

World Sailing
Regional Games Meeting Agenda

Meeting Date: November 5, 2025

Location: Royal Marine Hotel, Dun Laoghaire, Ireland & Teams Meeting

Commencement Time: 14:00 to 17:00 UTC

Attendees In-Person:

Sofia Papadopoulou (Vice Chair)	Penny McIntyre	Zouhair Lebbat
David Brookes	Ricardo Navarro	Antonieta de Falco
Sharon Hardwick		

Attendees Online:

Captain Abdur Rehman Arshad (Chair)	Jorge Barreda	Hocine Lali
Ioannis Papazoglou	Jerry Rollin	Martha Juliana Acevedo Danner
Elias Conzalez Robles		

In Attendance:

Beatriz Gonzalez Luna (World Sailing Vice President)

Josep M. Pla (World Sailing Vice President)

Fiona Kidd (Head of International Development)

Larisa Zejen (Development Assistant)

Absent:

Christian Daianu

<u>Agenda Items</u>
1. <u>Opening of the Meeting</u> a. Chair's Opening Remarks The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all of the attendees. There were seven Committee members attended the meeting in person and 7 Committee Members attending the meeting remotely. b. Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Conflicts of Interest There were no apologies for absence or any changes in the declaration of Conflicts of Interest. c. Minutes of the meeting on October 16, 2025 It was noted that the Minutes of the meeting held on October 16, 2025 were approved prior to the meeting d. Matters Arising There were no matters arising from the October 16th meeting that are not on the agenda. e. Decisions by Email The Minutes of the meeting held on October 16th were approved by email.
2. <u>Chair's Annual Report</u> The Chair's Annual Report was circulated to the Committee prior to the meeting. Fiona Kidd, provided a summary of the report as it was difficult for Captain Arshad to present it remotely. The overview this year marked an important milestone for Regional Games as the committee was elevated from a subcommittee to a full committee reporting directly to Council. To ensure focused progress across all areas, 4 Working Groups were established to review the status of Regional Games globally.

1. Development Working Group
2. Calendar Working Group
3. Impact Working Group
4. Technical Working Group

Eight meetings have been held since April. Each Working Group has made significant progress toward their respective objectives, contributing to a more structured and informed approach to Regional Games delivery.

The Chair, Captain Arshad, submitted a proposal to amend Article 51 to enable the Chair of the Para Sailing Committee to appoint a member of that committee to the Regional Games Committee, to guide the committee on making decisions related to Para Regional Games. The remit of the Regional Games Committee is to advise and report to council on the inclusion of sailing and parasailing in Regional Games.

The Development and Impact Working Groups created a global survey receiving 40 responses from member national authorities, of which 38 were verified. Respondents represented all continents and included secretary generals, presidents and sport directors. The survey combined quantitative multiple choice and qualitative open-ended questions.

Findings from the survey confirmed that the regional games serve as important development platforms. They foster youth participation, enhance visibility and provide pathways to performance. To fully realise their potential coordination between World Sailing and Continental Association is important.

The revised Regional Games Event Guidelines by the Technical Working Group includes both pre-event and post-event reports. The former assessing readiness and alignment with guidelines, and the latter identifying challenges, best practices and areas for improvement.

For 2026, three areas of focus have been identified. The first is to establish new working groups to address specific areas identified in the Impact and Development Survey and the resulting recommendation of the working groups.

The second is to finalize and publish the Regional Games Guidelines that will be a comprehensive resource for organizers and technical delegates that will support the planning and delivery of the Games as well as contribute to the legacy outcomes for sailing events at Regional Games. And the third one will be to implement the Regional Games categories to clarify the services that World Sailing will deliver.

Decision: The Committee unanimously approved the Chair's 2025 Report.

3. **Report from Executive Office**

a. **Report from the Board Representative(s)**

Beatriz Gonzalez Luna thanked the committee on behalf of the Board for their commitment and hard work over the past year. She commented that this committee has improved coordination with Regional Games and continental associations over the past year.

Beatriz confirmed that the Regional Games are important in the sport as they enhance development pathways.

The board expressed that our major championships should be grounded on robust regional foundations, and this is the aim and the responsibility of World Sailing.

Josep M Pla, Vice President commented that the pathway from Regional Games, including youth events, Continental World Championships are aligned operationally with the Board's strategic direction and their five priorities of World Sailing: Revenue; Paralympic reinstatement; Olympic vision; Digital Infrastructure; and Teamwork.

b. Report from the Staff

Fiona Kidd presented a report on the activities in the Development Department over the past year that are related to the Regional Games. There are two key areas that were introduced in the past year: The Youth Olympic Games Training Camps & Education; and the World Sailing Academy (includes the National Race Officer Training Program).

- i. **Youth Olympic Games (Dakar, Senegal October 2026)** – World Sailing with support from OS is hosting 4 Training Camps in Africa in 2025 and 2026 targeted as the windsurfing athletes have been selected by their NOC in Africa. The camps are supported by the Techno293 Class, who are supplying 2 expert Coaches and Tahe Outdoor France who has supplied the Techno293 boards to the sailors free of charge until the Games.

- Camp #: 1 – (Sept 28 to Oct 3)
Thirteen athletes and 9 coaches, from 6 countries attending
ALG, EGY, LBA, MAR, SEN, TUN
Five days of training lead by 2 Expert T293 Coaches
Held at the Eya Guezguez National Elite Centre, Hammamet, Tunisia
- Camp #2 – (November 18-23)
To be held in Tangier, Morocco
- Camp #3 – (March /April)
- Camp #4 – (June or September)

ii. **Impact of YOG Training Program**

- Activating the NOC's – increases awareness of sailing, World Sailing & the IOC.
- 10 African Nations – almost 50 % of World Sailing Members
- Build Capacity – Race Officials, Sailors, Coaches - NROTP
- Opportunity to strengthen windsurfing in the region – more development
- Soft Legacy in the Region – Building HP systems – events, training centres

iii. **Training/Education – Building capacity in Africa**

- NROTP – Level 1. ALG, EGY, MAR, SEN
- TCC – Level 1 – EGY (STC),
- TCC – Level 2 – ALG (STC), LBA
- Judges Clinic – MAR
- 43% Women in Courses in Africa

iv. **World Sailing Academy**

The World Sailing Academy was launched in June 2025 and currently 1400 persons have registered on the platform. The purpose of the WSA is to provide access to knowledge & education/training material for all MNA's/sailors on a global scale.

Courses:

- Fundamentals of Race Management (available in English, French, Spanish, Arabic (soon).
- Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
- Safeguarding in Sport
- Sailing Specific Conditioning Exercises
- Sustainable Innovation

Resource Hubs:

- Coaches
- Race Officials
- Women in Sailing
- Para Inclusive Sailing
- Sustainability
- Anti-Doping
- Safeguarding
- Webinars

The platform will be used for hybrid learning – NROTP Level 1 & Level 2 tests are on the platform in different languages. It was a pilot year in 2025 – courses will be updated based on feedback from participants and developers.

The Safeguarding Course is almost complete and will be introduced across all WS officials, coaches, sailors & event organizers in 2026. The WSA will be expanded in 2026 with new courses and resource material.

Action: All committee members are encouraged to signup and explore the platform.

4. Impact Assessment & Development Survey

a. **To review the Final Survey Report**

Sofia Papadopoulou, the Lead of the Impact Working Group and Sharon Hardwick, the Lead of the Development Working Group presented their comprehensive report on the results and findings of the Impact and Development Survey that was sent to MNA's this year.

The Development and Impact Working Groups focused on strengthening the Regional Games as a pathway to participation, performance and Olympic opportunity, particularly for emerging nations. Their work reflected World Sailing's strategic priorities and commitment to building an equitable and sustainable access to the sport of sailing worldwide.

Strategic Objectives:

- Key development pathway
- Expand access for emerging nations
- Strengthen NOC partnerships
- Visibility & grassroots inspiration
- Supports Olympic qualification routes

Volunteers, Safeguarding, and Sustainability:

- Strong volunteer engagement across event management, technical roles, and logistics
- Safeguarding practices were present but inconsistently applied; there is a need for standard WS guidance
- Sustainability initiatives (recycling, refill stations, Clean Regatta certifications) were implemented sporadically

Barriers Identified (Highest to lowest):

1. Funding
2. Equipment shortages
3. Logistics & Transport
4. Coach capacity & Availability

Note: Safety and equipment quality also emerged as recurring concerns

Inclusion Findings:

- Gender balance among athletes approached **50–50** in some regions, but **women coaches and officials remain underrepresented**
- **Para sailing** participation remains limited; inclusion programs are minimal beyond athlete categories
- Few MNAs reported **dedicated workshops for women or youth** during Regional Games

Integration of Development and Impact Insights

- Stronger integration of capacity-building programs before and after Games
- Establishment of **development indicators** (e.g., coach education, safeguarding, inclusion outcomes)
- Improved **data collection tools** for consistent global monitoring

b. **Recommendations for the Committee**

The two Working Groups presented the following recommendations for discussion and future work of the committee.

Develop a Regional Games Framework that includes the following:

- Strategic Framework
- Funding and Equipment Support
- Coaching and Technical Capacity
- Gender Equality and Inclusion

- Sustainability and Legacy
- Data and Coordination

Action: The **Next Steps** for the Committee to work on in 2026 are:

1. Finalize and circulate this report to MNAs and Continental Associations
2. Establish a task group to develop the Regional Games Framework
3. Focus on pathways & hubs
4. Data improvement
5. Olympic Solidarity coordination
6. Showcase best practices and case studies during the next World Sailing Annual Conference

5. **Working Group Reports**

a. **Development Working Group**

Their report was covered under Item 4.

b. **Calendar Working Group**

The Working Group reported on the status of their Objectives in the 2025 Work Plan and their Recommendations to the Committee.

Objective 1: Research all regional games & determine if sailing and/or Para Inclusive Sailing is on the competition schedule. They presented a comprehensive 2025 to 2028 calendar of Regional Games that had sailing/Para Sailing on their competition schedule. In five Regional Games held in 2025 they reported the following statistics: MNA's; 58, Sailors; 307, Classes; 7 Men: 210, Women: 97.

Objective 2: Categorize the Regional Games to determine level of WS service and engagement over the next quad. They presented the four criteria for Categorizing Sailing Regional Games:

- Scale of the Event - # nations, # participants, # Classes
- Level of Competition – Ranking/qualification, experience
- Participants Demographics – age, geography, inclusivity
- Overall Budget & Infrastructure – budget size, venue/technical requirements

Objective 3 – WS Level of Service was established for each category

Category 1 (Local) – advisory, templates, limited technical support – self-sufficient. WS limited involvement.

Category 2 – (Regional) - enhanced technical support, dedicated WS regional representative guidance & consultation, resources (national, regional support) limited specialized assistance

Category 3 – (Super Regional) – High service level, WS direct support – appoint officials, TD, significant investing in resources

Recommendations from the Calendar Working Group:

- Integration of Sailing in more regional games.
- Identifying Regional Games for the Para Inclusive Sailing Community
- More communication and exchange of information

c. **Impact Working Group**

Their report was covered under Item 4.

d. **Technical Working Group**

The Technical Working Group, presented their latest draft of the **Guide to Successful Regional Games**. The document provides a set of technical requirements for the organizers of a sailing competition within a Regional Games environment. It is available in both English & Spanish. It consists of following Sections & Annexes.

Section 1: Pre-Event Planning and Management

Section 2: Onshore Infrastructure and Logistics

Section 3: On-Water Operations and Regatta Management

Section 4: Safety, Inclusion, Environment, and Legal Aspects

Section 5: Media Relations and VIP Guests

Section 6: Event Report

Annex A: Implementation and Equipment Checklist

Annex A: Implementation description

Annex A: Equipment Implementation List – Example

Note: Section 6 includes new Pre-Event and Post Event Reports to enable better planning for event delivery and feedback that can be implemented in future events.

6. 2025 Regional Games Reports

- a. Fiona Kidd, the Technical Delegate at the inaugural **World Abilitysport Beach Games, held in Mersin, TUR from Oct 18 to 25th** presented her report. In summary, six sports were featured in the Games, attracting 600 athletes from 26 nations. Sailing emerged as a highlight, demonstrating high-level competition, inclusivity, and international collaboration. The Türkiye Sailing Federation acted as the Organizing Authority for the Para Inclusive One Person – Male and Para Inclusive One Person – Female events. Competitions were conducted in International Hansa 303 dinghies supplied by the Federation. A total of 18 sailors representing nine nations (Bahrain, Estonia, France, Great Britain, Hong Kong, Italy, Oman, Thailand, and Türkiye) participated. Hong Kong and Türkiye fielded full teams with two male and two female sailors each.
- b. Francisco Jauregui, the Technical Delegate for the **XII Central American Games, in Guatemala City, GUA from Oct 18 to 30** presented his report. 2025 marks the first time that the sport of sailing was included in the Games, thanks to the efforts of the four countries entering athletes and especially the host MNA, ASOVELA of Guatemala. Lake Amatitlán was the venue for the sailing competition. Four nations participated in a single sailing event - the Men's One-person Dinghy in the ILCA 7 (6 competitors) . A Women's Dinghy Event was cancelled due to the lack of entries. However, there was an exhibition Open Junior event held in the Optimist that had 13 sailors from 2 nations. 12 races were completed in the scheduled series with 2 drop races.

Some of the race officers of the race team working with Francisco were trained in Santo Domingo under the National Race Officer Development program. This was an excellent opportunity to put some of their learnings into practice.

The following conclusions to the report were noted:

- sailing was officially part of the games for the first time ever
- the local Guatemalan race team were able to successfully run the races at an international standard
- ASOVELA had the learning experience of serving as host for a principal event
- Belize won a medal in sailing, which is relevant for such a small Caribbean nation as only 15 medals were obtained by them in the games overall
- public and media attention were drawn to the natural beauty of lake Amatitlan and the need to preserve it as an environmental resource.

c. **Bolivarian Games – Lima, PER – Nov 21 to 26**

There was no report.

d. **SEA Games – Bangkok, THA – Dec 9 to 20th**

There was no report.

e. **Other** – No reports were received for the following Games.

2026 Central American & Caribbean Games

2026 South American Games

2026 Asian Games

2026 Youth Olympic Games

2027 Pacific Games

2027 Pan Am Games

2027 Commonwealth Youth Games

7. Para Sailing Representative on Regional Games Committee

- a. The Proposal submitted by the Chair of the Regional Games Committee to add a representative from the Para Sailing Committee as per Article 51 to the Regional Games Committee has been approved by the Board and will go to the General Assembly for approval on November 8th.
- b. Upon approval of the Proposal, the Chair of the Regional Games Committee will ask the Chair of the Para Sailing Committee for a Committee Member interested in joining the Regional Games committee.

8. Olympic Continental Qualifiers

Fiona Kidd reported that she has been informed by Michael Downing, the Olympic Manager that the Olympic Continental Qualifier events bid process is still being drafted.

The committee confirmed the importance of an Olympic Qualifier being allocated to a Regional Games as it not only accelerates development in the region but it increases the profile and importance of the sport with the NOCs and organizations such as Pan Am Sports.

There was concern that the new Continental Qualifiers would not be applicable to Regional Games. The Eurosaf President, Pinar Coskuner Genc, reiterated the importance of allocating an Olympic Qualifier to a Regional Games. Eurosaf has been trying to get sailing into the European Games for several years and without an Olympic Qualifier, it is almost impossible.

David Brookes also commented that the Pacific Games has formally requested to World Sailing for an Olympic Qualifier. Without it, sailing will likely not be included in future Pacific Games.

As a result of the discussion, David Brookes put a motion on the floor regarding the importance of allocating an Olympic Qualifier to a Regional Games. This motion was seconded by Penny McIntyre.

Decision: The Regional Games Committee unanimously supported the motion by David Brookes and seconded by Penny McIntyre that Regional Games become Olympic Qualifiers.

9. 2025 Work Plan Review

The 2025 Work Plan review was not discussed and is deferred to 2026. The Working Group Reports as presented in Items 4 & 5 illustrate the work accomplished to date in 2025.

10. AOB

Fiona Kidd reported that the World Abilitysport Federation would like to include a youth Para Sailing event in the 2026 World Abilitysport Youth Games in Mersin, Turkey next June. The age category would be under 25.

They are very keen to announce this by the end of December and will send a formal request to World Sailing to be considered by the Para Sailing Committee and the Board for approval.

Eurosaf President, Pinar Coskuner Genc also announced that the Balken Games have been reinacted and that sailing will be included.

The Chair proposed that next year, the Regional Games Committee should meet every three months rather than monthly. Meetings could be held within 3 months if there were urgent items that needed to be discussed. This was supported by the Committee.

Finally, Captain Arshad thanked all the committee members for their great work throughout the year. He commented that it was a long meeting but very useful and full of information and stated well done to the Working Groups who have worked very well.

The meeting was adjourned at 17:30.