

The World Sailing Classes Committee met from 13:30 – 17:00 on Monday, 3 November 2025.

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Present:

Jan Martin Wilschut – Chairman

Andreas Kosmatopoulos – Vice Chair & Equipment Committee rep.

Tomasz Chamera – Vice-President

Daniel Belcher – Vice-President

Bruno De Wannemaeker – Equipment Rules Sub-Committee rep.

Andrés Pérez – Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Committee

Markus Schwendtner - Events Committee rep. & Chair of the Olympic Classes Sub-Committee

Class Representatives in attendance:

420 Class Association-Dimitris Dimou

470 Class Association- Igor Marenic

49er Class Association- Matt McGovern

49er FX Class Association- Ben Remocker

Cadet Class- Jan Martin Wilschut

Dart 18 Class Association- Nicolette van Gorp

Dragon Association- Tim Pearson

Etchells Class Association-William Abbott

Finn Association Inc.-Robert Deaves

Flying Junior Class Association- Pieter Kok

Funboard Class Association- Bruno De Wannemaeker

GC32 International Class Association- Christian Scherrer

GP Fourteen Class Association- Curly Morris

ILCA 4 Class Association- Mark Lyttle

ILCA 6 Class Association -Eric Faust

ILCA 7 Class Association -Tracy Usher

IQFoil Class Association- Ronnie Meir

IQFoil Youth & Junior Class Association- Gonzalo Costa Hoevel

IKA - Formula Kite Class Association -Mirco Babini

IKA - KiteFoil Open Class Association - Markus Schwendtner

L30 one design Class Association -Rodiion Luka

Lightning Class Association- David Sprague
Maxi Class- Andrew McIrvine

Melges 24 Class Association- Piret Salmistu

Moth Class Association- Luca Razotti

Nacra 15 Class Association- Edwin Lodder

Nacra 17 Class Association- Jonh Gimson

OK Dinghy Association- Alistair Deaves

Optimist Dinghy Association- Olive Parker

Techno 293 Class Association-Piotr Oleksiak

Topper Class Association- Russ Dent

TP52 Class Association- Rob Weiland

World Sailing Technical and Offshore Department

Jaime Navarro – Director of Technical and Offshore

Antonio Saporito – Olympic Equipment Quality Control Manager

Pilar López Fernández – Class Manager

Note: The order of discussion during the meeting differed from the published agenda. The minutes reflect the actual sequence of topics as presented.

1. Opening of the Meeting

Welcome from the Committee Chair

Chair – Jan Martin Wilschut welcomed all Class representatives and observers. He reminded everyone of the purpose of the meeting and encouraged open and constructive discussion, noting that only registered Class reps should speak from the table.

He thanked the WS Office and introduced Vice-President Tomasz Chamera for Board Update.

Tomasz Chamera gave an overview of the Board's five current strategic priorities:

- Commercial revenue and sponsorship
- Return to the Paralympic Games
- Olympic Vision Project
- Digital infrastructure improvement
- Stronger collaboration across stakeholders

Updates included sponsorship progress, Paralympic application (deadline 15 Dec 2025), Olympic Vision sustainability and gender equity, digital tools launch, and teamwork emphasis.

Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from the following Class associations:

- International Yngling Class Association
- International Micro Class Association
- International IMOCA Class Association
- International Formula 18 Class Association
- International Sunfish Class Association
- International Windsurfer Class Association

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the World Sailing Classes Committee meetings held during the 2024 Annual Conference and the interim meeting on 7 July 2025 were noted as circulated and approved. These are available online at: <https://www.sailing.org/inside-world-sailing/organisation/governance/conferences/past-conferences/previous-conference-papers/>

No matters arising were raised beyond those covered in the current agenda

2. Committee Reports

(a) Report from the Committee Chairman.

The report was circulated in advance of the meeting.

Jan Martin thanked all members who attended the meeting and contributed throughout the year. He noted ongoing concerns around third-party liability insurance and encouraged exploration of more flexible solutions for compliance.

He highlighted the need for World Sailing to ensure that non-Olympic classes receive sufficient attention and support, acknowledging that much of the organisation's focus naturally centres on the Olympic disciplines.

Jan Martin also emphasised the importance of clear, accessible formats for Class-related processes and reinforced the expectation that all Classes must remain compliant with World Sailing Regulations.

He closed by thanking the World Sailing staff for their continued support and collaboration over the past year.

(b) Updates from the representative of the Events Committee & Olympic Classes Subcommittee

Markus summarised that the primary focus of their meeting was the format of events.

(c) Updates from the representative of the Equipment Committee

Andreas acknowledged the strong collaboration between the Equipment Committee and the Classes Committee. He highlighted key topics addressed over the year, including Regulation 11, reviews of World Sailing Class status, World Championship rights, new class applications, regatta costs, and the increased use of technology in event management

(d) Updates from the representative of the Equipment Rules Sub-Committee

The report was circulated in advance of the meeting.

Bruno noted that the main areas of activity for the ERSC this year included the Class Rules Committee (CRC), the Boats & Systems Committee (BSC), the Classification Review Implementation (CRI), and work related to the Standard Class Rules (SCR)

(e) Updates from the representative of the Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Committee

Andrés noted that the primary objective was to increase the participation of women in the sport

3. Executive Office Report SP

The World Sailing office provided an overview of its work in relation to the agenda topics. All supporting papers were circulated in advance of the meeting:

(a) Navigating Offshore:

Jaime in behalf of Katrina Ham, presented the new Offshore Strategy, highlighting the need to strengthen World Sailing's support for offshore sailing beyond Olympic disciplines. The strategy focuses on governance, stakeholder engagement, visibility, and sustainability. Further discussion will take place in the Offshore & Oceanic Committee.

(b) Class review WG

Pilar noted that the review process has slightly changed under the new governance structure. In line with World Sailing policies, all Classes must now be reviewed every

three years. In 2025, the World Sailing status of 12 Classes was reviewed: 6 were retained, 2 suspended, and 4 will be withdrawn.

Piotr confirmed that the Windsurfer Class is working to address its issues. Jan Martin encouraged direct contact with the office and thanked the staff for their work on the review process.

(c) Classes application for World Sailing Status

Pilar presented the new Class applications scheduled for voting later in the week.

(d) Plaque report

Pilar noted that the supporting paper had been circulated in advance. She reported that 49 Classes sold plaques, 48 did not, and 14 operate under a different system. The Optimist and ILCA Classes recorded the highest plaque sales

(e) Classes World Championships report

Pilar reported that 83 Classes held a World Championship and introduced key findings from the submitted event reports. She reminded attendees that failure to submit a report may result in the Class losing the right to hold a World Championship in future.

Edwin suggested that World Sailing publish a list of recommended venues, those that have successfully hosted World Championships for other Classes, on the website. This would help Classes explore new and proven venues they may not have previously considered.

(f) WS Classes Satisfaction Survey

Pilar provided a summary of the key findings from the Class satisfaction survey.

(g) Update of the CRC procedure

Antonio noted that Class Rule Change submissions will now require meeting minutes to confirm Class approval, and that a clearer procedure is being introduced for Rule 87 exemptions, with fixed timelines to improve transparency.

(h) Other services: Class rules Changes, IHC, board registration

Antonio reported that the In-House Certification Programme has resumed audits, with active MNAs managing the process regionally. The new Universal Measurement System supports consistent sail certification.

Antonio also explained that the Equipment Registration process, now also applied to Formula Wing, is evolving in phases, from basic volume tracking to requiring detailed information and business plans, to improve oversight and planning.

Jan Martin asked for clarification on Racing Rule 87

Dimitris explained that World Sailing Classes must follow Policy D4, which prohibits last-minute rule changes without approval. The new timeline ensures proper review and notice to competitors. Urgent changes can still be considered if justified.

Dimitris raised concerns about certain MNAs (Member National Authorities) having national prescriptions requiring their approval of international jury appointments, even for World or Continental Championships. This complicates the appointment process for Classes and may conflict with World Sailing's policies. He proposed that the Classes Committee work with the Racing Rules Committee to limit such prescriptions in future.

He also suggested reviewing eligibility restrictions for Olympic classes, specifically to allow mixed-nationality teams at junior events—something already permitted in most other classes with MNA approval.

Jan Martin and another member supported the importance of being able to appoint jury members with experience in their Class, regardless of MNA preference

4. Other Committee's Agenda Items relating to World Sailing Classes

a. Report from the Chair of the Equipment Committee

Glen Stanway, Chair of the Equipment Committee, addressed the meeting and reaffirmed the strong collaboration between the Equipment Committee and the Classes Committee. He noted regular communication with Jan Martin and Andreas, highlighting that World Sailing Class status is a privilege supported by shared standards and policies.

Glen expressed full support for Proposal 2025-010 and encouraged Classes to proactively contribute to World Sailing's strategic goals, including participation growth, development of race officials, and technical rule refinement.

He welcomed open dialogue, underlining that while disagreements may occur, transparency and accessibility remain priorities. He emphasised that both Committees have distinct roles but can work together effectively to support the wider sailing community.

5. Proposals

Jan Martin presented Proposal 2025-010, which aims to clarify rules on the number of World Championship titles Classes can award. He explained that unclear wording in the current policy led some Classes to exceed permitted titles, often to support growth and gender equity. The proposal seeks to allow greater flexibility, especially for Classes with strong participation and varied structures, while maintaining competitive standards. The Board has approved the proposal, and it will now proceed to Council.

The Committee discussed the proposed changes to Policy 23 regarding World Championship titles. Some Classes expressed concerns about adding gender-specific titles, especially in gender-neutral fleets, while others, like the J/70 Class, supported the change as a means to encourage greater female participation.

Jan Martin explained that the proposal aims to clarify existing policy language and allow more flexibility, especially for Classes wishing to expand inclusion without compromising competitive standards.

Questions were raised about maintaining limits on the number of titles, how mixed titles are defined, and ensuring changes do not overcomplicate the system. Some members requested more data on how many Classes would be impacted before final decisions are made.

6. Sustainability

Rebecca Videlo (Sustainability Executive) presented an update on Agenda 2030 and the 2025 Sustainability Impact Report, noting progress and ongoing challenges, such as the gender imbalance among Race Officials (60% male, 40% female). A standardised sustainability framework has been developed to help Classes plan and report on their environmental actions. Emily Green introduced the Sailors for the Sea initiative, which supports sustainable practices in sailing.

Concerns were raised by the Maxi Class and others about the limited focus on recycling of sails and composite materials like carbon fibre and Dacron. While recycling technologies exist, they are not yet widely supported or promoted. Rebecca noted that World Sailing has initiated a project to assess the full life cycle of Olympic Classes' equipment, with the goal of expanding the methodology to all Classes.

Several Classes, including Optimist, Cadet, and Topper, shared examples of best practices such as donating used equipment and repurposing older boats to support sailing development in emerging nations.

Jaime clarified that while some topics may not have been fully addressed in this meeting, they are being actively developed through the Equipment and Olympic Classes Committees

7. World Sailing Classes priorities 2025-2026

World Sailing Classes Priorities & Working Groups

Jan Martin introduced the four agreed priorities for the World Sailing Classes Committee for 2025–2026, which have been translated into dedicated working groups:

- Improve global access to affordable Third-Party Liability Insurance (TPLI)
TPLI remains a major issue globally, particularly for sailors competing across continents.
Jan Martin is chairing this group, with support from Luca
Positive leads from partner events and insurance providers are being explored.
- Reassess and reinforce the Special Events and Class Policy Framework
Aims to address scheduling conflicts, class title usage, and lack of transparency in third-party event agreements. The group will examine how to better support Classes affected by external events using class equipment.
Mirco is chairing this group, with support from Bruno.
- Reduce compliance costs for Classes and event organisers
Focus on simplifying administrative and regulatory burdens without compromising standards.
David is chairing this group, with support from Curly, Robert, Dimitris and Nicolette.
- Explore reinstating and strengthening the Recognised, World Olympic Class progression model
Proposed to improve development pathways and provide clear expectations for emerging Classes.
Seen as a way to manage class growth and reduce rejection/disappointment in the application process.
Andreas is chairing this group

While discussions will begin in the Class Committee, Jaime clarified that implementation would require alignment with the Equipment Committee's Terms of Reference.

It was noted that although participation in working groups is voluntary, names are needed for Board approval. Working groups will act as focused think tanks, with proposals to be presented to the wider Classes Committee for feedback and further action.

8. Other Items Related to World Sailing Classes

Technology: Michael Downing outlined World Sailing's tech priorities, focusing on three areas: creating a digital race office to simplify event management; exploring onboard tracking to support accurate race starts; and improving communication for digital umpiring. He emphasised setting technical standards and moving forward gradually to build trust and ensure reliability. Technology will support, not replace, race officials and fairness remains the priority.

9. Any other business

- a. Presentation on development of the National Watersports Campus in Dún Laoghaire

Overview of Dun Laoghaire's facilities and plans for national sports campus. Feedback invited on desired features for international sailing events.