

Regional Games Committee Annual Report

Submitted by the Chair, Captain Abdur Rehman Arshad

Overview

This year marked an important milestone for the Regional Games, as the Committee was elevated from a sub-committee to a full committee reporting directly to Council. This transition required a period of adjustment as we established our footing, defined our objectives, and developed a comprehensive Work Plan.

To ensure focused progress across all areas, four Working Parties were established to review the status of Regional Games globally:

1. Development Working Group
2. Calendar Working Group
3. Impact Working Group
4. Technical Working Group

Since April, eight meetings have been held, including an in-person meeting at the annual Conference in November. Each Working Party has made significant progress toward its respective objectives, contributing to a more structured and informed approach to Regional Games delivery.

As Chair, we have submitted a proposal to amend Article 51 to enable the Chair of the Para Sailing Committee to appoint a member of that committee to the Regional Games Committee to guide the committee on making decisions as they are related to Para Regional Games. As referenced in the Terms of Reference, the remit of the Regional Games Committee is to advise and report to Council on “the inclusion of sailing and para sailing in regional games and regional para games to promote the sport of sailing generally throughout the various region”.

Development and Impact Working Groups

A global survey was conducted, receiving 40 responses from Member National Authorities (MNAs), of which 38 were verified after removing duplicates. Respondents represented all continents and included Secretary Generals, Presidents, and Sport Directors. The survey combined quantitative (multiple-choice) and qualitative (open-ended) questions.

Findings from the survey and the reflections of the Development and Impact Working Groups confirmed that the Regional Games serve as essential development platforms. They foster youth participation, enhance visibility, and provide pathways to performance. However, to fully realize their potential, structured coordination between World Sailing departments, Continental Associations, and host MNAs is needed.

Both groups emphasized the importance of:

- Stronger integration of capacity-building programs before and after Games.
- Establishment of measurable development indicators (e.g., coach education, safeguarding, inclusion outcomes).
- Improved data collection tools for consistent global monitoring.

Key Recommendations & Actions from the Survey:

1. **Strategic Framework** – Establish a Regional Games Framework that sets clear standards for sustainability, safeguarding, inclusion, and technical delivery—fully aligned with IOC and Continental Association expectations.
2. **Funding & Equipment Support** – Launch targeted Development Grants to help MNAs overcome financial and equipment barriers, working closely with Olympic Solidarity and Continental Federations.
3. **Coaching & Technical Capacity** – Roll out pre-Games regional training for coaches, officials, and volunteers, strengthening skills in safeguarding, officiating, and event management.
4. **Gender Equality & Inclusion** – Drive equal participation through a *Women and Youth in Regional Games* initiative under *Steering the Course*, and pilot inclusive and para sailing events.
5. **Sustainability & Legacy** – Embed *Sustainability Agenda 2030* in every Regional Games and require MNA hosts to deliver annual Legacy Reports tracking environmental and social impact.
6. **Data & Coordination** – Build a shared monitoring system linking the Development and Regional Games Committees to clarify data ownership, improve coordination, and boost accountability

Calendar Working Group

The Calendar Working Party developed a comprehensive four-year calendar of Regional Games, detailing Technical Delegate (TD) appointments, classes, organizing authorities, and statistical analyses. TD reports have been standardized for both site visits and Games delivery. A categorization system for Regional Games was also introduced, defining service levels and clarifying TD and International Technical Official (ITO) appointments based on event scale and complexity.

Technical Working Group

The Technical Working Party undertook a complete redrafting and updating of the Guidelines for a Regional Games Sailing Competition, structured into six key sections:

1. Pre-Event Planning and Management
2. Onshore Infrastructure and Logistics
3. On-Water Operations and Regatta Management
4. Safety, Inclusion, Environment, and Legal Aspects
5. Media Relations and VIP Guests
6. Event Reporting

The Event Reporting framework includes both pre-event and post-event reports — the former assessing readiness and alignment with guidelines, and the latter identifying challenges, best practices, and areas for improvement.

Plan for 2026

Looking ahead, the Committee will:

- Establish new Working Groups to address specific areas identified in the Impact & Development Survey and the resulting recommendations of the Working Groups.
- Finalize and publish the Guideline for Sailing Events at Regional Games, a comprehensive resource for organizers and Technical Delegates. The Guidebook will support planning, delivery, and legacy outcomes for sailing events within Regional Games

- Implement the Regional Games categories to clarify the services that World Sailing will deliver.