World Sailing Board Minutes

The World Sailing Board met virtually on Monday 30 June 2025 between 10:00 – 13:30 UTC

Present	**In Attendance**
1. Quanhai Li - President 2. Daniel Belcher – Vice President 3. Tomasz Chamera – Vice President 4. Beatriz Gonzalez Luna – Vice President 5. Dave Hughes – Vice President 6. Josep M. Pla – Vice President 7. Cory Sertl – Vice President	1. David Graham – Chief Executive Officer 2. Urvasi Naidoo – Director of Legal and Governance 3. Nelia Smith – International Relations & Corporate Affairs 4. Raksha Patel – Director of Finance and Business Operations

1. Opening of the Meeting

a) Presidents Opening Remarks
The President welcomed everyone to the meeting.

b) Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest.
There were no apologies for absence.
Vice President Tomasz Chamera declared his continued interest in the World Sailing Championships in Gdynia, Poland.

c) Minutes of the 6/7 May Meeting
Minutes of the 2025 Mid-Year meeting in New York were approved.

d) Matters Arising
Appear below under Any Other business.

e) Decisions by email.

- Dual National - The Board approved a transfer of nationality from Italy to Morocco.
- Dual National - The Board approved a transfer of nationality from Finland to Turkey.
- Dual National – The Board approved a transfer of nationality from the Netherlands to Greece.
- The Board approved the Racing Rules Committee Working Groups as recommended by the Committee.

2. Executive Office

a) Management Report
The Board noted the Management Report on the work of the Executive Office.

b) VP Reports
Vice Presidents provided a brief verbal update on key activities they have been involved in, in line with their Board liaison duties.

c) Paris 2024 numbers, OBS/IOC Debrief and Action Plan
The Board noted a paper and data reports presented by the Director of Communications & Digital. It was highlighted that to achieve the changes identified by World Saling, the IOC, OBS and Media Rights Holders the support of the Executive, the Board and the Committees and Commissions of World Sailing will be required.
The Board endorsed the priorities and associated actions of the paper presented so that they can be implemented by the Executive Office with the guidance of the Committees and Commissions of World Sailing.

d) 2025 Annual Conference Update
A brief verbal update was provided to the Board following an in-person site visit to Ireland.

3. <u>Events</u>

a) Interim EAWG Proposal
This item was deferred to allow further consultation between the Executive Office and the responsible Board Liaisons.

b) Senior Race Official Appointments for the LA2028 Quadrennial
This item was deferred to allow further consultation between the Executive Office and the responsible Board Liaisons.

c) LA28 Update
The Chief Executive Officer provided a verbal update to the Board, particularly around the upcoming venue announcement. The Board agreed with the direction of travel and supported sending an official letter to LA2028 confirming World Sailing's approval of the proposed venues.

4. <u>Legal & Governance</u>

a) Russia/Belarus Participation & Policy
<u>Sailors, Support Persons and Race Officials</u>
The Director of Legal and Governance circulated a paper and comments on the Neutrality Policy which had been received from the Russian and Belarussian MNA's.
The Board carefully considered the comments of the two MNA's.

The request was to extend the Neutrality Policy to all international sailing events. Following discussion, the Board decided to recommend to Council that the policy should only apply to World Sailing events (or events organised on behalf of World Sailing).

The request was that sailors under 18 be exempt from a verification process to establish their neutrality. The Board agreed that there should be no exemption from the verification part of the process when applying for neutrality status.

Some other amends to the Neutrality Policy had been agreed via email. A final version of the Neutrality Policy which would be recommended to the Council would be prepared and circulated for the Boards approval via email.

Administrators

The Board acknowledged that there were no bridging provisions in the current Constitution, and that this meant that the temporary sanctions on Administrators (Council, Committee and Commission Members) had lapsed. In order to align with the IOC and to be consistent with the recommended introduction of a Neutrality Policy the Board agreed to recommend to Council that there be no temporary sanctions imposed on Administrators from Russia and Belarus.

a) Committee Work Plans

The Board approved the following Committees, Sub Committees and Commissions Annual Work Plans:

- Athletes Committee
- Governance Committee (subject to one amendment)
- Race Officials Committee
- International Judges Sub-Committee
- International Umpires Sub-Committee
- International Measurers Sub-Committee
- Race Management Sub-Committee
- Racing Rules Committee
- Medical Commission
- International Regulations Commission
- Sustainability Commission

b) Working Groups

The Board approved the following Working Groups:

- Race Officials Committee: These were advertised and the Board approved for a two-year term.
- International Umpires Sub-Committee: These were advertised and the Board approved for a two-year term.
- Equity Diversity and Inclusion Committee: The Working Groups were not advertised, the Board approved for one-year term with a recommendation that in future the committee should follow the recruitment process as approved by Council.

- Events Committee: The Working Groups were not advertised but all urgent work were approved for a one-year term.
- Para Sailing Committee: The Board approved the Classifiers Working Group for a one-year term.
- Growth of Sailing Committee: The Board noted the World Sailing Constitution provides for 6 continents: “Continent means the following continents recognised within World Sailing: Africa; Asia; Oceania; Europe; North America (including Grenada, Bermuda and the Islands of the Caribbean, but excluding Central America); and, Central and South America (including Mexico)”, The working groups proposed had put North America and Central and South America together and this was not appropriate as all of the development programmes and events were organised in accordance with the Continents as per the Constitution.
  It was also noted that in accordance with the Articles 41.2 “Ordinarily, a Working Group will have between three to eight members” the recommended Working Groups were more than 8 persons.
  The Board requested that the Chair and Vice Chair of the Growth of Sailing Committee review both these points and revise their recommendations by adding a North America Working Group and by reducing the membership of all Working Groups to 8 members.

c) Safeguarding (Standing Item)
This is a standing agenda item. The Board noted no new safeguarding matters had arisen since the last meeting.

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

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

5. Sustainability

a) Impact Report
The Board received a copy of the Impact report for noting.

6. Technical & Offshore

a) Equipment Committee Mid-Year Recommendations

Applications for World Sailing Class Status

The Board received a supporting paper from the Director of Technical & Offshore. Due to timing constraints, the matter was decided by online voting outside of the meeting.
The Board agreed to endorse the recommendation from the Equipment Committee which is:

To make the following recommendations to the General Assembly at their next meeting:

(a) Subject to signing class agreements:

(i) To approve the X-15 Class application for World Sailing Class status

(ii) To approve the International Formula Wing Class application for World Sailing Class status

- Classes under Review

The Board received a supporting paper from the Director of Technical & Offshore. Due to timing constraints, the matter was decided by online voting outside of the meeting.

The board agreed to endorse the recommendation of the Equipment Committee that the following Classes be placed under review, and unless non-compliances are resolved, recommends to the General Assembly that their status as a World Sailing Class Association be withdrawn.

Windsurfer, Melges 32, X-35, 505, B14, IKA – Open Class, Melges 20, Fireball, Tasar, Micro Cupper, Dart18, RS500.

b) Request to hold a World Championships (WASZP & X-15)

The Board received a supporting paper from the Director of Technical & Offshore. Due to timing constraints, the matter was decided by online voting outside of the meeting.

1. Permit the X-15 Class to organise a World Championship in 2025, acknowledging that:

- The Class has met all regulatory requirements for World Sailing Class status.
- (Subject to confirmation at the June Board meeting) The Board has endorsed the Class status application for submission to the General Assembly.
- The World Championship shall be contingent on full compliance with World Sailing standards and regulations.

2. Direct the Executive Office to progress discussions with the WASZP Class regarding the organisation of a World Championship in 2026 under Regulation 12.3, and to prepare a formal recommendation for Board consideration no later than the 2025 Annual Conference, subject to:

- The Class agreeing to enter into a separate agreement with World Sailing defining event requirements and standards (e.g., use of WS Race Officials where required, reporting obligations, minimum participation, sanctioning fee, etc.); and
- The Class agreeing to a separate transition plan, including defined milestones, to achieve full compliance with the eligibility criteria for World Sailing Class status no later than 2028.
- Acknowledgement that, until such time as recognition is granted, the Class shall not be referred to as a World Sailing Class and may only hold a World Championship at the approved 2026 event, if authorised by the Board.

7. Finance

a) The Board noted the Management Accounts and Debtors list presented by the Director of Finance and Business Operations.

8. Participation & Development

a) Para Visually Impaired World Championship

The Board received a supporting paper from the Head of international Development. Due to timing constraints, the matter was decided by online voting outside of the meeting.

The Board the approved the recommendation to award the 2025 Para Visually Impaired (with sighted crew) World Championship title to the World Sailing Inclusion Championships in Oman from 3–8 December 2025.

9. **AOB**

a) Culture and Artistic Commission

The Board received the proposal of establishing a Culture and Artistic Commission by President and approved it.

b) Categorisation Commission

Vice President Cory Sertl presented a request from the Categorisation Commission to meet in person. The Board approved the request noting that the Chair should work with the Director of Finance and Business Operations to establish final costs.

c) PWA/GKA

Vice President Tomasz Chamera advised that there was an issue between the Class and the Special Event and that this area needed support. He suggested that it would be constructive to consider a set plan/working party to take the lead on resolving such disputes.

d) Submission from Group B

The Board noted that some Group B countries had made a Proposal to amend the Constitution in relation to Article 14.4 which relates to MNAs who have not paid their subscription being unable to vote in an election.

There being no further items the President closed the meeting.

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