

World Sailing
Growth of Sailing Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Friday November 7th

Location: Royal Marine Hotel, [Dún Laoghaire, Ireland](#) & Teams Meeting Online

Commencement Time: 09:30 – 14:00

Present (in person):	
Malav Shroff (IND) – Chair	Mohamed Alobeidli (UAE)
Inga Jakobsone (LAT) – Vice Chair	Emma Hallén (SWE)
David Covo (CAN)	Irina Pérez Leroux (DOM)
Sigrid Beckmann (MEX)	Maciej Szafran (POL)
Raynor Haagh (NZL)	John Philp (FIJ)
Stratis Andreadis (GRE)	Albassel Ibrahim (EGY)
Present (online):	
Mengdi Zhang (CHN)	
Mandiaye Diouf (SEN)	
Absent:	
Luis Velasco (ARG)	
Also Present (in person):	
Beatriz Gonzalez Luna – Vice President	Tomasz Chamera – Vice President
Fiona Kidd – Head, International Development	Larisa Zejen – Development Assistant

1. <u>Opening of the Meeting</u> a. Opening Remarks – Chair Malav welcomed everyone to the meeting both in person and to the Committee members online. b. Apologies for Absence There were no apologies received for absence.
2. <u>Chair's Annual Report</u> a. The Chair's written version of their Annual Report was circulated to the Committee prior to the meeting. The Chair also presented a more comprehensive summary and report in Item 4 of the Agenda.
3. <u>Pillar Summaries</u> Each Working Group presented their summaries of the monthly meetings and provided recommendations in each of following areas: Competitive & HP Sailing; Foundation/Social /Recreational Sailing; Sailing Support; Projects, Events Funding & Sailing Ecosystem; and MNA Leadership & Admin Support from across five regions: Europe; Americas; Asia; Oceania; and Africa. Note: The Americas report included both North & South America. The Chair summarized the recommendations in his presentation as follows. <u>Competitive & HP Sailing</u> • Reduce the costs to buy and rent equipment

- Change equipment in Olympics so that majority of MNAs are able to participate
- Leverage regional events to create low-cost competitions, with a focus on youth
- Create funding opportunities to fund training in developing countries for sailing pathways
- Include Para -sailing as an integral part of sailing across the MNAs

Foundation/Social/Recreational Sailing

- Create pathways for sailing in each continent for grassroots and current sailors
- Provide access to second hand boats for developing countries
- Develop grassroot hubs and programs through community engagement at clubs, schools, hotel/resorts and other access points
- Leverage major events to promote the sport
- Involve the local governments to leverage on the tourism sector for increasing the outreach of sailing

Sailing Support

- Leverage the WS Academy platform to create standardisation for training of volunteers and event organisers
- Initiate activities for Volunteer recognition
- Explore mentoring programmes
- Introduce grading certification for International Race Officials from the current system
- Initiate coordination of calendars across the world , 2 in each region
- Create a second hand equipment selling platform

Projects, Event Funding and Sailing Ecosystem

1) Funding options and Projects

- Schedule events which can be funded by sponsors
- Initiate government funding through tourism boards
- Engage with International Bodies like the IOC, Continental Olympic Committees, Commonwealth Federations and World Sailing to explore funding mechanisms
- Engage with NGOs for supporting the positive aspects of sailing development

2) Marketing and coordination

- Explore ways to support MNA's with access to equipment and reduced costs
- Grow the # of MNA 's who are Members of World Sailing
- Use of Tourism to market the sport.

3) Create partnerships

- Between MNAs, Athletes and Coaches for knowledge sharing

MNA Leadership and Admin Support

- Create a platform for providing toolkits and resources to MNAs – This should be aptly called Secretariat in a Box
 - Establish a network clinic for MNA Administrators (like General Secretaries or similar positions)
 - Explore options for WS to provide financial support to cover administration in federations
 - Initiate Data Driven KPIs to improve performance
- Ensure transparency in MNAs and support financial audits.

4. **Growth of Sailing Survey Results**

The chair presented a summary of selected areas of the survey:

A total of 126 /150 or 87% MNAs completed the survey

Following were the Key areas on which the survey was based:

- Membership details – Number of Members, Sailing Clubs
- High Performance Sailing – Participation across Olympic Classes, Youth Sailing Male and Female and competitive Para Sailing
- High Performance Training Centres
- Social and Competitive Sailing – MNA Programs, Junior Pathway Classes, MNA Programs conducted
- Barriers to Entry in Sailing
- Coach and Instructor Numbers
- Race officials Male and Female
- Major Sailing Events and Special Projects conducted

Prior to the Chair presenting summaries of the survey, the following was noted with respect to the results presented:

- i. The data reflects 5 Regions – Europe, Asia, Oceania, Africa and the Americas (North & South America combined as the Americas).
- ii. The insights presented are **based solely on the responses received** from the World Sailing Survey.
- iii. Several responses were **missing, incomplete, inconsistent, or inaccurately filled** by participating countries/groups.
- iv. **No manual corrections, assumptions, or estimations** were applied to fill missing data unless explicitly stated.
- v. In cases where numerical ranges were provided or data was unclear, **a mean (average) value** was used purely for analytical consistency.
- vi. The findings should therefore be interpreted as **indicative, not definitive**, and may not reflect the actual situation across all nations.
- vii. Any conclusions, comparisons, or rankings are **limited to the available dataset** and may change if updated or verified data is provided in the future.
- viii. The survey results show **inconsistency in interpretation of the questions**.
- ix. This presentation **does not represent the official or final position of World Sailing**; it is an analytical interpretation of the submitted data.

Below is the data that was presented:

- a. Total Number of MNA Members
- b. Total Number of Sailing Clubs
- c. Total Number of sailors in Olympic Classes in 5 regions
- d. Total Number of Olympic Participants across each region.
- e. Number of Male Olympic Sailors per region
- f. Number of Female Olympic Sailors per region
- g. Number of sailors in the Mixed Olympic Classes per region
- h. Number of Female Youth sailors per region

i. Number of Male Youth sailors per region j. Number of countries per region that have sailors participating in a variety of youth classes. k. Total number of National Training Centers per region. l. Total number of Competitive Para Sailors per region. m. Number of countries in each region that deliver training and outreach programs n. Number of countries in each region that compete in a variety of non-olympic racing o. Barriers to entry across all regions p. Number of Male & Female coach/instructors across each region q. Total number of Race Officials across each region r. Total number of female Race Officials across each region s. Total number of male Race Officials across each region t. Total number of MNA Events held with ranking points across each region.
5. <u>5 Pillar Executions</u> There was a general discussion on the recommendations of each pillar as identified in Item 3. Pillar Summaries. These will form the basis of the work for the new Working Groups going forward in 2026.
6. <u>2026 Working Group Discussion</u> This item was deferred to the January meeting.
7. <u>Participation and Development Department Update</u> Fiona Kidd, the Head of International Development presented the work of the Development Department over the past year: i. The World Sailing Academy, the online learning and resource platform that was launched in June. It contains 5 courses and 8 resource hubs. To date over 1400 people are registered on the platform. The platform will be expanded next year with new courses and additional resource material. The World Sailing Academy is central to our new hybrid learning and education course delivery. ii. The National Race Officer Training Program was launched in May. It is integrated into the World Sailing Academy with online courses and exams for each of the Level 1 and Level 2 Courses. Over 650 participants have been assessed since August and over 140 persons have taken both the Level 1 and Level 2 Courses to date. The Level 1 Course is available in English, French & Spanish with Arabic in production. 40 % of attendees overall are women. 40% of the participants in Africa are women. Since August the following countries have run courses: Egypt; Slovakia; Algeria; Morocco; Belize; Latvia; Jordan; US Virgin Islands; Senegal and Peru. iii. The Technical Courses for Coaches Level 2 (Club Level Coach) and Level 3 (Performance) Courses were completely overhauled this past year – with new curriculum and presentation material created. Level 1 (Instructor) Courses were held in Egypt, Uruguay, and St Kitts & Nevis. Level 2 Courses were held in Algeria, Libya, Chinese Taipei, and the World Sailing HP Scholarship whereby the Level 3 Course was also conducted. iv. The World Sailing Scholarship program was also revamped this year with the introduction of the new High Performance Coach Scholarship that is targeted at developing high performance coaches within an MNA structure. It is a nine month course that involves a 4 week in-person practical session followed up with two Online

Modules that include 4 virtual sessions each - Module 1 is Development Performance and Module 2 is Supporting Performance. The Development Scholarship targeted at coaches who are developing National Programs has also been updated and is now a 4 week session held earlier in the year. It will be introduced in the spring of 2026 in addition to the second cohort of the Performance Coach Sessions later in the year.

- v. **Steering the Course** continues to be a major initiative that is strengthening women's participation in the sport. 30 Nations participated in the Festival that was held two times this past year. Steering the Course also offered technical courses for coaches, as well as Race Officials, Judges and Umpires. Two specific Steering the Course Webinars were held presenting programs from Hong Kong & UAE. In addition, World Sailing is supporting a female coach in the WISH Program supported by the IOC. World Sailing was also involved in a pilot project to develop female coaches with SailGP as part of their Better Sport Strategy.
- vi. A new **Athlete Development Programme**, funded by the IOC was introduced this year to support the Youth Olympic Games taking place in Senegal in 2026. Four training camps are planned in 2025 and 2026 for countries in Africa that have been proposed by their NOC's to participate in the YOG. The first 5-day camp was held in Hammamet, Tunisia. 13 Athletes and 9 coaches, from 6 countries attended from Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Senegal, and Tunisia. The second camp is to be held in Morocco in November. Equipment is being supplied by Tahe Outdoor Sports with support by the Techno293 Class by providing two expert coaches to the programme.
- vii. The **Youth Worlds Emerging Nations Program** will offer a training camp from Dec 8-11, prior to the start of the Youth World Championship in Vilamoura, Portugal. Sixteen ILCA sailors (8 Male & 8 Female) & 6 IQFoil sailors (3 male & 3 female) from 17 countries are part of the programme – ANG, ANT, BAH, CAY, EGP, ESA, FIJ, MOL, MON, PUR, ROU, SRB, RSA, VIN, TTO, TUN & URU. Two World Sailing ILCA Coaches were hired in January and have been working remotely with the ILCA sailors over 4 online sessions for the past 7 months. The IQFoil expert Coach will be on hand during the event.
- viii. The **Development Symposium** was intergrated into the Annual Conference this year. 10 sessions ranging in topics from Innovating for Growth Creating National Training Programmes, Sailing to Sustainability with Sailors for the Sea, and Unlocking Sponsorship Success to a Keynote Speech titled 'The Power of Sailing' delivered by Greg Bertish from the Little Optimist Trust in Cape Town. A new format of Lunch & Learn sessions, workshops, a keynote speaker, along with presentations, & panel discussions was designed this year to appeal to a broader audience at the conference.
- ix. Six **Development Series Webinars** were held this past year. They covered a variety of topics; Sail Canada's CANSail Program; New Zealand Sailing's 'Out There' sailing programme; to Developing a National Female Programme in the UAE to name a few.

8. **Sustainability Agenda 2030 Update**

There was a short update from Sigrid Beckmann, the chair of the Sustainability Commission on the Impact Report that was published earlier in the year. The link to the 2024 Impact Report is available [here](#).

9. Any Other Business

Decision: The Minutes of the October 20th Growth of Sailing Committee Meeting were approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 13:30.