

Meeting Date: Tuesday 4th November 2025

Location: Dún Laoghaire, IRL

Commencement Time: 09:00 – 17:00

Members Present:

<i>Chair – Chris Lindsay (IRL) CL</i>	<i>Vice-Chair – Christina Ortendahl (SWE) TO</i>	<i>Zuoru Jiang (CHN) ZJ</i>
<i>David Maria Gosalbez (ES) DMG</i>	<i>Juuso Leivonen (FIN) JL</i>	<i>Arnaud Mante (FRA) AM</i>
<i>Leatrice Oatley (BER) LO</i>	<i>Alina Stratigiou (GRE) AS</i>	<i>Richard Slater (AUS) RS</i>
<i>Vice President – Cory Sertl</i>	<i>WS – Megan Griggs</i>	<i>WS – Michael Downing</i>

Also present: Kathy Lindgren (Chair, Umpire Docs WP), Craig Mitchell (Chair, Digital Umpiring WG)

Agenda Items

1. Closed Meeting

- (a) The Sub-Committee received a confidential report on ongoing and concluded performance investigations. Matters were discussed in closed session. No details were recorded in the open minutes.
- (b) Seminar Clinic Instructors, Test Administrators and Performance Assessors
 - (i) The current list of approved Seminar Clinic Instructors, Test Administrators and Performance Assessors was noted.
 - (ii) The Sub-Committee discussed potential updates to the list, including succession planning and regional balance. It was agreed that any proposed changes would be progressed in accordance with World Sailing procedures. It was agreed to advertise for new assessors, with a particular emphasis on replacing anticipating retirees.
- (c) International Umpire Appointments
Applications for International Umpire status were considered. Following discussion, the Sub-Committee agreed its recommendations to the Race Officials Committee.

2. Open Session - Opening of the Meeting

- a. Welcome by the Chair
Chair, CL welcomed all members of the sub-committee and Vice President Cory Sertl to the meeting. He thanked World Sailing for organising and Irish Sailing for their efforts in hosting the conference. Vice President Cory Sertly welcomed all sub-committee members and thanked them for their work to do. She confirmed the Board recognised the priority of moving towards digital practices and process for daily tasks and technology within officiating. She also highlighted the Board's strategic priorities.
- b. Attendees and Apologies
None

c. Conflict of Interest

The Committee noted the declarations made in the Conflicts of Interest register and urged all members to ensure they have made a recent declaration, even if they have nothing to declare (<https://www.sailing.org/inside-worldsailing/organisation/governance/integrity/conflict-of-interest/>).

d. Obituaries

The Committee noted the recent obituaries. The Sub-Committee observed a moment of reflection in memory of members of the sailing community who had passed away since the previous meeting.

3. **Minutes and Agenda**

The minutes of the previous International Umpires Sub-Committee meeting held on 14 July 2025 were approved as an accurate record. Matters arising were either completed or covered elsewhere on the agenda.

4. **Education, Training and Development**

a. Seminars and Clinics

- (i) The 2025 programme was reviewed. The Sub-Committee noted successful delivery overall, while recognising some logistical and resource challenges, particularly with the unfortunate cancellation of a clinic in Hong Kong due to inclement weather.
- (ii) Initial plans for the 2026 programme were discussed, including geographic distribution, discipline coverage and instructor availability. In particular, the Sub-Committee noted that interest has been received from BRA for future clinics.

b. Development of Education

- (i) The Sub-Committee discussed ongoing development of education resources, including greater use of online materials and continuous professional development tools.
- (ii) Opportunities to strengthen International Umpire mentorship were explored.
- (iii) Progress on the development of the World Sailing National Umpire (NU) Course was discussed. The draft syllabi for both the World Sailing NU course, and Introduction to Umpiring Course were approved.
- (iv) Proposed International Umpire performance assessment criteria were reviewed and supported for further progression. Revised performance assessment criteria were considered approved.
- (v) The Sub-Committee considered current and future needs for assessors and instructors.
- (i) Proposed World Sailing International Umpire Assessor policies were discussed

following feedback from the IU assessors. This were supported and considered approved.

(ii) Race Officials Qualifications & Competencies Document (RQC)

The Sub-Committee reviewed the RQC document from an umpiring perspective and agreed to provide suggested updates to the Race Officials Committee, including:

- A failed assessment may not be repeated within a period of less than 1 month.
- A reference and performance assessment cannot be obtained from the same event.
- A reference may only be provided by an IU grouped as Core or Chief in the IU Grouping.

5. Work Plan

- a. The current International Umpires Sub-Committee work plan was reviewed and confirmed as broadly aligned with World Sailing strategic priorities.
- b. To receive reports from the following working groups:
 - (i) Digital Umpiring:

Craig Mitchell reported on the progress made by the WG to date, and progress on electronic and digital officiating tools was noted. In particular the recent use of refereeing by the Kite class was discussed.
 - (ii) Umpire Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

AS reported on the progress made by the EDI WG, the ongoing survey initiatives were outlined.
 - (iii) Umpire Documents

Kathy Lindgren reported on the progress on document review and harmonisation.

6. Event Appointments

MG (WS) gave a report on Race Official Event Appointments made in 2025, identifying World Sailing made 152 appointments to 125 race officials. MG highlighted the core objective remains to provide the highest quality of service to events while promoting gender equality and geographical diversity, supporting the global development of race officiating. The report World Sailing continues to prioritise the IOC target of gender-equal ITO appointments, with a steady increase in the percentage of female officials appointed annually.

The report identified the current interim solution for Race Official appointments with the Executive Office leading appointments, supported by an Advisory Group representing key stakeholders. It was identified the advisory group had collectively identified existing

and developing officials with focus on the World Sailing Championships being held in 2027. It was recognised this process had taken place and appointments for 2027 events would now proceed, with aim to conclude all 2026 appointments by the end of Q1.

7. International Umpire Manuals

To receive a report and discuss future updates on the umpire manuals:

The Sub-Committee noted that all three IU manuals have been updated for conformity with the 2025-2029 Racing Rules. The Sub-Committee also discussed future updates and agreed that periodic review remains necessary to reflect rule changes and best practice. The potential need for additional manuals for emerging disciplines was also considered.

8. International Umpire Test

- (i) A report on the status of the International Umpire test across all disciplines was received.
- (ii) It was agreed to begin work on a new MR test.

9. Any Other Business

No additional items of business were raised.