

Para World Sailing Committee Meeting February 2025

18th February 2025 1000 UTC via Teams



Invited:

PWSC Members: Kay Rawbone Chair (HKG), Emma Hallen Vice Chair (SWE), Alfred Pelinka (AUT), Betsy Alison (USA), Efstratios Achlatis (GRE), Elliot Levy (VEN), Gabriel Barroso (ESP), Irina Perez Le Roux (DOM), Jaz Turner (GBR), Jenny Davey (CAN), Marco Predieri (ITA), Ozgur Inam (TUR), Paul Adrien Cuvillier (FRA), Sarah Ogilvie (AUS), Yuki Hagiwara (JPN).

Athletes Commission Representative: Henriette Smith (NOR).

Board Representatives: Ozlem Akdurak (TUR), Line Markert (DEN).

World Sailing: CEO – David Graham, Director of Communications – Scott Dougal, Head of International Development – Fiona Kidd, Para World Sailing Manager - Hannah Stodel, Participation and Development Manager - Cat Duncan, Sustainability Manager - Rebecca Videlo.

Apologies: Irina Perez Le Roux (DOM)

1. World Sailing Updates - HS

a. Welcome and procedures

Kay opened the meeting by introducing herself to the Committee, with thanks to Emma as her Vice Chair and support.

Hannah noted that the meeting and all future meetings will be recorded and that meeting notes and transcription would be available after the meeting.

Kay noted that sailing has many benefits and that Inclusion is a big part of the ambition of this committee.

i. Meetings

It was noted that the meetings will be scheduled in the same format each time, led by the Chair and the Executive office. The aim is to host the meetings at least once a month.

ii. Communications

iii. Terms of reference – FK

Fiona introduced herself to the Committee and noted that they have been an incredibly active committee in the past and that incredible strides have been made towards inclusivity and that making sailing welcoming to everyone is really important.

Fiona noted that the Terms of reference (that were circulated ahead of the meeting to the Committee in their preparation folder) clearly outlines the purpose of the Para World Sailing Committee. It highlights that the remit of the committee is to advise and report to Council through the Chair. Fiona also noted that the Policies that the committee should familiarise themselves with are on the World Sailing website (and have also been included in the preparation folder).

It was noted that the meeting minutes will aimed to be completed and reviewed by the Chair and Vice Chair and circulated within 14 days of the meeting.

b. Office updates

Hannah noted that the meetings would normally start with an update from the Executive Office on projects, upcoming events or any development opportunities.

It was noted that there are several key projects the Office are currently leading on:

- i. Documentation
- ii. Hansa World Championships
- iii. Reinstatement Campaign for 2032

c. Board

Line introduced herself to the Committee and outlined that she would act as the liaison to the Board and would be updating them on the important work of the Committee. It was noted that the work of the committee supports a very central topic within World Sailing and that it is important that the new strategy is realised, and that the quest for reinstatement to the Paralympics is something that the Board are excited about.

2. PWSC Introductions – KR

- a. Current involvement in Para Inclusive Sailing
- b. Ambitions as part of the PWSC

Kay led the Committee introductions enabling each member to introduce themselves to the group. Most members of the group outlined their key ambitions and supported the key pillars of the strategy and the bid for reinclusion to the Paralympics.

3. Key projects and priorities handover to new PWSC - HS

- a. Para Event titles

It was noted that the Para World Sailing Committee has the capability to award up to 6 Para titles per year as outlined in policy K1 that covers Para World Sailing Championships. Hannah outlined that these can be separate events for example where a Para titles is awarded to a class to host within their Class World Championship,

but it can also include other Para titles such as Blind, Intellectual and youth titles.

It was also noted that the PWSC should be aware that for 2025, there are currently already Para titles that have been awarded by the previous committee, and those are:

- Para One Person Non Technical Men/ Women
- Para One Person Non Technical AHSN

It was also noted that any World Championship property event takes priority when appointing Para titles, and that as such, the World Sailing Championships and the new World Sailing Inclusion Championships would fall into this category.

Hannah noted with that in mind that for 2027, the previous PWSC had already awarded Gdynia, Poland with all the required Para titles for the World Sailing Championships.

With any future decisions, the Executive office will bring the event to the attention of the PWSC and facilitate any voting that would be required.

b. Request for volunteers and support:

Hannah noted that recently World Sailing posted a request for volunteer support in both the Sailors Forum and the Newsletter.

i. Newsletter

The members were encouraged to support the community in bringing stories to World Sailing, and that showcasing stories from around the world is a key part of the reinstatement campaign.

ii. Calendar

It was noted that there is now a Para Inclusive calendar on the World Sailing website, and again, World Sailing are asking

for the communities support to get those events into the calendar, as it supports the work we are doing to increase participation opportunities.

iii. Rankings

It was noted by Hannah that getting results and information from events to enter into the World Sailing system remains challenging. The IT system that is used for the rankings requires considerable manual data entry, sometimes up to 5 days' worth of work for each ranking run, that happens quarterly. It was explained to the committee that Yuki had created a much simpler results form (that is available on the WS website) that enables events to send in the required data for an event to be ranked. One of the key aspects of the ranking is the Para classification, and the difficulty is that currently the Manage2Sail system does not enable events to indicate whether a sailor is classified or not.

It was also noted that a key part of this process is ensuring that sailors have a World Sailing SailorID, and that events are ensuring that this is taken as part of the registration process to ensure that the data is available for the ranking.

It was noted that in the interim, all events should be encouraged to use the M2S system to enable a simple transfer of data to the WS system.

It was also noted that this data whilst rankings serve as a performance measure, they are only a measure of participation within competition, and only form one part of the participation data that we are working on for the IPC. It was however outlined that this is still a really important part of our overall participation data, and that the World Sailing

rankings are visible to the IPC as a measure of sailings country numbers.

4. PWSC Working Parties – EH/ HS

Due to time constraints this item was deferred to the next meeting.

- a. PWSC Interest and outline of current Working parties and leads.
- Documents Working Party (TBC) HS
 - i. Focusses on updating documents and templates such as Para Inclusive Sailing instructions, strategy documentation etc. Currently working on updating Blind Sailing Appendix CBS.
- Classification Working Party (TBC) HS
 - i. Currently working on the IPC Classification code update.
- Equipment Working Party (Alfred) AP
 - i. Focusses on equipment evaluations and collaboration with the Equipment Committee. Currently supporting the application by RS for the Venture Connect to receive International Status.
- Rankings Working Party (Alfred) AP
 - i. Focusses on supporting rankings data through the Executive Office.
- Communications Working Party (Yuki) YH
 - i. Focusses on key communications throughout the community, such as the Newsletter and the Sailors Forum. Currently focused on activating volunteers to support the Newsletter. Will also be a big part of the upcoming bid for reinstatement to the Paralympics with the IPC, working with the Communications Team at WS.
- Regional Development Working Party (Emma) EH

- i. Focusses on Regional Development opportunities and the work with the participation and development department of World Sailing in the creation of hubs. Also works in close partnership with the Executive Office with regards to the Inclusive Development Program.
- Inclusion Working Party (TBC) BA
 - i. Focusses on the key strategic shift towards inclusivity and the language used. The working party is key to providing input to the new EDI committee. Currently working on a language guide and key outputs for MNAs.
- Events Working Party (Betsy)
 - i. Focusses on event structures and participation opportunities, aligning with the calendar of events. Current focus is on the matrix and event levels.

5. 2025 calendar of confirmed World and international events – HS

Hannah noted that at this point in the meeting, the Executive office updates the committee around any confirmed World Sailing or other events that have either sent bids or sanctioning requests for Para specific titles.

a. Reminder of updated Para Inclusive Calendar

The PWSC were again reminded of the specific Para Inclusive calendar that is now available on the World Sailing website.

- i. Para One Person NT World Championship, Hansa Class World & International Championships with International Championship AUS (March)

Hannah updated the committee on the status of the event, and it was noted that World Sailing have appointed Hannah as the Technical Delegate for the event. There are currently nearly 200 entries for the event, and it was noted that the

Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club and the Hansa Class are doing a fantastic job in bringing the event together.

All Race Officials have been appointed through the Executive Office and the RPAYC are in the process of training volunteers ahead of the event.

It was also noted that there is a planned Sailors Forum for the event.

6. 2025 calendar of proposed World & International events - HS

a. Para Two person Technical World Championship (December)

It was noted that the RS Venture Connect Class, who are currently the two person para class have requested to join the World Sailing Inclusion Championship, and have been very supportive of hosting their class world championships within that event. Therefore the request to host the para title within the class world championships has been paused pending the announcement of the World Sailing Inclusion Championships.

b. Para One Person Technical World Championship (October, Italy)

It was noted that we are expecting to receive a request from the 2.4mR class to host the para title within their class world championship that is being hosted in Italy in October. The PWSC will need to vote on this submission upon request.

c. Blind Fleet Racing World Championship (July-October)

It was noted that there has been a submission from Portugal to host the Blind Fleet racing world championships, but Blind Sailing International have requested to pause the submission following the announcement of the World Sailing Inclusion Championships. They have indicated a wish to be a part of the combined championship

and therefore are awaiting the pending announcement of the Inclusion Championship.

d. Asian Inclusive Sailing Series

Yuki outlined that the AISS aims to promote and provide competitive sailing opportunities in Asia and following the inaugural event that was hosted by Singapore in 2024 success, there is a wish to continue the use of the title.

It was noted that ASAF met last night, and it was agreed to continue the collective effort, and that could potentially include integration within larger events such as Hong Kong's South East Asia Championship, or Hiroshima's Peace Cup.

Yuki noted that ASAF would look to invite applications in March with an April announcement of the host(s).

e. Barcolana Inclusive European Championships (October)

Hannah outlined that Barcolana is one of the biggest regattas in the world, and that collaboration with Barcolana provides a fantastic opportunity for Para Inclusive Sailing.

In collaboration with Eurosaf, it is suggested that the event would host the Inclusive European Championships for the 2.4mR and the Hansa classes, with the RS Venture connect already having a European regatta in the calendar.

f. Inclusion World Championship 2025 (December TBC)

Hannah reminded the PWSC of the Terms of Reference, and that any discussion related to host venues must be kept confidential.

The process of selection for the event host was outlined, and it was noted that there was an incredibly positive response to the event

with 17 expressions of interest in hosting either the 2025 or 2026 event.

The Evaluation panel met last week, and the host venue was decided pending contractual agreements. It was noted that an announcement would be made as soon as possible regarding the host.

Regarding the 2026 host, it was noted that there are currently 4 hosts shortlisted, and that those bidders have been given an extension until the end of February to submit a formal bid. The panel would then be likely to sit in March with a decision on the 2026 following asap, enabling World Sailing to outline the calendar of events much further in advance.

It was also outlined that the PWSC would likely be asked to prioritise the awarding of remaining Para titles to this property event for 2025 and 2026. It was also noted that voting doesn't necessarily have to be done in the meetings, and that there is the capability to do votes by email.

7. IDP – HS

Hannah outlined the Inclusive Development program and how it sits within the overall Development department budget.

It was noted that resources are limited, and that the department does the best to maximise those resources by working with the hosts of the IDP in a partnership. Hannah explained to the committee that whilst World Sailing would love to be in a position to fully resource every IDP, it is just not feasible to do so, and therefore the IDP is a 50/50 partnership between the host and World Sailing.

Hannah also updated the committee that the participation numbers for the IDP over the past 2 years and 6 programs are better than were first reported, with 35 countries having taken part in the IDP to date. This is a positive step

forwards in our participation number data, given the IPC's target of 32 countries.

a. 1 confirmed WS IDP:

i. Australia (March)

It was noted that there are currently 9 countries registered for the IDP ahead of the Hansa World Championships.

b. 4 proposed WS IDP's:

i. Antigua (June)

Working with the MNA to support the IDP and a following International Regatta enabling regional competition. It will be the first IDP hosted by the Caribbean region, and an exciting step forward.

ii. Asia TBC

As noted previously, it would be preferable to have the IDP precede any AISS activity or event, to ensure the impact and

iii. Europe TBC

It was noted that Portugal have bid to host the IDP, but that a key aspect of the Development program is linking it to competition as a tool for increasing participation. The Executive office will look into other European Opportunities to see if that is really the best use of resources this year, with the option to delay the European IDP until 2026.

iv. Inclusion Worlds (December TBC)

It was noted that the opportunity for hosting the 5th IDP is due to the fact that the host of the Inclusion Championships will be resourcing the program, and therefore the requirement on World Sailing's budget is reduced enabling us to create another opportunity for the community.

8. Other Business - KR

No other business.

9. Thank you – KR

The entire committee were thanked for their presence and contribution to the meeting.

It was noted that the Executive office would be in touch to schedule the next meeting as required, and that the meeting transcript, video and notes would be available asap.

Meeting finished 1125