

Para World Sailing Committee

Introductory Meeting January 2025

27th January 2025 1200 UTC via Teams



Invited:

PWSC Members: Betsy Alison (USA), Kay Rawbone (HKG), Emma Hallen (SWE).

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

World Sailing: Head of International Development – Fiona Kidd, Para World Sailing Manager - Hannah Stodel.

Members were welcomed to the meeting by Hannah and Besty, and the positivity of having an entire female led Para World Sailing Committee was noted. Ozlem also added that in Turkey, there are 64 sports federations, and only 2 of them have female leadership.

Kay was also congratulated on her completion of the Four Peaks race over the weekend with Hong Kong Sailability.

Betsy noted that she had requested the meeting through Hannah and the Executive office, and offered her congratulations to the new Chair; Kay, and the new Vice Chair Emma on their appointments.

World Sailing Updates

a. Office

i. Official process

Hannah noted the purpose of the meetings was to outline processes and workflow, and how things had been working. It was

noted that Hannah would be the lead in Para and the contact within the Executive office. It was noted that the PWSC meeting normally starts with the Office update, and that includes oversight on projects that are being worked on, and how other members of staff might be brought into the meeting to provide updates and share expertise.

It was noted that the agenda template remains the same, along with the process for scheduling and booking meetings through Doodle polls, that are and will be managed by the Executive office.

Betsy noted that the frequency of meetings is determined by the Chair and opened the floor to Kay to decide. It was noted that the monthly meetings would remain for consistency.

Kay noted that the NPC in Hong Kong were coming to visit on the 5th February as they were looking to run school training through the group there, and that it would be an opportunity to ask questions of the NPC.

Ozlem also noted that there would be summer activity in Turkey, with the World Ability Sport Games being hosted in Mersin during October, and that sailing had been invited to that.

The process for bid selection for the World Sailing Inclusion Championships was outlined, and that included how the Evaluation panel would be constituted, and how that would include members of the Board as well as the Chair and Vice Chair of the PWSC.

It was noted that the bidders are kept confidential until they are processed by the office, at which point, details of the bidders that are invited to present will be shared.

Moving on from the Inclusion World Championship update, it was noted that there would of course be other workflows and items to discuss, but that Hannah would outline those at the start of each PWSC Meetings, as well as outlining where resource might be allocated, as well as where the PWSC might be required to give approval.

ii. Documentation update

Hannah noted that a large piece of documentation work that is currently underway is the revision of the Para Classification rules in line with the new IPC code. The code is now in force from January 2025, and the IPC are in the process of performing "health checks" with the International federations to ensure compliance.

It was noted that Bernard had resigned as Head of Classification, and that Jurgen was currently sitting as interim Head. The Executive office are in the process of appointing a new Head of Classification through a vote, and the newly appointed Head name will be shared with the PWSC asap.

iii. Current priorities

The first project that was noted is the current bid request for the World Sailing Inclusion Championships. Hannah updated the meeting that there are currently 15 expressions of interest to host the event, and with the bid deadline being the 31st January, that a

lot of focus in the office has been on helping bidders prepare paperwork and answer requests for information.

Another project priority that was noted in the introduction of an Online Learning Platform for World Sailing, that is currently being worked on and developed, with a launch date aimed for Q2 of 2025.

b. Board

- c. Ozlem thanked Betsy on behalf of the Board for her incredible work over the 109 years she led the PWSC, and hoped that the new committee could at least match her performance. She also noted that herself and Line were there to act as a bridge between the Committee and the Board to bring the message through, and wished the new Chair and Vice Chair luck and success.

Ozlem also asked how World Sailing communicate with MNA's, and it was noted that this is a significant issue in the Para space, as often the MNA's do not have a Para sailing program, so it is left to other organisations. It makes communication with the sailors difficult, as World Sailing primarily communicates only with the MNA, and therefore information is not getting to the sailors. It was also noted that the Sailors forum remains a helpful tool in the communications, as well as regional WhatsApp groups. Hannah also commented that World Sailing has recently put a call out for volunteers to support the network of communications.

Ozlem also noted the importance of encouraging MNA's to reactivate or start Para programs, and part of that outreach should be in partnership with the regional organisations such as Eurosaf or ASAF.

Ozlem also asked about sponsorship specific to Para- how any activity went in the last term, who is in charge of that at the moment? Fiona

noted that Hannah has some opportunities for things like the Inclusive Development program, but that the commercial search is managed by the Senior Management and the external group that have been hired for sponsorship specific activities. She also noted that the World Sailing Inclusion Championships would be an ideal property event for any corporations that are interested in EDI.

2. Outline of workflow and processes

Hannah outlined the key working processes from the Executive Office. This included how meetings are booked – the PWSC is emailed with a doodle poll to find a time that works for everyone, this is generally a 2 week period with up to 20 time slots. Once the time slot is selected, the Chair and Vice Chair of the committee will be emailed a draft agenda for comments and any further additions, that is then sent to the PWSC from the Executive office.

All communication is managed through the office, as well as all documentation to enable version control.

3. Key projects and priorities handover to new PWSC

Current key projects as outlined in previous notes:

1. Classification rules for Para sailing revision
2. Inclusion Worlds evaluation panel

4. Current PWSC Working Parties and Leads

It was noted that the working parties and leads should be outlined and discussed at the first full meeting of the PWSC in February.

Betsy did however note that with the current committee constitution does not have anyone with medical expertise, especially with regards to Classification etc. It was noted that the PWSC may have to do some

outreach to engage external parties to become part of the Committee and relevant working parties.

Betsy noted that Elliot Levy who has joined the committee is a Race Official, and would be supportive of any working parties in that area.

The decision was taken to defer any decisions regarding working parties until the February meeting.

- Documents Working Party (David)
 - i. Replacement required
- Classification Working Party (Bernard)
 - i. Replacement required
- Equipment Working Party (Alfred)
- Rankings Working Party (Alfred)
- Communications Working Party (Yuki)
- Regional Development Working Party (Emma)
- Inclusion Working Party (David)
 - i. Replacement required.
- Events Working Party (Betsy)

5. 2025 calendar of confirmed World events

Hannah noted that the process for Para event appointments is managed by the office, and generally the Para classes hosts Para titles within their class championships. Generally World Sailing receive a bid, it is checked for compliance by the Executive Office, and then the bid is brought to the PWSC for a vote. The PWSC have the ability to award 6 Para titles per year under Regulation 24.6, but that this only applies to Para titles, and not Class events. The International Classes have the right to host their World Championships as per the regulations. If the Para titles are within any World Sailing property event, then the PWSC has the ability to award titles within

that event as per the class Championships, but that process would be led by the Executive.

- a. Para One Person NT World Championship, Hansa Class World & International Championships with International Championship AUS

Hannah noted that the Para titles for the OPNT class have already been awarded by the previous Para committee and would be raced within the Hansa Class World Championship in the 303 and Liberty classes at their event to be held in March 2025 in Australia.

6. 2025 calendar of proposed World events

- a. Para Two person Technical World Championship (December)

Hannah noted that this is a slightly more complex situation – the RS Venture Connect class is not currently recognised as an International Class, and therefore does not have the right to host a World Championship. In previous years, RS have requested the use of the World title from the Board, and have such been awarded the rights. They have then subsequently then been able to host the Para title for the two person technical event within their class championship.

RS are currently in process with World Sailing to become an international class with the Venture Connect, and it is likely that they will be approved at the mid year meeting assuming they meet all the requirements.

For 2025, RS have once again requested the use of a World Championship title, which has been submitted to David the CEO and will be presented to the Board at the next Board meeting.

Assuming the Board approve the class's use of the title, then it is expected that the PWSC will then need to vote on the class also being awarded the Para title to host within their class event.

b. Para One Person Technical World Championship (October)

It was noted that the 2.4mR class has decided to host their World Championship for 2025 in Italy in October, and they have requested the Para OPT title within that event. The PWSC will need to vote on awarding the title at the next meeting.

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

It was noted that there is currently 1 bid to host the Blind fleet racing Championships, and that Blind sailing falls under the 6 titles that can be awarded by the PWSC.

d. Inclusion World Championship 2025

It was noted that there are currently 15 expressions of interest to host the World Sailing Inclusion Championship for 2025 and 2026. The deadline for bids to be sent to the Executive Office is the 31st January.

7. IDP

a. 4 proposed WS IDP's

It was noted that World Sailing aims to host four Inclusive Development Programs (IDPs) in 2024, subject to budget and funding availability. The IDP is a cornerstone of our Para Inclusive Strategy, ensuring more nations have access to competitive sailing by providing training, coaching, and structured development

pathways. Expanding the program will directly increase global participation and strengthen the para sailing community.

Currently, plans are underway for an IDP in Antigua, which will play a crucial role in developing para and inclusive sailing in the region. Another IDP is scheduled to take place ahead of the World Sailing Inclusion Championships, providing athletes and coaches with performance-focused training before a major competition. Additionally, there are growing requests for IDPs from India, Portugal, and other nations, highlighting the global demand for structured support.

To run all four IDPs, we must secure budget, build strategic partnerships, and identify funding sources. Engaging with host nations, sponsors, and equipment providers will be essential to making these programs viable. If successful, these IDPs will enhance pathways for sailors, empower emerging nations, and ensure sustainable growth, helping to meet IPC criteria and strengthen the long-term future of inclusive sailing.

b. 2 proposed SailGP and Americas Cup supported IDP's

It was noted that there is also proposed activity around SailGP and the AC with regards to Inclusion programs.

SailGP expressed an interest in taking on the an IDP with support from the Vi Foundation, and it was suggested that they host an Inclusive wing IDP, as it is in line with their own programs, and SailGP's greater ambitions for wing foiling.

The AC have offered a "Para Cup" in line with their Youth and Women's programs, and work is ongoing to establish how that might work, and how we might collaborate.

8. Other Business

No further business.

9. Thank you

10. Action Points

- Contact World Ability Sport Games regarding Sailings Participation in Turkey, October 2025. (HS/ FK)
- Schedule February PWSC Meeting (HS)