
- Marketing Performance Sailing – Building a sailing fan base, promoting role models and also creating a continental communication strategy
- Support Retention of Athletes – reducing the drop off
- Building a Community – involve more volunteers, parents and fans.
- Promote Para Sailing – full integration of para programmes into MNAs and clubs.

Maciej Szafran then also added the importance of mentoring and sharing best practise and good governance between MNAs.

- **Oceania**

John Philp and Raynor Haagh presented the results of a survey that had been conducted in Oceania that highlighted:

- Equipment – outside of AUS & NZL, all countries largely focused on ILCA. There is however potential for the iQFoil and Wing to develop due to transportable nature of equipment
- Youth Pathways – the importance of increasing the number of young people with the potential to continue to a High Performance Pathways. Recently only NZL have competed at the YW with some participation from SAM & FIJ
- Professional Sailing – how do sailors access professional sailing, for many nations this is more likely to be commercial shipping than Americas Cup or Sail GP.

- **Africa**

Mandiaye Diouf began by explaining the differences in Africa in the different geographic regions. Then covered the following:

- Equipment – whilst there are some differences between different areas of Africa, but largely the ILCA is the main boat sailed.

Alain Alcindor also added:

- Events – there is minimal regional competition opportunities for sailors to compete in and not usually included in All Africa Games. Travel between African nations is also challenging
- Training – is required to train more African Coaches, Race Officials and Administrators.

- **Americas**

Sigrid Beckmann presented the update from America including:

- Equipment – high cost of equipment and huge travel distances between events/countries. There are also current Geopolitical issues including tariffs.

- Retention of Athletes – huge drop after Optimist, how do they keep sailors in pathways

David Covo also added:

- Developing Coaches & Officials – to be able to bring in more sailors and expand local communities.
- Building a sailing community – focus on gender equity and the opportunities in different formats, such as team racing.

2. Discussion regarding Competitive Sailing

Beatriz noted the similarities of needs between most of the regions.

Catherine then summarised her three takeaways being:

- Equipment – both the cost of and access to equipment
- Training – opportunities for training of coaches and officials, as coaches are often key to bringing more sailors to the sport
- Events – how competition and event structures can help support athletes with pathways and opportunities

Fiona also noted the importance of Retention and keeping sailors after the optimist class.

Malav then noted his key takeaway that the strongest boat across all continents is the ILCA and that 80% of the Olympic equipment is not sailed by 80% of the world. This is also matched in the Youth Pathways.

Malav then discussed the Youth Olympic Games in Senegal in 2028 and the legacy for the games.

Discussion moved to then a survey for MNAs to understand the sailing scene across the 5 key areas the committee has outlined. It was agreed a joint survey should be created for all MNAs.

Action: Each working group to share their current surveys and questions to Catherine by 30 April. Catherine can then centralise the questions alongside the census questions that exist to create a draft to present to the board by the mid-year meeting in May.

3. Details of the Next Meeting

- a. The next meeting is proposed for Wednesday 14 May at 1100 UTC.
This meeting will include a presentation from each region on Leisure Sailing, with presentations to be shared before the meeting.