

**Para World Sailing Committee Minutes****The PWSC met virtually at 1100 UTC on 21th October 2025**

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| 1. Opening of the Meeting | 7. VI Survey and CBS Update |
| 2. World Sailing Updates | 8. Emerging Nations Definition |
| 3. IPC Meetings Updates | 9. EDI Committee Update |
| 4. World Sailing Inclusion
Championships update | 10. Classification Update |
| 5. Participation Update | 11. AOB |
| 6. Event Reports | 12. RS Venture Connect Safety
Update |

Members Present:

Kay Rawbone	Emma Hallen	Paul Adrien Cuvillier
Sarah Oglivie	Elliot Levy	
Betsy Alison	Henriette Smith	
Alfred Pelinka	Yuki Hagiwara	
Efstratios Aklatis	Irina Perez	

Invited Presenters:

Dan Jasper	Adrien Stoggs	Thomas Ajatsch
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Staff Present:

Hannah Stodel	Leo af Rosenborg	Fiona Kidd
Scott Dougal		

Board Present:

Cory Sertl	Daniel Belcher	
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Agenda Items

1. Opening of the Meeting

- a. **Housekeeping (HS):** Hannah Stodel welcomed attendees, outlined housekeeping rules (muted mics for observers, use of Q&A/chat, respectful conduct, no private recordings). Leo (Para Assistant) supported in the background.
- b. **Chair's Opening Remarks (KR):** Kay Rawbone welcomed all, noting the busy period for Para inclusive sailing, especially with the World Ability Sports Games in Turkey (first time sailing included, with 7 countries participating).
- c. **Apologies for Absence:** Marco Predieri and Jenny Davey.
- d. **Minutes of September Meeting:** Confirmed as read.
- e. **Matters Arising:** None noted.

2. World Sailing Updates

- a. **Office updates (HS):** Hannah Stodel noted the new office location, busy period due to IPC submission deadline and final events of the year.
- Board updates (CS):** Cory Sertl and Daniel Belcher gave a board update from the meeting in September: Focus on five priorities—financial independence from IOC, returning parasailing to 2032 Games, LA Sports presentation/transition, digital infrastructure, and improved communication. The Board praised for efforts towards IPC bid; shout-outs to President and David Graham for attending IPC Annual Conference in Korea.

3. IPC Meetings Update

- a. **To receive an update from recent meetings with the IPC In October. (SD):** The President and CEO attended IPC Conference and General Assembly; strengthened relationships with IPC decision-makers. The IPC governing board elections delayed; remote meeting scheduled for November 20th to elect remaining members.

- b. The committee was reminded that the IPC submission deadline is 15 December, after which the IPC staff will review submissions from January to March, with the governing board making final decisions. The IPC governing board, which decides on sport inclusion, will be fully in place after a remote meeting on 20 November to elect members at large.
- c. Scott described ongoing engagement with IPC decision makers and the mapping of communication milestones, emphasising the importance of in-person meetings and continued relationship-building to support the submission.
- d. Committee members raised questions about the interim period before the new IPC board is in place and the depth of data required for the submission, with Scott and Leo clarifying that decisions are deferred until the new board is seated and that the IPC is primarily interested in competition-level participation data.

4. World Sailing Inclusion Championships Update

- a. **To receive an internal update on the progression of the Championship (HS):** The Entry numbers remain low (around 76 as of the meeting). A Town Hall Meeting is scheduled with Oman Sail and stakeholders to address barriers to participation, especially accessibility for wheelchair athletes.
- b. **Support Initiatives:** Efforts are underway to categorise hotel accessibility, resolve accommodation challenges, and extend early entry deadlines. The inclusive development programme and support for emerging nations are being leveraged to boost participation.

5. Participation Update

- a. **To receive an update on the MNA and Para Inclusive classes emails and system for participation data pull. (LAR):**

Leo af Rosenborg presented on MNA and Para Inclusive classes participation data.

- i. Leo reported that 31 countries currently meet the conservative criteria for regular participation, with projections to reach 34 by December. The dataset includes 160 events from 2022–2025, covering a mix of local, national, and international competitions.
- ii. Several countries, such as Korea, Lithuania, South Africa, and regions like the Caribbean and Middle East, have incomplete or missing data. The committee discussed difficulties in obtaining official results, notices of race, and classification records, especially for visually impaired and new para sailing nations.

b. To allocate group leaders for the regions for the final push on participation data. (LAR):

- i. Hannah and Leo called for committee members to volunteer as regional leads to help collect missing data, validate existing entries, and audit the final dataset. Specific volunteers were suggested for regions including
- ii. Irina (South America/Caribbean)
- iii. Elliot (St. Martin)
- iv. Betsy (America).

c. Technical Clarifications: Questions from Betsy, Henriette, and others clarified that the IPC is interested in competition-level data, not just pathway numbers, and that even small regattas with classified athletes count if they meet the minimum criteria. The committee agreed to submit both inclusive and classification-focused spreadsheets.

d. Next Steps and Audit Plan: Leo requested a small team to audit the dataset in mid-November, ensuring accuracy and completeness before submission. The committee

agreed to continue coordination via email, with Leo following up for additional leads and support.

6. Event Reports

- a. **World Ability Sports Games (PCG):** Pinar reported from Turkey that sailing was included for the first time, with nine nations and 18 participants competing in Hansa 303 boats. The event ran from 21–25 October, and discussions are underway to include sailing in the 2026 World Ability Sport Youth World Games.
- b. **Barcolana Regatta, Italy (PCG):** The regatta in Italy featured five national authorities and 23 competitors, with Hannah leading a session on the upcoming IPC bid and gathering feedback from sailors on boats, formats, and participation. The event was integrated into the larger Barcolana regatta, enhancing visibility.
- c. **2.4mR World Championships, Italy (AS):** Adrian reported 56 boats from 18 nations participated, with the event noted for its inclusivity and competitive racing. The 2.4 class was highlighted as a strong example of inclusive sailing, and the event ran smoothly despite some logistical challenges.
- d. **AISS, India (YH):** Yuki described the AISS in Mysore, India, which hosted 55 participants from 12 countries. The event faced challenges such as limited boat availability and logistical issues, but succeeded in providing free entry, accommodation, and transportation, and conducted 14 races with a focus on inclusivity.

7. VI Survey and CBS Update

- a. Delayed until November Meeting

8. Emerging Nations Definition

- a. **Discussion on the creation of an Emerging Nations Definition that is Para Inclusive Specific to support the IDP/Event Support from WS. (SO):** Delayed until November Meeting.

b. Recognition of the Working Group and review of the work plan. (LAR): Delayed until November Meeting.

9. EDI Committee Update

- a. **To receive an update from the Chair of the EDI Committee regarding collaboration projects and the upcoming EDI forum (PCG):** Pinar (EDI Chair) highlighted the upcoming EDI forum, which will focus on para sailing and equity, diversity, and inclusion.
- b. **Forum Content and Participation:** The forum, previously the Women's Forum, will now focus half its agenda on para sailing, including a presentation by Hannah on the IPC bid, an MNA highlight from Italy, and a panel on harnessing the power of para sailing. Pinar urged all committee members to attend and promote the event.

10. Classification Update (HM)

- a. **To receive an update from the Chair of the Classification Working Group:** Helen McKenzie (Classification Chair) summarized progress in classification, especially at AISS India. The challenges were also highlighted, including insufficient boats, the need for more classifiers, and education for sailors and officials.
- b. Helen and Steven Wilson classified 34 sailors from 12 nations at the AISS, noting that most were known to the team but many were unconfirmed due to limited time and resources. The event highlighted the need for more classifiers and better education for sailors, coaches, and officials.
- c. **Outreach and Education Initiatives:** Helen and Yuki visited a local blind school and a school for students with various disabilities to promote sailing and inclusion, resulting in plans for regular sailing sessions and future event participation. The local university provided physiotherapy students to assist, some of whom expressed interest in becoming classifiers.
- d. **Recommendations for Future Events:** Helen recommended more advanced planning, increased classifier presence, and

targeted outreach to ensure broader inclusion and smoother classification processes at future events.

e. **Process for Classification sub-committee (proposal)**

f. **Process for updating the Classification Rules of Sailing**

11. Any Other Business

a. **Discussion of Language definitions and the word Skipper (KR):** Deferred until November Meeting

b. **To decide the dates for the November Meeting.** The next meeting will be in person during the WS annual conference.

12. Thank you and Annual Conference

13. RS Venture Connect Safety Update

a. An update on recent reports regarding the RSVC was given by the invited presenters, the Athletes Rep, Jaime Navarro gave the World Sailing Perspective.

b. A member of the committee was chosen to lead a report of the RS Venture Connect.

Action Points

- Support Executive office by ensuring that national level events are submitted to the World Sailing website, using the form here: [World Sailing - Para Inclusive Calendar](#)
- Support Executive Office by submitting results in the correct format using this form here: [World Sailing - Past Para Inclusive Event Results](#)
- Ensure all Sailors in local and regional Para Inclusive groups have a sailor ID
- The Committee will consult with their local MNAs, Classes and organisations to fill in the data of the Google Drive

- **World Sailing Inclusion Championships Participation:** Schedule and conduct a town hall format meeting with Oman Sail, equipment suppliers, manufacturers, and key groups to identify and address barriers to participation in the World Sailing Inclusion Championships, and send out the meeting link to all relevant parties. (HS, LAR)
- **World Sailing Inclusion Championships Accessibility:** Work with Oman Sail to resolve hotel accessibility issues by categorising rooms according to accessibility levels and ensuring athletes are allocated appropriate rooms. (HS, LAR)
- **Inclusive Development Programme Support:** Follow up with Betsy to support the newly identified Mexican sailor's participation in the World Sailing Inclusion Championships through the Inclusive Development Programme. (LAR)
- **Para Sailing Participation Data Collection:** Reach out to committee members and volunteers to lead data collection efforts in their respective regions, make phone calls, use contacts, and assist with the final audit of participation data for the IPC submission. (LAR)
- **Para Sailing Participation Data Audit:** Form a small team of volunteers in mid-November to audit the participation data spreadsheet for accuracy before IPC submission. (LAR)
- **Visually Impaired Sailing Data Collection:** Coordinate with Henriette to develop a plan for collecting and improving data on visually impaired sailing programmes and sailors for inclusion in the IPC submission. (LAR, Henriette)
- **Martin 16 Class Data Collection:** Contact Challenge Sailor San Diego and other relevant organisations to obtain results and notices of race for Martin 16 class events in the United States and Canada. (Betsy)