

World Sailing
Growth of Sailing Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Wednesday 14 May @ 1100 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)	Pinar Coşkuner Genç (TUR)
Luis Velasco (ARG)	
<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 meeting.

2. Leisure Sailing Presentations

Each Regional working group presented their review of competitive sailing.

Europe

Barbora presented for Europe detailing their discussion, noting it was one of the widest topics:

- Opening pathways in the sport beyond the traditional optimist to Olympic Classes pathway and promote more double handed classes. Sailing for Life should be a focus
- Support for MNAs to have training systems that support recreational and Learn to Sail as well as safety standards. This could also include ways to adapt the Racing Rules of Sailing to make it simpler and more accessible for children.
- How to integrate different communities into MNAs such as recreational Kiteboarders or Cruisers.
- Promoting sailing to different social groups and sharing best practise examples from different programmes. This could also link to mentoring between programmes/MNAs.

Pinar also noted that whilst 67% of competitive sailing was in Europe in 2024, this was hosted by mainly 3 MNAs.

Inga also noted the importance of having less costly, shared equipment.

Discussion point: Should the recreational kites and cruisers be part of the MNA and World Sailing universe? And if yes, then how?

Asia

Mengdi presented the overview from Asia's discussion:

- Making sailing more accessible – affordable grassroots programmes, community events and links with schools and universities are all vital to this. There is also the possibility to link sailing with tourism
- Cost and Availability of Equipment – lower price points and second-hand equipment are needed.
- Events – having events that cater to different groups such as family sailing, women or para sailors
- Making environments friendly and accessible to everyone – this also includes having the correct infrastructure.

Mohamed noted the importance of specialist clinics and events for different groups, referencing the Steering the Course Race Management Clinic and the Special Olympics
Abdur noted the importance of pathways.

Oceania

Raynor presented the overview from Oceania. Oceania wanted to firstly highlight the importance of defining each of the different terms being used i.e. Competitive Sailing and Leisure Sailing to make sure there is consensus around the world and continuity in what is being discussed. The key points that followed then were:

- The prevalence of traditional sailing boats for Leisure Sailing
- How the sport is promoted – support MNAs to promote sailing in their countries and World Sailing to help facilitate the link between special events in the country and the MNAs.
- Reducing Costs – how can MNAs try and reduce costs of beginning to sail, could this include club owned boats or policies to restrict equipment purchase.
- Involving Parents – Parents can be engaged as volunteers to sustain the sport, so how can we do this earlier and with education to support them.
- Simplifying the Rules – making the rules adaptable for children and have officials take a role as educators and not just regulators.

Discussion Point: Should World Sailing focus so much on the Olympics or widen the remit to grow sailing in all aspects?

Africa

Mandiaye and Alain presented on leisure sailing in Africa:

- The role of Tourism – Africa provides the perfect landscape for sailing combining tourism and adventure. Many hotels also offer sailing as an activity for guests with the possibility to explore the access for local sailors
- Many sailors sit outside of the MNAs including leisure catamaran sailors, kite and windsurfers.
- Cost and Availability of Equipment – can second hand or donated equipment be provided to countries to help create programmes
- Training for those who run programmes to help increase the number of coaches.

Americas

Sigrid presented an overview from the Americas focusing on ways to retain sailors:

- Programming and Scheduling – providing progressive programmes at different times to meet attendees needs.
- Events for all – regular regattas, themed outings and club socials that ensure parents and families are welcome. These would also help create a welcoming environment
- Engaging participants through digital communication and social media.

Luis noted the importance of having regional events.

David also added importance of sharing best practise with programmes from different regions and identifying opportunities in new programmes and initiatives and funding that might be available.

Discussion point: the challenge faced by sailing with the competition to youth sailing from the digital world and how we grab the attention of young people.

3. Discussion regarding Leisure Sailing

Beatriz noted the need to motivate young sailors and ensure they are having fun. Beatriz also spoke to the need to have more opportunities to engage people to become race officials.

Tomasz spoke to the importance of bigger countries sharing their knowledge and experience with smaller countries in terms of development.

Inga closed the meeting by encouraging all members to reach out with any additional ideas they had.

4. Details of the Next Meeting

- a. The next meeting is proposed for Wednesday 11 June at 1100 – 1300 UTC.
This meeting will include a discussion on the first two topics of competitive and leisure sailing.