

Equipment Committee Report to Council

Annual Conference, November 2025

Members of Council including the Vice Presidents and President of World Sailing are thanked for their confidence and trust in appointing me and the members of the Equipment Committee to our positions. The honour of serving on the Equipment Committee is acknowledged, as is the responsibility.

Gratitude is also given to the key people. These are Matteo Plazzi, Equipment Committee Vice-Chairman and Equipment Rules Sub-Committee's Dimitris Dimou and Diana Kissane, Chairman and Vice-Chairwoman respectively. The ever present support from Vice Presidents David Hughes and Tomasz Chamera, who are the board's liaisons to the committee, is also appreciated. Having a strong team of leadership figures around me makes chairing the Equipment Committee easier than it might otherwise be.

Since formalising the appointment of the Equipment Committee's membership in January 2025, our initial focus was building relationships and lines of communication internally within the committee, and externally to other World Sailing committees and stakeholders. This first goal was to build a strong base.

Within the Equipment Committee, we focused on making sure all members are engaged in the work and conversations as much as their capacity permits. We have relied on MS Teams to conduct one formal meeting and two informal conversations. We have also made significant use of WhatsApp as a simple tool to facilitate informal chats as a group and one-on-one. The Annual Conference is a significant opportunity to bond the team for the quad ahead of us.

Externally to the committee, we have been sure to establish the best relationships possible with interested leaders from other committees. The priority has been with the Events Committee chairman Wolfgang Mayrhofer and World Sailing Classes Committee chairman Jan Martin Wilschut. The Equipment Rules Sub-Committee, Racing Rules Committee, Athlete's Committee and Coaches Commission, Olympic class representatives and certain builders are also significant other stakeholders in the Equipment Committee's area of interest and have been consulted through their chairpersons accordingly.

The work of any World Sailing committee relies on strong working relationships with the office. Jaime Navarro and his team are thanked for their availability, expertise and candid advice in supporting the work of the Equipment Committee.

Between the three groups, the committee members, other committees, and the staff, a strong base of communication and trust has been built in the 10 months enabling the Equipment Committee to play its part effectively and properly. Council should have confidence in the consultative efforts of the committee over the remainder of this quad.

The work done by the committee to date has been the application of Policies already in place. These have mainly been the Review of World Sailing Class Association Status (Policy D6), Application for World Sailing Class Association Status (Policy D1), Changing Class Rules (Policy D5) and Building Specification Changes of Olympic Equipment (Policy D11). Generally, we have found the Policies easy to understand and workable. The work done by previous Equipment

Committee and Council members to establish these Policies has proven to be quite appropriate.

The committee has been closely following the work being done in the Events Committee under Regulation 11. The decision of Council to place four events under review has been noted and has the support of the Equipment Committee. Whilst this process has been underway, the Equipment Committee has been doing some preparation for the equipment related recommendations it will need to make under this same regulation. We have consulted with representatives of all Olympic classes to make sure that they have been involved in the process to date and that the committee can consider their views as we move toward making recommendations to Council. The decision of the General Assembly is eagerly awaited to enable the Equipment and Events Committees' collaboration on the next stage of the process.

As the committees progress the recommendations and eventual decisions concerning the Olympic Sailing Competition under Regulation 11, on behalf of all stakeholders I recommend that all interested parties watch how the process plays out with an eye on the adequacy of the Regulation itself. These Regulations are to serve the sport, and we should take the opportunity later in this quad to take stock of their useability and how the structure affects the outcome.

Whilst doing the work under the existing Policies and Regulations, we have become aware of how important the integrity of equipment is to competition, and how important the process is to the integrity of equipment related decisions. What we have encountered is the existence of confidential artefacts within the framework that leads to those decisions. These confidential documents include building specifications, Olympic Class and licensed builder agreements. The Equipment Committee and the Equipment Rules Sub-Committee, International Measurers, class measurers and Technical Committees at events all find themselves hobbled when dealing with matters for which they have only some of the information they might rely on when making recommendations and decisions. I have recently remarked in an email conversation *"It's a little ironic, I'm sure all can agree, that we are discussing changing a policy and procedure which EQ is responsible for and yet we can only see part of the landscape."* Council should expect changes being recommended to Policy and Regulations that control this element of the governance framework.

To close this report, Council and observing stakeholders should take confidence from the remarkable amount of expertise and experience available in the people who contribute to the recommendations being made, and the willing collaboration between committees. The experience is a resource and the collaboration an enabler, both of which will join together to inform and underpin future recommendations from the Equipment Committee.

Glen Stanaway

Equipment Committee Chairman