World Sailing Board Minutes

The World Sailing Board met virtually on Monday 13 August 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 5. Antonio Cozzolino – General Counsel

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.
The President declared that his honorary membership at the Hong Kong Yacht Club had been renewed.

c) Minutes of the 30 June 2025 & 23 July 2025 meetings

Minutes of the meetings were approved.

d) Matters Arising

Appear below under Any Other business.

e) Decisions by email.

The Board approved several matters deferred at the last Board meeting which included:

- Applications for World Sailing Class status
- Classes under review
- Request to hold a World Championships (WASZP & X-15)
- Para Visually Impaired World Championship

The Board also approved the appointment of the Audit Committee Chair Grace Kwok (CHN) and member Stephanie Lyons (AUS).
Lastly, the Board approved the reinstatement of Panama as a full member after paying their fees.

2. Executive Office

a) Management Report

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

b) Revisiting Board Priorities

The Board reminded themselves of their agreed priorities for World Sailing and discussed the progress made in certain areas and the focus required in other areas which has not been advanced yet.

The Board priorities are:

1. Achieving new sustainable revenue streams
2. Securing the inclusion of Para Sailing in the Paralympics
3. Enhancing the sports presentation at LA28
4. Improving rankings and digital infrastructure
5. Strengthening teamwork across and within World Sailing

c) 2025 Annual Conference Update

The Board received a verbal update with regards to the key areas of planning as well as the ongoing process of future host bids.

d) Olympic Sailing Transition Project

The CEO provided an update to the Board on the direction intended, the immediate priorities and the short term progress that has been made since the project started.

3. Legal & Governance

a) Eligibility Cases

Ukrainian sailors transfer to Bulgaria

The CEO updated the Board that he has spoken to the Ukrainian MNA President and had a further meeting on Monday to try and reach a solution.

French sailor transfer to Austria

The Board noted the application. After discussion it was agreed that this matter would be deferred in order for the Legal team to facilitate a meeting between the two MNA's to try and reach a solution.

Neutrality Cases

It was noted that applications for neutral status had been received. After discussion regarding the costs and the process it was agreed that the General Counsel would prepare an outline of the application process and costs and circulate to the Board for their consideration.

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

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

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

e) Nominations for Disciplinary Bodies
The General Counsel updated the Board and advised that the Nominations Panel have several interviews scheduled and were making good progress.

f) Guidance for Governance Committee.
Vice President Josep Pla reported back from the Governance Committee meeting which had taken place on 31 July 2025.
The Governance Committee had considered the issue of Article 16 and the decision-making processes of a written resolution versus an Extraordinary Meeting of the General Assembly. There was a vote, and the Governance Committee was split. It was agreed that the Legal Department and VP's responsible for Legal and Governance would meet and subsequently propose guidance to the Board for the Governance Committee which would aim to break the deadlock.

4. <u>Technical & Offshore</u>

a) Flags on Kites
This agenda item was removed from the agenda to allow for further consultation with staff.

5. <u>Finance</u>

a) Membership Fee Payments, Suspensions & Rights
It was agreed that aged debtors (as per the MNA Debtors List) would be put to the General Assembly for cancellation of Membership.
There was a further discussion regarding debtors and suspension. This matter had also been raised at the Governance Committee meeting in relation to the Board discretion to impose conditions on membership. It was suggested that the Director of Finance and Business Affairs meet with the Governance Committee to provide relevant input.

6. <u>Participation & Development</u>

a) Growth of Sailing Committee Work Plan & Working Groups
The Director of Legal and Governance confirmed that the Working Groups needed to be approved by the Board and the Work Plan needed to be approved by the Council.

There was a discussion, and it was agreed that the provisions of the Constitution should be respected. In particular 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 Growth of Sailing Committee must accurately reflect this in their work plan and their other documentation.

In relation to the Working Groups, it was agreed that there was a reasoned justification to expand the number of members. In relation to the actual Groups, these must accommodate all Continents as per the Constitution so the Americas would become Central and South America and a new group for North America should be formed.

b) 2026 World Sailing Inclusion Championship
That the Board approved Portimão, Algarve, Portugal as the host venue for the 2026 World Sailing Inclusion Championships, pending final contract agreements and successful site inspection.

7. **AOB**

a) Increased Race Official Support
Vice President Cory Sertl raised the need for additional resources required to efficiently manage the support function to Race Officials.

b) Website Support for Match Racing & Team Racing Committees
Vice President Cory Sertl requested that event information listed on the World Sailing related to Match Racing & Team Racing be relooked. It was agreed that the Director of Communications & Digital would look into options to support the request and report back accordingly.

There being no further items the President closed the meeting.

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