

Athletes' Committee Minutes

The Athletes' Committee met in person at the World Sailing Annual Conference between 13:30 – 16:30 hrs on Wednesday 5th November 2025.

Please refer to the World Sailing website www.sailing.org for the details of the papers on the agenda and referred to in these minutes.

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|----------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Opening of the Meeting | 2. Minutes |
| 3. Reports | 4. Formats |
| 5. Race Officials/Umpiring | 6. Media/Broadcast |
| 7. Events | 8. Olympics |
| 9. Cost of campaigning | 10. Equipment |
| 11. Anti Doping | 12. Safeguarding |

Present:

David Hughes (USA) – **Chairperson**

Lisa Darmanin (AUS) - **Vice Chairperson**

Pawel Kolodzinski (POL)

Kimberley Linn (SGP)

Alexandra Rickham – WS
Sustainability Manager

Michael Downing – WS
Olympic Manager

Gillian Sanders – WS Integrity Manager

Apologies - None

1. Opening of the Meeting

Welcome from the Chairperson.

The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Chairperson welcomed the new member of the Athletes' Committee, Kimberley Linn and the observers. The Chairperson explained that the meeting would not strictly follow the agenda and that format discussions would be at the forefront of the meeting.

Declaration of interest – None.

2. Minutes

The 2024 Minutes were noted having been circulated shortly after the meeting in November 2024.

3. Report

The Chairperson provided his report for 2025.

The year was a very busy one with Olympic formats being at the forefront of discussions. The newly launched Athlete townhalls had been a great success and well attended by the athlete community and a total of 8 Athlete Committee meetings had been held during 2025.

The Chairperson's summary of main subject matters in 2025 were:

- Formats for LA 2028.
- Cost of campaigning.
- Events scheduling.
- Para Inclusion and Paralympic readmission bid.

4. Formats

Formats:

The Chairperson summarized that extensive discussions continue to take place surrounding formats. The Athletes' Committee and Format Working Group have been working hard over previous 11 months on format options and various pros and cons.

The Chairperson acknowledged IOC Broadcast pressures and the need for a better broadcast result in 2028

The new proposed formats were in the final stages of being agreed, with the only information able to be shared on this at this time being that there would be one format for board events and one for boats.

More information on the new formats would come to light in the next few days but the Chairperson reiterated that the athletes voice was to respect the opening series.

5 Race Officials/Umpiring

Michael Downing provided update on digital officiating.

6. Media/Broadcast

Chairperson held a general discussion on media/broadcast and the pressure from the IOC.

Athletes Committee acknowledged that athletes should engage positively with media and that media training at other events should be explored as well as 'story telling' surrounding athletes.

Chairperson stated that WS had engaged a media company to establish a pool of athletes to engage with and put forward stories.

7. Events

The Chairperson gave a summary of proposed and confirmed events in 2026, 2027 and 2028.

8. Olympics

Addressed in formats and events. Chairperson gave an update on two different venues for Sailing Events at LA 2028.

9. Cost of Campaigning

Chairperson provided an update and that a Working Group had been established and that the Athletes Committee had representation in this Working Group.

The emerging nations program continues to run and support athletes from smaller, under resourced nations.

10. Equipment

The Chairperson highlighted the supplied equipment vision, with the aim of having supplied equipment by Brisbane 2032.

Alexandra Rickham updated that World Sailing Technical Team and Sustainability Team have respective studies ongoing and planned on equipment/campaigning costs

11. Anti-Doping

Gillian Sanders (GS) presented the Anti-Doping Paper and gave an update on progress with WS anti-doping programme. It was confirmed that the Medical Commission had signed off the Anti-Doping plans for 2026.

12. Safeguarding

GS gave an update on WS safeguarding.

Athletes Committee discussed idea of utilizing Athletes Committee members better and mechanisms for reporting safeguarding concerns.