

The Events Committee met online at 1200 UTC on 15 October 2025

Members Present:

Wolfgang Mayrhofer (AUT) Chair	Aiko Saito (JPN) Vice-Chair	Shevaun Bruland (AUS)
Saskia Clark (GBR)	Lisa Darmanin (AUS) Athletes' Committee Vice Chair	Tayfun Erey (TUR)
Ferran Muniesa (ESP)	Molly O'Bryan Vandemoer (USA)	Piotr Oleksiak (POL)
Ed Russo (FRA)	Markus Schwendtner (GER) Olympic Classes SC Chair	Tian Wang (CHN)
Geoff Wooley (NZL)		

In attendance:

Daniel Belcher (AUS) Vice President	Cory Sertl (USA) Vice President	David Graham (CEO)
Michael Downing (Interim Director of Events)	Corinne McKenzie (Events Consultant)	Matt Wheaton (Competitions Manager)

Apologies:

Walter Boddener (BRA)	Paula Douat (COL)	Nuno Gomes (ANG)
Anna Holmdahl White (SWE)		

1. Opening of the Meeting

- a. The Chair of the Events Committee welcomed committee members and observers to the meeting.
- b. A quorum of 13 members was established.
- c. The chair noted apologies received from members prior to the meeting.
- d. The Committee noted the declarations made in the Conflicts of Interest register.
- e. The Committee noted the minutes of the meeting on 27 August 2025 (available at <https://www.sailing.org/inside-world-sailing/organisation/governance/commissions-committees-edi/committee-minutes-archive/>).
- f. There were no matters arising from the minutes not covered elsewhere.

2. Update from the Board

- a. The members received an update from the two Vice Presidents responsible for liaison with the Events Committee. An overview of the Board's priorities was offered with particular emphasis for this Committee regarding financial independence, the reinstatement of para sailing for Brisbane 2032 and the importance of maintaining athlete quotas. The Vice Presidents emphasised that format was only one of 6 pillars in the Olympic Transition Project the Board has directed the Executive Office to deliver to improve sailing's value to the Olympic Movement and a majority of the workstream focuses on the broadcast, presentation and promotion of the sport. The Board

acknowledged the strong contributions of committee members and praised their co-ordinated efforts in leadership and in fostering transparency.

- b. The committee noted the minutes of the Board meetings since their last Events Committee meeting.

3. Update from the Events Committee Chair/Co-Chair

- a. The Chair of the Events Committee provided a brief update on the working groups' activities, highlighting their proposals for discussion during the Annual Conference. He acknowledged the contributions of working group leaders and mentioned ongoing planning with the Equipment Committee regarding event reviews. Nicolas Novara, the Sport Manager at Paris 2024, shared insights on the challenges facing sailing in the Olympics and emphasised the importance of adapting to new formats while ensuring fair competition.

4. World Sailing Championships

- a. The Interim Director of Events gave an update on the 2027 World Sailing Championships in Fortaleza, Brazil reporting that the Notice of Race for the Test Event was published, that registration was open and all MNAs were encouraged to take advantage of what will be valuable training in a new venue to many and potentially with new formats.
- b. As with Fortaleza, progress for the 2027 World Sailing Championships in Gdynia, Poland is on track with further news to be published as soon as it's finalised.
- c. An update on the work identifying and selecting Invited Events for the World Sailing Championships was discussed briefly, noting that whilst there was little progress to report at this time, it was useful to keep this item on the agenda as ongoing areas of work to ensure they remain a focus for the committee.

5. Olympic Sailing Competition – Los Angeles 2028

- a. The Interim Director of Events reported on the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games, noting that the Qualification System is expected to be signed off by the IOC Executive Board in their December meeting and likely to be published by the IOC in early 2026. Operational progress was reported as positive with milestones being met and the public ticket launch anticipated in the coming months. Venue designs are being finalised and it is expected that all training related information including booking forms, pricing and other details will be made available to teams over the following weeks.
- b. The Chair began the agenda item complimenting the Format Working Group for their technical expertise, breadth of perspectives, and the transparency with which they have conducted their meetings making every effort to have an open, transparent debate within the multitude of goals as defined by the remit.

The Working Group leader presented four recommendations with the purpose of enhancing sporting credibility and audience engagement whilst balancing the need for simplicity, clarity and global appeal.

The report proposed four format recommendations for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Sailing Competition.

- Recommendation 1: Number of final formats
- Recommendation 2: Final format
- Recommendation 3: Target times
- Recommendation 4a-c : Testing and reporting

It was reported there was a lack of athlete support for the current proposals during an Athlete town hall held 24 hours prior, who advocated for improvements to the current format rather than significant changes, in addition to significant broadcast, presentation and promotion changes.

The meeting agreed not to take a formal vote on the working group recommendations at this time, suggesting a small increase in athlete and team leader representatives on working group to meet around the annual conference for focused discussions. The Chair encouraged input from athletes and stakeholders to develop competing proposals.

The Chair concluded by thanking participants for their contributions and expressing optimism for future conversations, in-line with the conditions set to World Sailing by the IOC and the strong guidance from broadcasters.

6. Olympic Sailing Competition – Brisbane 2032

- a. The Leader of the WG overseeing events to be put under-review as required by Regulation 11 reported that the four selected events to be reviewed had been approved by both the Events Committee and Council, now pending General Assembly approval in Dublin. It was requested that a combined working group of Events and Equipment Committee members to be formed urgently so that evaluations can begin immediately when the proposal is approved.
- b. The Committee received an update on proposals for supplied equipment at Brisbane 2032 noting that six events remain certain: the men's and women's: dinghy, windsurfing and skiff. Thanks were offered to the World Sailing Executive Office Technical Team who had contributed expertise to these discussions aligning with World Sailing's vision for supplied equipment, sustainability, and fairness. The next meeting in Dublin aims to identify key stakeholders and clarify the goals around sustainability, fairness, and universality to ensure that any proposed solutions genuinely support the long-term vision for the sport.

7. Various Working Areas

- a. The Committee received an update on the calendar strategy following some feedback on the proposals made in the previous meeting in August. The WG Leader outlined changes to the Olympic class championships schedule and proposed extending the Olympic class championships period to include January and February for Southern Hemisphere events, emphasising the importance of coordinating continental qualification events with Olympic class championships to prevent conflicts. Additionally, he suggested clarifying the

timeline for World Sailing Championships and establishing two distinct windows for events leading up to the Olympics.

The report proposed four recommendations for the calendar strategy and the recommendations were approved en bloc by the Committee.

For: 13

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

The full text of the recommendations to Council are appended to these minutes in the Events Committee report to Council.

- b. There were no updates on the development of the Sailing World Cup since the Committee last met.
- c. The Interim Director of Events confirmed that Olympic Class rankings continue to be published on schedule, aided by the digital submissions (XRR) from Olympic and non-Olympic classes.
- d. Discussions on reducing material and non-material costs are ongoing but remain challenging to translate into clear, actionable steps. The working group will meet in Dublin to develop a more effective approach, as progress to date has been limited.

8. Events Committee meeting during Annual Conference 2025

- a. The Chair addressed the ongoing discussions and fractions amongst stakeholders around Format, reminding members that while others might have interests and goals different from our own, they are still fellow sailors with the best of our sport at their heart.
- b. The committee discussed opportunities to further strengthen Events Committee engagement and relationships and in closing, members were reminded to bring their national sweets and treats to the in-person meeting in Dublin which is a great opportunity to extend friendships.

9. EC work in 2026

- a. An outline about planned work for 2026 will be discussed in more detail in the Dublin meeting.

10. Proposals

- a. none

11. AOB

- a. none

The Chair thanked members and observers, noted that the second session will not be required and closed the meeting at 15:15 UTC.