

Neutrality Policy Amendment 2

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This paper sets out the reasons for an amendment to the Neutrality Policy to make it fit for purpose.

2. Background

- 2.1 The updated Neutrality Policy (the “**Policy**”) was published on 24 July 2025. Following publication, we have received applications for neutrality under the Policy, from approximately 60 athletes, coaches and officials. Of those we have approved approximately 20.
- 2.2 Following approval, some of those athletes have tried to enter events. The Classes that organise those events have responded to the athletes saying that the policy only applies to “World Sailing Events” and therefore that they still cannot enter events.
- 2.3 This cannot have been the intention of the policy. This paper sets out the proposed change to the policy for clarification, to then allow the policy to function correctly.

3. The Current Policy

- 3.1 The current policy wording states the following:

In accordance with World Sailing Policy E1 and E5, “World Sailing Event” means any event for which World Sailing selects the venue and is therefore organised by or on behalf of World Sailing.

- 3.2 World Sailing Policy E1 states the following:

A “World Sailing event” means an event for which World Sailing selects the venue.

- 3.3 World Sailing Policy E5 states the following:

1. Major Events and Recognised Events

1.1 Major Events are as follows:

- (a) All events organized by or on behalf of World Sailing
- (b) The Olympic Sailing Competition
- (c) The Paralympic Sailing Competition
- (d) Olympic and Paralympic Qualifying Events
- (e) World Championships of the Olympic and Paralympic Classes
- (f) Events of the Olympic Classes (if directed by the Board)
- (g) America’s Cup [...]
- (h) Grade 1 Match Racing Events
- (i) Global Ocean Races
- (j) Professional Windsurfers Association Events (PWA)
- (k) Global and Trans-Oceanic Races
- (l) Regional Games
- (m) The Ocean Race

1.2 Recognised Events are as follows:

- (a) World Championships of non-Olympic World Sailing Classes, unless otherwise agreed with World Sailing
- (b) Special Olympics

- 3.4 While the Neutrality Policy mentions that the definition of World Sailing Events is as per Policies E1 and E5, it only refers to the wording of E1 and does not go on to say anything about the wording of what is contained in E5.
- 3.5 It is our view that this was either poor drafting or an oversight. Either way, an amendment needs to be made to the policy to clarify the position.

Board – 9 September 2025

For Decision

- 3.6 The policy must have intended for successful neutrality applicants to be able to compete in all the events listed in policy E5. If not, it seems disproportionate to set out a whole policy and application process just for sailors to be able to compete in the combined World Sailing World Championships in 2027 and the small number of other World Sailing Events in the calendar.
- 3.7 The most straight forward way to remedy this issue is to amend to the Neutrality Policy wording to read as follows. Additions are in **bold**:

*1. Pursuant to the recommendations issued by the International Olympic Committee (the "IOC") on 28 March 2023, this is the World Sailing Policy for participation of Individual Neutral Athletes ("AIN(s)"), Support Persons and Race Officials with a Russian or Belarusian Passport (the "Neutrality Policy") in World Sailing Events **or any of the events listed in World Sailing Policy E5.***

[...]

3.1 In accordance with World Sailing Policy E1 and E5, "World Sailing Event" means any event for which World Sailing selects the venue and is therefore organised by or on behalf of World Sailing.

3.1.1 At World Sailing Events, it is mandated that AINs, neutral Support Persons and neutral Race Officials be permitted to participate.

3.1.2 At events listed in World Sailing Policy E5 (other than World Sailing Events), it is recommended that AINs, neutral Support Persons and neutral Race Officials be permitted to participate.

- 3.8 This change would in no way effect the definition of the term "World Sailing Event" which has been subject to recent discussion.
- 3.9 If the Board approves the proposal as is, all athletes, support staff and officials granted neutrality can participate in events immediately.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 The Board is requested to approve a recommendation to Council to update the wording of the Neutrality Policy as per above.

Antonio Cozzolino
General Counsel