The World Sailing Council Meeting Minutes

The World Sailing Council met remotely via Microsoft Teams on 8 May 2025 at 13:00 BST

Present		Position/Representing
1.	Quanhai Li (CHN)	President
2.	Daniel Belcher (AUS)	Vice President
3.	Tomasz Chamera (POL)	Vice President
4.	Beatriz Gonzalez Luna (MEX)	Vice President
5.	Dave Hughes (USA)	Vice President
6.	Josep M Pla (AND)	Vice President
7.	Cory Sertl (USA)	Vice President
8.	Stacey Clark (GBR)	Group A
9.	Fiona Bolger (IRL)	Group A
10.	Katrin Adloff (GER)	Group B
11.	Martin Vogler (SUI)	Group B
12.	Alexandru Micu (ROM)	Group C
13.	Piotr Oleksiak (POL)	Group C (Alternate)
14.	Corinne Migraine (FRA)	Group D
15.	Emilios Papathanasiou (GRE)	Group D
16.	Fabio Mazzoni (ITA)	Group D (Alternate)
17.	António José Cardoso de Barros (POR)	Group E
18.	Peter van den Bossche (BEL)	Group F
19.	Annika Ekman (SWE)	Group G
22.	Andrus Poksi (EST)	Group G
23.	Tatiana Ermakova (RUS)	Group H
24.	Mohamed AL Obeidi (UAE)	Group I
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.	Gonzalo Heredia (ARG)	Group M (Alternate)
31.	Marco Aurelio de Sa Ribeiro (BRA)	Group N
32.	Tom Clarke (BER)	Group O
33.	Irinia 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.	Pinar Coskuner Genc (TUR)	EDI Committee Chair
41.	Kay Rawbone (HKG)	Para Sailing Chair

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In Attendance

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

1. Opening of the Meeting

a. Welcome from the President

The President opened the meeting and welcomed Council Members to the meeting.

b. 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 M, Luis Velasco appointed Gonzalo Heredia as alternate.
- In Group D, Walter Cavalucci appointed Fabio Mazzoni as an alternate

c. Declarations of Interests

The Council noted the Register of Interest. There were no additional declarations noted at the meeting.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

a. Council Minutes

Council noted the minutes of the meeting held remotely on 26 March 2025.

b. Board Minutes

Council received information that the minutes of the Board's meetings held on 9 April 2025 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 thanked the Commodore of the New York Yacht Club, Jay Cross, for inviting the Board to New York and hosting them throughout the Mid -Year Week. He also provided a report to the Council on the global state of the sport.

b. CEO Report

The Council received a report from the CEO. He updated the Council on preparations for the LA2028 and was pleased to confirm that sailing had maintained its athlete and event numbers.

He also confirmed World Sailing's priority to have sailing reinstated to the Paralympic Games for Brisbane 2032.

Preparations were well underway for World Sailing events in Vilamoura, Portugal later in 2025 and in Fortaleza, Brazil, and Gdynia, Poland in 2026 and 2027.

He provided a Finance Report and this was also published with the Council papers. Finally he also expressed formal thanks to the Chair of the Audit Committee who was stepping down after the Council meeting.

4. Finance

The Council received a report from the Chair of the Audit Committee who confirmed that the annual accounts had been prepared by external auditors and that no concerns had been raised.

5. Members

Neutrality Policy

The Council member for Group H was conflicted and unable to speak.

The Director of Legal and Governance presented a paper requesting that the Neutrality Policy which was used for the Paris 2024 be updated so as to permit Russian and Belarussian sailors, support persons and race officials to take part in World Sailing events as Neutrals.

There was a discussion, and it was noted that the temporary sanctions had lapsed when the new Constitution came into force in November 2024 and that this was due to a genuine oversight. The Council requested that oversights be brought to their attention in future.

The Council approved a motion by Council Member, Peter Hall, to defer this item until the next meeting in order to permit the conflicted MNAs, Russia and Belarus to submit any written representations on the recommendations. This was seconded by Council Member Fred Hagedorn.

6. Committees, Commissions, Working Groups

a. The Council formally approved the following changes to Committees which had been proposed by the Board:

i) Racing Rules Committee Richard Slater AUS be appointed as Chair of the Committee and Line Juhl DEN be appointed as the Vice Chair of the Committee and Ana Sanchez would remain on the Committee as an ordinary member of the Committee

ii) Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Committee Hui Wen Yeh TPE be appointed as an ordinary member of the Committee.

iii) The Council noted that a Constitutional Change would be proposed to the membership to make the Chair of the Special Regulation Sub-Committee be made an ex-officio member of the Oceanic and Offshore Committee.

b. The Council noted the Board Liaison Matrix which had been updated since the last Council meeting.

c. The Council noted the appointment to Safety Commission and in particular noted that the Chair of the Safety Commission would be Eurico Miguel Fernandes Teodoro (POR). Council Member Shevaun Bruland pointed out that there was only one female member on the Commission.

d. Committees Work Plans. The Chief Executive Officer advised the Council that the Board proposed that the approval of Work Plans to the next Council meeting to allow the Committees and Sub Committees more time to refine the Work Plans and ensure all members of the Committees/Sub Committees had the opportunity to contribute. Council Member Stacey Clark asked that the Executive Office consider how progress would be measured against the plans.

e. To note Working Groups appointment process and those appointed by the Board. The Director of Legal and Governance set out a brief recruitment process for working groups to ensure the process of recruitment was clear and transparent. The approval of the working groups would also be carried over to the next Board and Council meeting.

f. Urgent recommendations from Events Committee – None presented

g. Urgent recommendations from Equipment Committee- None presented.

h. The Council noted the progress and the appointment process for the World Sailing Independent Bodies for the forthcoming quad and especially noted the composition of the Nominations Panel which the Board had appointed.

7. Any Other Business

No items were raised.

8. Next Meeting

The next Council meeting would be on the 23 July 2025 at 12.00 UTC

9. Closing

Council received closing remarks from the President.

The President closed the meeting.

The Council Meeting was livestreamed on the World Sailing Youtube channel, and the recording can be found here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N1oyq6MVkiw&t=373s