

World Sailing#6 Match Racing Committee Meeting Minutes**Meeting Date:** 30.7.2025**Location:** Online, Open**Time:** UTC 20.00 - 21.45

<u>Agenda Items</u>
1. <u>Opening of the Meeting</u> a. Chair's Opening Remarks b. Apologies for Absence from Cory Sertl (part of the meeting), Leatrice Oatley, Luigi Bertini, Ute Monnin-Wagner, Nelson Horn-Ilha. c. Minutes of the meetings on 26.06.2025 approved d. No matters Arising
2. <u>Board greetings</u> a. Greetings and advice No special update, congratulate the committee for its work.
3. <u>Match Racing Committee Working Plan</u> a. To note Board minutes May 6-7 – Items 6 b d and 8c In 6b WS have 5 key priorities that are aligned with the MRC objectives b. Actions based on feedback and advice
4. <u>Team updates, actions and decisions</u> a. Blind Match Racing – Blind Match Racing Team Plan Update Betsy Alison discussed the blind match racing team's objectives, emphasizing the need to update the rules appendix and gather input from sailors to better understand their needs. The team, which includes Michael Röllich, Mike O'Connor, and Nelson Ilha, aims to enhance the discipline's visibility and support within the sailing community. Collaboration with other committees and stakeholders is also a priority to ensure a comprehensive approach to the upcoming World Championships. - Betsy Alison presented the Team's plan and advised that the Team plan is placed on the MRC dropbox for committee members. - To note that it is important to create a Visually Impaired MR ranking - Need to update the CBS, NOR, SI documents and the bid and events host agreements for VI MR. Betsy Alison will conduct a survey of sailors from past World Championship events within the next six weeks to gather insights on their needs and wants.

Discussion: Women's Weight Limit in Match Racing

Following in depth research and analytics, Annika Carlunger (Women MR Team lead) addressed the need to adjust the women's weight limit in match racing, proposing an increase from 68 to either 70 or 73 kilos. Betsy Alison emphasized that a five-kilo increase would provide better opportunities for smaller athletes to participate effectively. After a thorough discussion, the group voted in favor of the higher limit, moving from 68 to 73 kilos.

Outcome: This will be proposed to Council as it is a change of policy.

b. **Progress:** Women's Match Racing

Updates on Women's Match Racing and Youth Initiatives

Annika Carlunger reported on the Women's World Match Racing Tour, mentioning that two golds were won by Pauline Courtois and Allie Belcher. She discussed the need for better communication regarding event schedules and the potential increase of teams at the World Championships in Chicago, emphasizing the importance of early planning and avoiding scheduling conflicts.

c. **Discussion:** Policy Revisions and Clarifications Policy H1

Anne Malledant highlighted the importance of rewriting certain sections of the policy document for clarity without altering the existing rules. The proposed changes include the addition of youth categories in weight limits and adjustments to the language in sections 8.2 and 8.7. Michael Röllich confirmed that there were no objections to these changes.

Outcome : To update Policy H1 8.2, 8.7 and 8.8 World Sailing Policy Register – Rankings - Match Racing -

- **Propose to clarify the policy to include “youth” in 8.2**
- **Propose to clarify the wording in point 8.7**
- **Propose to adopt alternative 2 to clarify 8.8**

d. **Discussion:** Match Racing Committee – Objective 6 – to grow match racing worldwide – KPI's Use MR doc and add data on sailor's age. Make a request to the office to obtain and analyse data.

e. **Progress:** An update was given on the Race Management & Organisation manual to be updated and centralised on the website. Especially section 6 concerning race management needs both input and feedback.

f. **Progress:** 2025 and 2026 Women's and Youth Match Racing World Championships – World Sailing and TD progress reports

Liz Baylis (TD) reviewed the Youth Match Racing World Championship in Gdynia, Poland, emphasizing the event's success and the strong participation from various nations. She pointed out the lack of a female skipper and suggested enhancements to the entry process, including earlier submission of sailor names. Additionally, she mentioned the importance of having a formal clinic for less experienced countries and the need for better promotion from World

Sailing media team ahead of the event and during. It was noted that the World Sailing Media team released a video ahead of the Youth Match Racing Worlds to promote the event and made daily Instagram updates during the event.

Requests:

- clinic before start of the event
- coach at large to help teams with no coaches
- entry system should be made smoother with RFI with names of skippers
- clarify the entry system in the NOR
- Possibly take out some format parts if the event is run with 16 teams instead of 12 teams
- A possible repechage round would be nice for skippers not going to the quarters and finals, then they would get a chance to make their finishing place better
- monitor the information sent to the sailors and their answer

Progress: Youth Match Racing (as above)

Match Racing Event Review and Future Planning

g. **Progress:** 2026/ 2027 World Sailing Nations Cup bid process

Michael Röllich led a discussion on the Nations Cup bid process for 2026-2027, with Corinne McKenzie successfully obtaining approval for the bid document. Michael O'Connor shared that a press release has been distributed, resulting in interest from some YC, and encouraged committee members to promote the event to potential venues. The event aims to feature 20 teams, including both open and women's teams from six continents. Bid deadline is 15.9.2025.

h. **Progress:** 2027-2029 Youth and Women's World Championship bid process

The bid document is being updated for a release in September.

i. **Progress:** Special Events

Russell Green reported on the Match Race Tour's 25-year history, noting its adaptation to include grade two events and the success of the Women's Match Race Tour. He mentioned the upcoming World Championship's rescheduling to January and the challenges faced with venue conditions in Shenzhen. Organisers asked for a 16 teams event that is a bit difficult to organise. Additionally, he indicated that there are ongoing sensitive negotiations regarding the America's Cup, with the event confirmed for Naples in July 2027.

j. **Progress:** Rules

Update on Rules and Collaboration Efforts

Nelson Ilha shared updates on the collaboration with Richard Slater, which allows the match race committee to have representation in the rules working party. This initiative is intended to facilitate direct influence on rule development and to conduct an open survey to gather

feedback from stakeholders on potential improvements. Nelson also mentioned plans to proactively track submissions from various committees to stay informed and engaged.

5. Practical things

- a. Deadlines and expected deliverables - World Sailing yearclock
Corinne McKenzie informed the committee about the board's request for a timeline on the ranking and website updates, which is due before the next meeting. She introduced new staff members, Stanimir and Eugene, and highlighted the need to announce world sailing events by the end of October to avoid scheduling conflicts. Additionally, she proposed encouraging event organizers to submit their dates earlier to improve calendar management.
- b. Status - Team WhatsApp group have been created in 2 new groups
- c. Upload - Team plans are being uploaded and centralised in Dropbox
- d. Attendance - World Sailing Annual Conference, Dún Laoghaire Ireland – Match Racing Committee 3.11.2025, 13.30-16.00 local time

6. Any Other Business

- a. No matters arising
- b. No further business
- c. Next meeting on September 2, 19.00 UTC