World Sailing Board Minutes

The World Sailing Board met in person at the New York Yacht Club on Tuesday 6 May 2025 & Wednesday 7 May 2025.

Present	**In Attendance**
1. Quanhai Li - President 2. Daniel Belcher – Vice President 3. Tomasz Chamera – Vice President 4. Beatriz Gonzalez Luna – Vice President 5. Josep M Pla – Vice President 6. Cory Sertl – Vice President	1. David Graham – Chief Executive Officer 2. Urvasi Naidoo – Director of Legal and Governance (Virtual) 3. Raksha Patel – Director of Finance & Business Operations (Virtual) 4. Nelia Smith – International Relations & Corporate Affairs

1. Opening of the Meeting

a) Presidents Opening Remarks
The President welcomed everyone to the meeting and expressed his appreciation for everyone attending.

b) Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest.
Vice President Dave Hughes sent apologies for attendance in person but did attend remotely for some items.
Vice President Tomasz Chamera declared his continued interest in the World Championships in Gdynia, Poland.

c) Minutes
The Board approved the minutes of the 9 April 2025 meeting which were circulated by email previously.

d) Matters Arising
Listed under Any Other Business

e) Decisions by email
The Board approved the World Sailing UK and World Sailing Limited 2024 Audited Accounts together with the letters of representation.

2. Events

a) Paris2024 Broadcast Results and approach for improving LA2028
The Board noted a paper outlining details of the 2024 Paris Olympic Games broadcast results.

Following some discussion the Board directed management to prepare a plan outlining the sports presentation objectives for LA2028. They requested that the plan include digital officiating, broadcast and commentary.

b) Olympic Events Leadership Thinking and Olympic Equipment
After discussion, the Board directed management to draft a paper setting out the implications of Regulation 11 and the Invited Events processes as they are currently defined and to propose viable options to take forward with their implications, for consideration in their June meeting with specific emphasis on:

- The remit of the relevant working groups, committees, staff, Board, Council;
- A detailed timeline of which decisions needed to be made, by when and by who to meet the various milestones;
- Any recommendations for amendments to Regulation 11 or the Invited Event working group remit, if changes are deemed necessary, to support an effective and transparent decision-making framework.

c) Event Appointment Working Group (EAWG).
Vice Presidents Tomasz Chamera & Cory Sertl provided an update to the Board.
The Board discussed last quad's EAWP and the difficulty of recruiting the EAWG. In the interim the staff have been leading on appointments. The Board directed the staff to draft a proposal outlining the process required to progress to Executive Office led appointments from the current position. The paper should include a proposed overarching structure/composition of the team and also highlight any regulation changes required.

d) eSailing
The Board noted the paper as presented and requested that the Executive Office recommend names, which must include Team Racing expertise, to establish an eSailing Commission.

3. <u>Para Sailing</u>

a) Para reinstatement strategy and approach
The Board noted the paper and agreed the following actions:

- A working group (informal/formal/mix) that is dedicated to the reinstatement campaign should be established from the Para committee.
- The Executive Office should make a recommendation to the Board on the project management of the campaign.
- To create an International Classifier Commission.

4. <u>Finance</u>

a) Management Accounts

The Board noted the Management Accounts as presented by the Director of Finance and Business Operations.

b) MNA Suspensions & Debtors List

The Board tasked the Executive Office with reviewing the suspended members and debtors list including taking the following actions:

- Send a final letter to all suspended members offering them a last chance to pay. If outstanding fees were not settled by the set deadline, a proposal for the cancellation of membership will be presented to the General Assembly in November 2025.
- Encourage the recovery of any outstanding debt by the end of June 2025.
- Ask for assistance from Board members in recovering outstanding debts where relevant.
- The Executive Office should work with the Governance Committee to review the membership fee structure and make a recommendation to the Board setting out next steps.

c) WS Investment Fund

The Board acknowledged receipt of the review paper from the Director of Finance and Business Operations. The Board also delegated authority to Vice President Daniel Belcher to engage the financial advisors to reprofile the risk of the WS Investment Fund.

5. Legal & Governance

a) Committee Working Plans

The Board extended its sincere thanks to all Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs who have completed the significant task of developing the inaugural work plans for their Committees.

The Board was very pleased with the progress made under this new initiative, which is a key requirement of the new constitution.

Following a detailed discussion, the Board agreed on the following points:

- In some Committees, the work plans were developed primarily by the Chair and Vice Chair, without full input from all committee members.
- As this was the first time these initiatives were being implemented, the Board recognised it was a learning process for everyone involved.
- There were some inconsistencies across the plans, particularly in the sections related to working groups and remits. Whilst not critical, the Board believed it was important to get the first set of plans as accurate and aligned as possible.
- The Board acknowledged that it was already one-third of the way through the year covered by these plans and encouraged Committees to continue progressing their work as outlined in their plans.
- The Board recommended that Council should defer formal approval of the work plans until their next meeting.

The next steps are as follows:

- Committee Chairs to ensure all committee members have had the opportunity to contribute to the plans.
- Board Liaisons, Committee Chairs, and staff leads to work collaboratively to fine-tune the plans for consistency.
- The revised plans would be presented at the next Council meeting (23 July 2025) for formal approval.

b) Committee Working Groups

Following discussion, the Board made a clear distinction between teams, made up only of Committee members, and Working Groups, which would include members from outside the Committee. Concerning teams, the Board considered Committees are free to organize themselves as they see fit and therefore do not need Board approval; Working Groups, on the other hand, need approval because they include people not originally agreed upon by the relevant body. The Board noted and agreed the recruitment process for Working Groups as proposed by the Director of Legal and Governance.

The Board agreed that a constitutional change was unnecessary as it was implicit that opening the recruitment to Members did not preclude opening it to other entities or the Working Groups were open to any individuals regardless of whether or not they had been nominated by a Member.

Following the decisions in relation to Working Plans it was agreed that the Working Groups would also be agreed at the next Board Meeting although any Working Groups already formed would continue working.

c) Board Liaison Document

The Board noted the approved liaison document.

d) Eligibility Applications

The Board noted the paper as presented by the Director of Legal and Governance.

There were two cases pending.

In relation to case 1 – the Board was still encouraging the two MNA’s to reach agreement regarding the transfer.

In relation to case 2 – the Board agreed there were exceptional circumstances and therefore agreed to exercise their discretion under regulation 4.5.5 of the Eligibility Code to permit the transfer.

The Board noted and re-stated each case is taken on their own merits and no case forms a precedent for another.

e) Safeguarding (Standing Item)

This is a standing agenda item. No new safeguarding matters had arisen since the last meeting.

f) Safety (Standing Item)
The Board noted no new Safety matters

g) Case List Update
The Board noted a supporting paper outlining the current live and ongoing legal cases and their respective updates.

h) WS Contract signing requirements and management
The Board received an update on the status of various contracts.

6. Strategy

a) Risk Register/Risk Management
The Director of Finance provided an update on the current risk register, specifically the management of cyber security. The Board requested that this item be added as a standing agenda matter at all Board meetings. Vice President Daniel Belcher will take a lead in terms of the integration of the risk register across the federation.

b) Strategic Board Priorities and Growth of Sailing
The Board conducted a strategic workshop and identified five key priorities for World Sailing. These priorities build upon objectives from both the "Ready for the Future 2024–2029" and the "Olympic Vision" documents.

The Board's agreed top priorities are:

(a) Achieving new sustainable revenue streams
(b) Securing the inclusion of Para-Sailing in the Paralympics
(c) Enhancing the sports presentation at LA28
(d) Improving rankings and digital infrastructure
(e) Strengthening teamwork across and within World Sailing

There was a significant and productive discussion highlighting the necessity for World Sailing to develop sustainable revenue streams. Recognizing the broad range of valuable assets held by World Sailing, the Board plans to explore their commercialization potential over the next four years.

Furthermore, the Board emphasized the crucial need to improve core operational services.

Additionally, the Board was unwavering in its commitment to reinstating Sailing in the 2032 Paralympics. Updates and guidance on engaging effectively with WS and the International

Paralympic Committee (IPC) would soon be shared with the Council, Member National Authorities (MNAs), and the broader sailing community.

Finally, the Board thoroughly discussed how to coordinate efforts across committees, commissions, and management to align with these priorities and broader strategic goals.

7. Participation & Development

a) Wind Shift developing and Growth of Sailing Center
The Board noted an update on the Mexican windshift project from Vice President Beatriz Gonzalez Luna.

b) Continental Associations
The Board discussed the need for an informal gathering of the leadership of Continental Associations at the Annual Conference and supports it.

8. AOB

a) 2025 Annual Conference Update
The Board noted a verbal update on the planning of the 2025 Annual Conference in Ireland.

b) 2026 Youth Olympic Games
The Board approved the Equipment tender, subject to contract. The Board also directed the staff to set up a Working Group under Piotr Oleksiak (Youth Events Committee Chair) to solely focus on the smooth execution of the YOG competition.

c) Match Racing
- Ranking and Grading
  The Board noted and approved the recommendation outlined in the paper from the Chair of the Match Racing Committee, Michael Röllich. The Board requested that a clear deadline be set for the implementation of the suggested solution.
- World Sailing Nations Cup
  The Board noted, for information, the paper provided by the Chair of the Match Racing Committee, Michael Röllich.
- World Sailing Youth and Women Match Racing World Championships 2027 – 2029
  The Board noted, for information, the paper provided by the Chair of the Match Racing Committee, Michael Röllich.

d) Oceanic and Offshore Committee

The Board noted that the Chair of Oceanic and Offshore had asked for the Chair of the Special Regulation Sub-Committee to be an ex-officio member of the Oceanic and Offshore Committee. It was agreed that an amendment to the Constitution would be proposed to enable this.

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