



Para World Sailing Committee Minutes

The PWSC met virtually at 1400 UTC on 22nd January 2026

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| 1. Opening of the Meeting | 6. IPC Bid Update |
| 2. World Sailing Updates | 7. WSIC TD Report |
| 3. Work Plan | 8. Any Other Business |
| 4. Language Discussion | 9. Thank you and Next meeting |
| 5. Classification Sub-Committee | |

Members Present:

Kay Rawbone (Chair)	Emma Hallen (Vice Chair)	Paul Adrien Cuvillier
Yuki Hagiwara	Elliot Levy	Irina Perez
Betsy Alison	Henriette Smith	Efstratios Aklatis
Alfred Pelinka	Jazz Turner	

Invited Presenters:

Helen McKenzie	Adrian Stoggall	
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Staff Present:

Hannah Stodel	Leo af Rosenborg	Scott Dougal
Daniel Nash		

Board Present:

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Agenda Items

1. Opening of the Meeting

a. Housekeeping (HS):

It was noted that there were technical difficulties with presenter links and access for some attendees. Hannah welcomed attendees and provided housekeeping, including guidance on microphones, respectful use of the chat/Q&A, and confirmation that minutes would be published and recordings could be made available upon request following editing.

Leo (Para Assistant) and Daniel Nash (Communications Team) supported in the background.

b. **Chair's Opening Remarks (KR):**

Kay Rawbone welcomed members, wished all a Happy New Year, and referenced the upcoming Chinese Year of the Fire Horse. She thanked Hannah and Leo for preparing the extensive paperwork and noted the large workload ahead.

c. **Apologies for Absence:**

Cory Sertl USA, Daniel Belcher AUS,
Sarah Oglivie AUS and Jenny Davey CAN.

d. **Minutes of December Meeting:**

Confirmed as read and accepted.

e. **Matters Arising:**

No Matters were arising

2. World Sailing Updates

a. **Office updates (HS):**

Hannah provided office updates and noted that World Sailing was progressing several workstreams including classification, newsletters, a website refresh, and an impact report for 2025, as well as reconciliation on various Championships etc.

Leo reported that World Sailing was tracking 115 para-inclusive sailing events for inclusion in rankings, noting this was an increase from approximately 40–45 events previously. These are all updated on the Para Inclusive calendar pages, and the rankings will be updated on the 31st January.

b. **Board updates (SD):**

Scott shared that weekly meetings with board members (Cory, Daniel, Sophia) continue, focusing on IPC application and strategic developments.

3. Work Plan

- a. **To discuss the PWSC Work Plan for 2026.** (KR)
- b. **To discuss the proposed Working Groups for 2026** (KR)

The following Working Groups are in Place for 2026:

- Classification (now a subcommittee)
- Promotion
- Emerging Nations
- Visual Impairments
- Event Development & Growth (new)
- Inclusive World Championships Working Group (new)

Multiple Committee members volunteered for various Working Groups, and the Work Plan was updated to reflect this.

Discussion emphasised clearer task definitions and scope descriptions for each group.

The Executive will lead the process on outlining the scope of each WG, and will advertise the WG's on the website for membership as soon as possible. It was noted that there was significant interest from the observers of the PWSC meeting to support the WG's.

Betsy Alison agreed she would clarify the VI group scope on advertisement of the Working Groups.

4. Language Discussion

- a. **To discuss the use of terms "Skipper" "Helm" etc.** (KR)

This was Led by Kay Rawbone following a request from Henriette Smith.

The Key issues raised were:

- An existing Mismatch between Manage2Sail registration roles ("skipper") and ranking roles ("helm").
- Incorrect registrations leading to inaccurate ranking visibility.
- The presence of fluid helming dynamics in certain classes (e.g., RS Venture Connect) complicating clarity.

Henriette raised concerns regarding inconsistent use of "skipper" and "helm" in event entry systems and how this impacts rankings and athlete visibility. It was noted that in some cases, the person registered as "skipper" may not be the person physically helming the boat.

Hannah noted that downloaded ranking data is dependent on how entries are completed and that World Sailing's intent is that ranking points should reflect the person physically helming the boat.

It was agreed that the issue would be taken forward with Manage2Sail to improve clarity and reduce inconsistencies in registration processes.

Alfred noted that the discussion touches broader racing rules and terminology frameworks, and cautioned that changes may sit outside the PWSC's direct scope, however guidance and clarity at registration level was considered a practical solution.

World Sailing (Leo + Hannah) will work with Manage2Sail to ensure helm = person physically helming is captured correctly.

The Committee acknowledged broader RRS definitions existed restricting the scope of the conversation but agreed that registration guidance can fix the ranking inconsistency.

5. Classification Sub Committee

a. To receive an update from the Chair of the Classification Sub Committee (HM)

Helen McKenzie, Chair of the Classification Sub Committee gave a summary of the Working Group's activities in 2025, and looking forward to 2026. It was commented 2026 has been designated as the "**Year of Classification**" due to the increased focus and activity.

The current Classification team is made up of 11 international classifiers. There is a strong development pipeline for future Classifiers from India, Trinidad & Tobago, and Australia.

There was significant classification activity in 2025 (96 para sailors classified across world events). Additionally, in WSIC 2025, Intellectual impairment classification trialled successfully; with scope for a cognitive impairment classification emerging.

b. To discuss the proposed members of the Sub Committee, and to VOTE on the membership. (HS)

The Committee voted to approve all 11 international classifiers as subcommittee members.

Vote result: 8 in favour, 0 against, 0 abstentions.

c. To receive an update on the classification compliance timeline and consultation process. (LAR)

The Committee received an update from Leo on the New classification rules and Database, which are being developed concurrently.

The Skeleton DB build is due end of February; with demos and testing planned through summer.

The targeted goal is full use at October 2026 Inclusion Championships.

Henriette Smith asked for clarification, if Athlete's would have to resend in data and documentation. Leo clarified All legacy athlete classification data will migrate automatically.

6. IPC Bid Update

a. **To update the PWSC on the status of the IPC Bid.** (SD)

Scott gave the committee an update on the status of the IPC Bid.

The bid for inclusion in Brisbane 2032 Paralympic Games was submitted on 15 December 2025.

Direct communications have been sent to the IPC Governing Board with supportive responses received.

Key bid messages:

- Sport in the heart of nature
- Strong governance
- No incremental cost to Paralympic organisers
- Broad global support

The IPC decision is expected Q4 2026, following IOC programme announcement.

7. WSIC TD Report

a. **To review the TD report from the WSIC.** (HS)

Report noted with no objections.

Introducing the item, Hannah confirmed the TD report had been shared ahead of time and that no comments had been submitted.

Athlete & programme feedback (IDP and coaching).

Elliot relayed competitor feedback that the IDP sessions would benefit from level-differentiated content (basic vs. advanced).

He also raised concerns about coaching fairness where support provided to sailors at the back of the fleet may have influenced race outcomes.

Equipment suitability & class choices.

Elliot questioned boat suitability for both Intellectual Impairment (II) and Visually Impaired (VI) categories and suggested alternatives that better match functional needs.

Hannah responded that the feedback from the VI community and II Athletes was that the boats were sufficient for the competition format, and their intention moving forward after meeting with the working groups is to keep the ILCA6 for the II and maintain the RS21 for the Worlds if available.

Observers from the VI community also noted that the boats were so well received that they had considered purchasing them.

Safety cover.

Elliot highlighted that the number of safety boats was insufficient at times, noting judges were required to tow boats - reducing on-water officiating capacity.

Operational constraints at the event.

Responding, Adrian Stoggall (PRO) explained the late unavailability of planned VI boats left organisers with a go/no-go decision; the team proceeded with the only viable alternative to avoid cancelling the VI championship.

He acknowledged IDP sizing/levelling as an improvement area for future editions.

Contracting approach & host relationships.

Elliot noted that hosts should be contractually penalised if they did not meet the terms of hosting.

Hannah outlined that while World Sailing employs robust hosting contracts, it is not the policy to penalise hosts for circumstances beyond their control, to avoid deterring future organisers; the focus is on pragmatic solutions and continuous improvement.

Kay and Alfred supported this approach, emphasising a sound legal framework over punitive measures.

Process & timeline transparency for athletes.

Henriette urged shortening internal timelines so Notice of Race and key information are available earlier, noting travel cost/risk borne by athletes; the chair acknowledged the point for future planning.

VI community perspective.

Lucy Hodges (Blind Sailing) reported strongly positive athlete feedback (~98% satisfied) and said the alternative boats proved workable when correctly set up. She thanked World Sailing and the event team for enabling the VI championship to proceed.

8. Any Other Business

a. Update on timeline for VI Webinars (KR)

Leo af Rosenborg & Lucy Hodges shared that a four-week WS-hosted VI webinar series is planned. The Focus is on:

- Building national programmes
- Lessons learned from UK Blind Sailing
- Practical guidance on growth and sustainability

b. Other Items

Discussion focused on World Ability Sports Youth Games and encouraging MNAs to engage with their NPCs.

9. **Next Meetings**

The Committee Scheduled the next meeting as Follows:

February Meeting: Thursday 26 February 2026 at 11:00 UTC

March Meeting: Thursday 26 March 2026 at 14:00 UTC

Action Points

- Working Group Membership Clarification: Schedule a meeting with Yuki and Scott's comms team to clarify the scope and objectives of the Promotion working group and Yuki's role. (Hannah, Scott)
- Working Group Scope Definitions: Draft and circulate a one-line scope statement for each working group to clarify their aims before promoting them to the wider community. (Hannah)
- Visual Impairment Working Group Scope: Work with Betsy to define and publish the scope of the Visual Impairment working group before advertising for members. (Hannah, Betsy)
- Classification Subcommittee Membership: Submit the approved list of 11 international classifiers as subcommittee members to the board for final approval. (Hannah)
- Registration Guidelines for Rankings: Coordinate with Manage2Sail to ensure registration guidelines clearly state that the helm registered is the person physically helming the boat, to improve ranking accuracy. (Leo)
- VI Webinars Scheduling: Organize and announce a series of VI webinars hosted by Lucy and World Sailing over four weeks, sharing the business plan and growth strategies for VI sailing. (Leo, Lucy)
- Next Meeting Scheduling: Schedule and announce the next two committee meetings for February 26th and March 26th, and publish the agendas on the website and Sailors Forum. (Hannah)