

Interim Solution – Race Official Event Appointments

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Under World Sailing regulation the Board must appoint an Event Appointments Working Group to make all World Sailing's race official appointments and approvals on its behalf (except for appointments to the Olympic Sailing Competition if the appointments are specifically reserved to the Board by policy).
- 1.2 The Working Group must consist of:
 - 1.2.1 an experienced current or former World Sailing Race Official (as Chair)
 - 1.2.2 a representative of the Athlete's Committee
 - 1.2.3 a representative of the Coaches Commission
 - 1.2.4 two additional current or former experienced World Sailing Race Officials, and
 - 1.2.5 the World Sailing staff responsible for World Sailing Race Officials (non- voting).
- 1.3 The regulations state that the working group must be appointed at the same time as the World Sailing committees for a four-year period in line with the World Sailing committee's term of appointment. The World Sailing race officials stated in 1.2 above should cover a range of race official disciplines, if possible and may be retired. Casual vacancies shall be filled in accordance with the above principles
- 1.4 Under current World Sailing policy, appointments to Major and Recognised Events (All WS Events, World Championships of the Olympic Classes, Olympic Qualifying Events, Youth Olympic Games and Regional Games) can only be made after consulting with the following:
 - 1.4.1 The Race Officials Committee
 - 1.4.2 Any relevant World Sailing Class Association
 - 1.4.3 for the Paralympic Sailing Competition and Para World Sailing Championships, the Para World Sailing Committee
 - 1.4.4 for regional games, the relevant World Sailing Continental Association and the organizing authority for the event, and
 - 1.4.5 the Member National Authority of the venue.
- 1.5 Despite the efforts of the Board and the World Sailing Executive Office, there has been insufficient interest within the race officials community to fill the positions required to properly constitute the Event Appointments Working Group in accordance with the existing regulations.
- 1.6 Within the race official community, it is recognised there is a general lack of interest from any experienced race official to become a member of the EAWG because it is deemed necessary for the purposes of independence, that race officials should remove themselves from consideration from all event appointments to be considered for the working group.
- 1.7 It is recognised members of the stakeholder groups (see 1.4 above) are the key people who possess the knowledge of the current top race official in the community. However, for the purposes of objectivity and to guard against potential conflicts of interest, these individuals should be limited to providing suitable recommendations and should not be involved in the decision-making stage of the event appointment process. This independence is fundamental to safeguarding the integrity of the appointment process and maintaining the trust and confidence of all stakeholders.

2. Interim Solution

- 2.1 To efficiently manage this process, the Board recommends that the World Sailing Executive Office leads on the appointment of race officials and be responsible for collecting recommendations from the advisory group under World Sailing Policy, ensuring balanced decision-making which is aligned with World Sailing strategy including the Olympic Vision.

- 2.2 The Board recommends that identified personal should form an advisory group to continue contributing their expert insight and advice to the race official appointments process. The representatives to constitute the advisory group to the World Sailing Executive Office shall at least include:
- 2.2.1 Race Official Committee and Sub-Committee Chairs
 - 2.2.2 Chair of the Olympic Classes Sub-Committee
 - 2.2.3 Chair of the Racing Rules Committee
 - 2.2.4 Athletes Committee Representation
 - 2.2.5 Team Leaders and Coaches Commission Representation
 - 2.2.6 Technical Delegates for the Olympic Games (when appointed)
- 2.3 The Board has instructed the World Sailing Executive Office to lead a review of the structure of World Sailing-owned events, exploring alternative roles and procedures to optimize delivery of those events.

3. Governance

- 3.1 This proposal is recommended as an interim process to apply exclusively to race official appointments for the 2026 calendar year. For clarity this includes the following appointments:
- 3.1.1 Technical Delegates for the 2027 World Sailing Championships
 - 3.1.2 World Sailing Championships Test Events
 - 3.1.3 Olympic Class World Championships
 - 3.1.4 Youth Sailing World Championships
 - 3.1.5 Regional Games
 - 3.1.6 World Sailing Inclusion Championships
 - 3.1.7 Open Team Racing World Championships
 - 3.1.8 Youth Match Racing World Championships
 - 3.1.9 Women's Match Racing World Championships
- 3.2 This interim measure will operate under the scope of Regulation 19, with ongoing reporting and transparency maintained to the World Sailing Board as the body responsible for the World Sailing Executive Office. The appointment process will be overseen by the Board to ensure appointments remain aligned with the World Sailing's strategic objectives and IOC targets in line with the governance approach of the federation without altering specific individual selections.
- 3.3 The Technical Delegates for the LA 2028 Olympic Games will be appointed by the World Sailing Board as currently provided for in existing Policy L1.
- 3.4 The World Sailing Board has instructed and resourced the World Sailing Executive Office to develop a dedicated race officials database to improve the information available to make race official appointment, development and education decisions, and improve the public recognition of the race officials.
- 3.5 Recommendations following a review of this interim solution are planned in Q4 of 2025. Following this review, it is anticipated proposals will be submitted to amend the relevant regulations and policies.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 The World Sailing Council is invited to approve the following recommendations.
- 4.2 The World Sailing Executive Office appoints race officials, acts as the final decision maker (subject to Board veto), and gathers input from the advisory group to ensure decisions align with World Sailing's strategy, the Olympic Vision and World Sailing Policy e.g Policy L. If the Board rejects a recommendation, the Executive Office must consult the advisory group again and submit a revised proposal.

- 4.3 The Technical Delegates for the LA 2028 Olympic Games will be appointed by the World Sailing Board as currently provided for in existing Policy L1, with amendment the appointment will be made no later than 31 December 3 years before the Olympic Sailing competition.
- 4.4 Form a race officials' appointment advisory group by August 2025 to contributing expert insight and recommendations to the race official appointments process. Constitute the advisory group as follows:
 - 4.4.1 The World Sailing Executive Office
 - 4.4.2 Race Official Committee and Sub-Committee Chairs
 - 4.4.3 Chair of the Olympic Classes Sub-Committee
 - 4.4.4 Chair of the Racing Rules Committee
 - 4.4.5 Athletes Committee Representation
 - 4.4.6 Team Leaders and Coaches Commission Representation
 - 4.4.7 Technical Delegates for the Olympic Games (when appointed)
- 4.5 The interim process to apply exclusively to race official appointments for the 2026 calendar year.