

World Sailing**Race Officials Committee Meeting Minutes****Meeting Date:** Thursday 6th November 2025**Location:** Dún Laoghaire, IRL**Commencement Time:** 10:30 – 17:00

Attendees:

Chair - Ricardo Navarro (BRA)	Vice-Chair Elena Papazoglou (CYP)	Aileen Loo (SGP) – IMSC Chair
Andrus Poksi (EST) – IJSC Chair	Chris Lindsay (IRL) – IUSC Chair	Alan Baser (GBR)
Miguel Amaral (POR)	Bence Borocz – RRC Representative	David Brookes (AUS)
Lynne Beal (CAN)	Giorgio Davanzo (ITA)	Dimitris Dimou (GRE) – EC Representative
Christophe Gaumont (FRA)	Sandy Grosvenor (USA)	Timo Hass (GER)
Francisco Jauregui (MEX)	Ewa Jodlowska (POL)	Nino Shmueli (ISR)
Vice President – Tomasz Chamera	Vice President – Cory Sertl	Megan Griggs – World Sailing (MG)
Michael Downing – World Sailing (MD)	Tim Hancock – World Sailing (TH)	Rebecca Videlo – World Sailing (RV)

Agenda Items**1. Opening of the Meeting**

a. Welcome by the Chair

Chair, Ricardo Navarro welcomed all committee members to the meeting, sharing thanks for the work they had put in during the last 12 months.

b. Attendees and Apologies

Apologies received from Liang Chou (CHN), Captain Arshad Rehman (PAK) and Anne Malledant (FRA), with Anne joining the meeting virtually.

c. Conflict of Interest

The Committee noted the declarations made in the Conflicts of Interest register with no further

matters arising.

d. Obituaries

Obituaries shared for Pat Healy (USA) IJ and John Outhwaite (GBR) IM.

e. Vice President Update

Vice President Tomasz Chamera welcomed all and expressed appreciation for the commitment of all members, acknowledging both the efforts made so far and the work ahead for the sport. TC highlighted the Board's key priorities: delivering the Olympic Vision, pursuing re-entry into the Paralympics, strengthening digital infrastructure, and enhancing revenue. TC gave further information on the process and requirement for the bid to the paralympics, reporting on the work done to date and confirming the decision will be made next year. Reaffirming the Olympic Vision, TC emphasised the risks to event numbers and athlete participation if the sport does not continue to evolve, reinforcing the essential need during this quadrennial to explore every opportunity for modernisation.

TC noted improvements within the WS Academy and Monday.com, while also identifying the need for further work to ensure all members of the community have the knowledge and skills to use these platforms effectively.

TC reminded everyone of the importance of teamwork and respect, recognising that all stakeholders share the same overarching goals.

2. **Minutes and Agenda**

The minutes of the previous Race Officials Committee meeting held on 14th October 2025 were reviewed, with one matters arising from those minutes not already covered by this agenda. Timo Hass requested to include update on the Conflict of Interest guidelines document within agenda item 6.

3. **Work Plan**

- a. Ricardo Navarro reported on the Race Officials Committee work plan including summary of the work done in 2025 from Race Official Committee Working Groups:
- (i) Race Official Development
 - (ii) Conflict of Interest
 - (iii) eRoc
 - (iv) International Technical Delegate
 - (v) Rule 42
 - (vi) Digital Officiating

4. Education, Training and Development

a. Seminars and Clinics

(i) 2025

IJSC - AP reported on 3 seminars held to date for IJs - NZL, ARG and TUR with remaining seminar to be held next month in THA.

3 clinics held, 1 under the Steering the Course campaign, female only course in BRA, alongside MAR, URU and FIJI.

AP highlighted the focus of clinics being in the local language, impacted ability to always select existing IJ instructors to run these courses.

RMSC – AM confirmed 1 seminar held in CZE this year, with 1 remaining in CAN. Confirmed a seminar was planned for IND but was postponed due to conflict.

RM confirmed an RM clinic was held in PAR earlier in the year ahead of the Junior Pan-Am Games and a clinic was being held currently in THA ahead of the SEA Games. AM confirmed with the development of the national race officer training program, the RM instructors were working to adapt the clinic to be offered as a course focusing on preparing local race management teams for international events.

IMSC – AL reported IMSC had held 1 seminar in DEN, with a seminar organised in NZL in December. AL confirmed two clinics were to be held in POL and HKG before the end of the year.

IUSC – CL confirmed 2 seminars had been held for umpires in GBR and POL, alongside a Steering the Course (Women's only) clinic in HKG. CL identified IUSC had 2 further clinics originally planned, 1 in Fiji which changed to a judges clinic and 1 in China which had to be postponed due to the typhoon.

CL confirmed that the IUSC will be advertising for new assessors in 2026, noting that several current assessors are expected to retire in the coming years and that sufficient time is needed to train their successors.

(ii) 2026

IJSC – AP confirmed application received and approved from Barcelona and USA with understanding of interest from GER and JPN

RMSC – AM confirmed interest from NED for a seminar in 2026

IMSC – AL confirmed interest from POR for a seminar in 2026

IUSC – CL identified interest from BRA to host a umpiring clinic

b. National Race Management Training Program

WS Megan Griggs reported on the activity of the NROTP held in 2025.

MG reported that the course launched in March 2025 alongside the opening of the WS

Academy, with the Fundamental Course made available online for all users. Since its launch, it has been accessed by 637 participants. 14 MNAs were selected to host in-person training, comprising 10 Level 1 Club Race Officer courses and 4 Level 2 National Race Officer courses. The selected hosts included 4 courses in Africa, 2 in Europe, 2 in Asia, 3 in North America (including the Caribbean), and 3 in South America, with delivery offered in English, Spanish, French, and Arabic. MG noted strong participant satisfaction, with many highlighting the valuable hands-on learning experience and the opportunity to deepen their understanding of the rules and their practical application.

c. . Race Management Development Program

AM shared a summary of the proposal to develop a continuous education course for existing international race officers seeking to upskill their knowledge and practice in foiling race management in partnership with Foiling Week.

AM confirmed RMSC supported the proposal and approved development was to be lead by the executive office in collaboration with RMSC, with Tim Hancock (WS) drawing on the expertise of current RMSC recognised fast-boat experts IROs as needed for content.

5. Sustainability, Diversity and Inclusivity of Race Officials

- a. To receive a report from WS Head of Sustainability, Diversity and Inclusion
WS RV shared reported on the changes made to Agenda 32.

- b. To discuss the proposal for a Race Official Development Cohort.

WS RV reported on the proposal developed in collaboration with the EDI Committee to host a Race Official Development Cohort focusing on a structured development programme providing targeted education, mentorship and international event experience to newly qualified international officials to foster development and progression at an accelerated pace.

AP highlighted an overall need to focus on attracting more officials recognising the decreasing number of International officials. EJ highlighted the importance of development at MNA level for MNAs to actively seek and attract more female officials.

AB confirmed support for the proposal recognising this was the first proposed action plan following previous years of conversation.

CL confirmed support and identified interest in exploring how the program could be connected to umpiring

ACTION – The Race Officials Committee agreed to provide an evaluation of the proposal, including any suggested changes, within two weeks. A representative from each SC will contribute to ensure all views are represented.

6. Race Official Administration

a. Documents

(i) Race Officials Roles, Qualifications and Competencies Document

Miguel Amaral provided an update on progress to date in preparing the 2026 draft of the RQC document. Sub-Committee Chairs then presented their final proposed amendments as follows:

IUSC – Confirmed an amendment to prevent candidates from obtaining both a reference and an assessment from the same event. A one-month waiting period will also be introduced following an unsuccessful on-water assessment. In addition, the requirement for references has been updated to ensure they must be obtained from a core umpire listed in the grouping.

IJSC – Proposed separating the re-sit time frame for judges from that applied to umpires, allowing the IJSC to reduce the waiting period for a re-sit from six months to three months.

IMSC – Added a requirement for candidates to obtain a class endorsement from both the designated class representative and the class itself.

RMSC – Introduced mandatory requirement for IRO reports to be collected within 30 days of an event ending for all events in 2026 onwards

ITD WG – Added a requirement for candidates to submit an event report for the event to be recognised.

(ii) Regulation 18 Panel Procedure

LB shared an explanation of the purpose of the document to provide instruction and guidelines to any officials appointed to a Regulation 18 investigation panel. LB reported on the updates made to align with changes to align with WS regulatory changes and further amendments have been made to define timeframes, taking into account the varying factors involved in each case.

The document was approved by Race Officials Committee and will proceed to be shared to the Executive Office to be published on the WS Website.

(iii) Instructor Appointment Procedure

Chris Lindsay provided an update on the procedure for appointing instructors, emphasizing a transparent process that allows anyone to apply when a new instructor is needed. CL confirmed that the updates did not introduce any substantive changes but were intended to reflect the existing process.

CL also confirmed that for a Trainee Instructor to be endorsed as an approved Instructor, attendance at one seminar is required, with positive feedback from the instructors. The document also outlines the opportunity for SC to submit requests to the ROC quarterly for approval by the Race Officials Committee.

CL noted that some minor comments were received at the conference, and a finalised draft will be shared following the meeting.

(iv) Conflict of Interest Guidelines

TH shared an updated of the document reporting on the minor changes made to adapt the document to the new policies and regulations.

The document was approved by Race Officials Committee and will proceed to be shared to the Executive Office to be published on the WS Website.

TH confirmed that the working group will focus on a full review of the guidelines in Q1 of 2026.

b. Manuals

The Sub-Committee Chairs reports on the updates in 2025 of existing manuals.

IJSC – AP confirmed 2026 Judges Manual in final stages and will be ready to publish early January and the Recommended Standard Wording continues to be updated throughout the year.

IMSC – AL confirmed the IM Manual will be prioritised to update in Q1 of 2026 ready to be published in Q2.

IUSC – CL confirmed Match Racing, Team Racing and Umpired Fleet Racing/Medal Racing Manuals has all been updated and published on the WS website. CL also reported on the updates made to the umpire on-water assessment criteria.

RMSC- Anne confirmed the Race Management Manual was priority for 2026.

7. Events

- a. MD provided an update on the ongoing work of the Format Working Group and the Events Committee to develop and agree on an event format for the LA28 Olympic Games and future events. It was noted that the principles for the Opening Series have already been approved by the World Sailing Council. MD highlighted the Medal/Final Series has undergone extensive consultation and discussion and despite significant progress by the Format Working Group, late submissions from several Olympic Classes and the Athletes Committee have required additional review during the Annual Conference.

MD noted that the Event Committee is expected to finalise and present the event format proposal to the Council before the end of 2026.

- b. WS Michael Downing provided an update on the use of competition technology and the development of the digital race office. MD explained the development of a WS “best practice” Digital Race Office is aimed at taking the best elements of each of the current widely recognised systems and then WS will work with the nominated system to further enhance its functionality. MD asked for input from ROC and its various sub-committees as to which elements work best and/or could be improved to ensure the specific functionality for each discipline eg. Technical, Race Management, Jury and Umpires.

MD identified Competition Management is a key objective within the broader “Olympic Transition/Vision” following feedback from Olympic Broadcasting Services, who stressed the need for races to start on time for broadcast purposes, with no General Recalls. WS is looking to work with the various suppliers (who are developing solutions), the Olympic classes, event organisers and athletes to run a variety of “tests” with each class of the next 6-9 months to ensure accuracy, reliability and resilience of the emerging equipment. This will extend to wider tracking and automated finishing/results delivery. Details of the wider testing programme will be shared, with the various stakeholders, as equipment, dates and events are agreed.

MD additionally addressed high-speed umpiring and communication within the digital project, recognising as classes become faster and conditions more demanding, maintaining physical proximity and clear communication with athletes is increasingly challenging for umpires. MD stressed that the priority is not automated umpiring but improving the communication pathway between umpires and competitors.

c. Offshore Double Handed

Christophe Gaumont presented a report on the Offshore Double-Handed World Championships and outlined the implications for race officials. He noted the challenges in identifying suitably skilled and experienced officials, stressing that the Race Director is a local appointment and that World Sailing must therefore assign a Technical Delegate to ensure the event complies with WS rules and policies. CG also emphasised the need for dedicated umpiring support for the jury.

Ewa Jodłowska highlighted the potential for developing educational initiatives aimed at providing continuous development opportunities for existing officials, to gain further expertise in offshore event officiating.

ACTION: The ROC appointed a working group, Elena, Alan, Nino and Timo, to collaborate with Christophe on recommendations to enhance offshore race officiating.

8. Safety

CG provided an update on the Safety Commission’s work reviewing and analysing incident reports and developing proposed risk-assessment guideline documents. The committee noted the need for clearer guidance on who is responsible for reporting safety matters and discussed the possibility of addressing this within the Notice of Race. If responsibility is assigned to Race Officials, it was agreed that this requirement should be incorporated into existing manuals and training materials, and that the reporting process should be re-communicated to all officials.

9. 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.

10. IT Systems

MG (WS) provided an update confirming that the first stage of the project has been completed, and that a clear understanding of the requirements for the Race Official (RO) database has been established with the staff member designated to lead the project.

11. Any Other Business**Rules Opinion Working Group**

BB gave an update on the rules opinion working group confirming procedures are updated and on the website and confirmed the pool of race officials identified to contribute as members to be finalised in the coming week, ready to proceed to move ahead this year with the existing Q&As.

Race Official Clothing

Andrus Poksi clarity on policy for what events you get clothing at for official recognising a lack of understanding and opportunity for qualified International officials to receive branded clothing.

DD highlighted the previous opportunities for ROs to purchase branded items and advised this opportunity would attract interest from the community.

ACTION – Executive Office to develop an updated policy with clear understanding on the distribution of RO clothing.

12. Closed Meeting

a. Performance Investigations

The committee received a report on Performance investigations from 2025.

b. Instructors, Test Administrators and Performance Assessors

- c. The committee reviewed the existing list of Instructors, Test Administrators and Performance Assessors and approved the requests from the Sub-Committees for identified new instructors.

d. Race Official Appointments

The committee reviewed and confirmed the final decision regarding the appointment of new World Sailing Race Officials.