World Sailing Board Minutes

The World Sailing Board met virtually on Tuesday 16 September 2025 between 10:00 – 12:30 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. Antonio Cozzolino – General Counsel 3. Nelia Smith – Director of Partnerships & Brand 4. Raksha Patel – Director of Finance & Business Operations 5. Lisa Anderson – Director of Executive Office

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 August Board Meeting

Minutes of the 13 August 2025 Board Meeting were approved.

d) Matters Arising

Appear below under Any Other business.

e) Decisions by email

(i) 18 neutrality applications had been approved by the Board at the date of the Meeting.

2. Executive Office

a) Olympic Sailing Transition Project Plan

The Board discussed and approved the plan on the Olympic Transition Project outlining the five main workstreams, being Pre-Games Promotion, Broadcast Presentation, Reliability and Scheduling, Competition Management and Formats. The Board (liaisons) will be continuously involved in monitoring the process and provided with regular updates.

b) Beppe Croce & Presidents Development Award

The Director of Partnerships & Brand provided a verbal update on the ongoing planning of the World Sailing Awards.

c)	Paralympic Reinstatement Update The Board noted a paper on the process and progress towards securing the inclusion of sailing in the Brisbane 2032 Paralympic Games, including visits to meet IPC personnel in South Korea and Bonn. An update was provided on the process for submission to the IPC by 15th December 2025, including the event formats and quotas which will be submitted by the Executive Office. The Board approved the paper on the Paralympic submission.	
3.	**Events**	
a)	Race Official Events Appointment Update The paper provided an update on the process being completed by the Event Appointments Working Group as the appointment process commences. The paper was taken as read by the Board, and was accepted, with the Board endorsing the World Sailing Executive Office staff members selected to form the Event Appointments Working Group, being Megan Griggs, Michael Downing and Jaime Navarro.	
b)	LA28 Update The Board noted a verbal update from Michael Downing on the key areas of the current planning for the LA28 Olympic Games. It was agreed that the LA28 site visit report would be circulated to the Board.	
	4. Partnerships & Brand e-Sailing Commission Terms of Reference Following Board approval to establish an e-Sailing Commission, the Director of Partnerships and Brand presented the associated Terms of Reference for the Commission. Pending minor amends on the appointment term and a no in-person meeting requirement, the Board approved the Terms of Reference as presented.	
4.	**Legal & Governance**	
a)	Neutrality Policy A Neutrality Policy was published in July 2025 to permit Russian and Belarusians to apply to be treated as neutral athletes at World Sailing Events in keeping with IOC guidance. It referenced World Sailing policies E1 and E5 when defining its scope. In practice this restricts neutral athletes from competing in events other than those organised by World Sailing, such as the 2027 World Championships and the Olympics, which may be more restrictive than was intended at the time. The amendment tabled is to broaden the scope of the Neutrality Policy to apply to any events contained in E1 OR E5. The Board discussed the amendment of the policy and resolved that the existing World Sailing Neutrality Policy be clarified by recommending that neutral athletes are able to compete in E5 events.	

This will now be tabled at the November Council Meeting.

b) Proposals
- **CO-2025-001** – Timing of Race Officials appointment to be revised until 31 December 4 years after appointment;
- **CO-2025-002** – not voted as concerns the Neutrality Policy; and
- **CO-2025-(003-007)** – withdrawn and will be tabled at the next meeting.

c) Eligibility cases
The Board voted on the requested transfers (i) from France to Austria and (ii) from Ukraine to Bulgaria; both requested transfers were refused.

d) Neutrality Applications
An update was given on the number of cases received, processed and referred externally.

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

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

g) Case List Update
The Board noted the Case List update as prepared by the General Counsel.

h) Nominations for Disciplinary Bodies
General Counsel updated the Board on the progress of the Nominations Panel, and that the Panel was ready to offer all positions.

Written Resolutions
i) It was agreed that this matter would be discussed by two members of the Board (being Cory Sertl and Josep M. Pla) and the General Counsel to agree next steps.

6. Technical & Offshore

(a) Classes with WS Class status under review
The Board reviewed a paper from the Equipment Committee on the withdrawal and suspension of classes that had been identified as being non-compliant when provided with further opportunities to address their issues. The Board approved the recommendations.

(b) National identifiers on kites – The Board approved the recommendation of the proposed national identification process, with a note that the costs involved in introducing national flags onto kites should be kept under review.

7. <u>Finance</u>

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

b) The Board noted the MNA Debtors List presented by the Director of Finance and Business Operations.

c) The Board discussed and approved the Membership fee Proposal for 2026 and 2027 which would be presented to the General Assembly at Conference for approval.

d) The Board noted the World Sailing Investment Fund update.

8. AOB

a) Further information on a Culture and Arts Commission is to be provided to the Board.

b) With progress being much slower than anticipated, an update on the World Sailing Championships 2027 proposed for Gdynia was provided to the Board. The Board directed to expedite the Long Form Agreement.

There being no further items the President closed the meeting.

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