

The Olympic Classes Sub-Committee met online on 12 August 2025 at 1200 UTC

Present:

Markus Schwendtner (IKA) Chair
Mirco Babini (IKA)
Andrus Poksi (ILCA)
Gonzalo Costa Hoevel (iQFOiL)
Valerie Boutet (iQFOiL)
Dimitris Dimou (470)
Eric Faust (ILCA)

Ben Remocker (49er / Nacra)

In attendance:

Daniel Belcher (AUS) Vice President WS Board
Tomasz Chamera (POL) Vice President WS Board
Dave Hughes (USA) Vice President WS Board
Jan Martin Wischut (WSCC Chairman)
Wolfgang Mayrhofer (Events Committee Chairman)
Jaime Navarro (Technical Director)
Scott Dougal (Director of Communications and Media)

Corinne Rolland-McKenzie (Events Consultant)
Matt Wheaton (Competitions Manager)
Antonio Cozzolino (Legal Counsel)
David Graham (CEO)
Megan Griggs (Race Official Manager)

1. Opening of the Meeting

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed members to their first formal OCSC meeting of the term and noted the Observers that had registered and joined the meeting. At this halfway point in the year, there are several important topics on the agenda including Sailing World Championships, Olympic Venues and discussion on Format, Calendar and how all these moving parts fit together.
- 1.2 Apologies for absence were noted

2. 2027 World Sailing Championships and Test Events update

Corinne McKenzie outlined the plans for the Gdynia test event (19 -24 July), noting a condensed schedule and a quota system for entries allowing one entry per MNA, with the notice of race expected by the end of September 2025.

Matt Weaton provided details on Fortaleza, indicating a test event on the last week of January 26 at the same dates of the World championships in 2027, with the notice of race to be published in September. Both emphasized collaboration and communication with stakeholders.

Corinne McKenzie noted that decisions regarding invited events would be finalized by the end of August. Para/Inclusion events will not be included in the test event but would be part of the World Championships. Markus Schwendtner expressed concerns about the timeline for planning for teams, emphasizing the need for clarity and timely announcement.

3. 2028 Format Update

- 3.1 Daniel initiated a discussion on enhancing sailing's performance and media visibility, emphasizing the need for a comprehensive strategy. Markus supported this view, stressing the importance of making sailing appealing to the IOC while considering athletes' perspectives. Dave highlighted the evolving attitudes of athletes towards potential changes in race formats and schedules, underscoring the need for careful consideration of these factors. The conversation also touched on the long-term relationship with the IOC and the complexities of balancing fairness and participation in sailing events.

Markus Schwendtner opened the floor for questions regarding the timeline for decisions on Olympic format. Wolfgang Mayrhofer described a four-step process, starting with a council meeting on September 17, where the Format working group will present a preliminary pool of options. He emphasized the importance of narrowing down to two or three viable options for further development.

Ben Remocker discussed the challenges of gaining favour with the IOC and suggested that multiple formats for the LA 2028 Olympics could enhance learning opportunities. Daniel Belcher acknowledged the guidance from the IOC and broadcasters, emphasizing the need to balance tradition with modern appeal. He also addressed sustainability by focusing on creating an environment that supports athletes through sponsorship and media opportunities.

Gonzalo highlighted the importance of keeping classes engaged in discussions about event formats, noting that decisions need to be made by November. He pointed out that previous testing has left his class feeling uninformed about new ideas. Tomasz responded by affirming that all stakeholders, including classes, will be involved in the decision-making process, emphasizing the need for adaptation to meet IOC requirements.

Wolfgang Mayrhofer outlined various competition format proposals for Olympic sailing, such as a quarter-final and semi-final structure, as well as a nation series on the final day. He stressed the necessity of focusing discussions on two or three key proposals to refine them further. Mayrhofer also raised concerns about fairness in competition, questioning the implications of resource disparities among countries and advocating for a broader understanding of athlete protection.

Markus Schwendtner highlighted the importance of understanding IOC and OBS criteria for sailing formats, noting the lack of audience education about the sport. David Graham acknowledged these concerns and emphasized the need for reliable scheduling, clear communication, and exciting viewing experiences. He mentioned ongoing discussions among various committees to address these issues and improve the overall presentation of sailing at the Olympics.

4. World Sailing Calendar of Events

- 4.1 LA 28 quad

Ben Remocker relayed the work of the Working group on the subject, the need of long term visibility and the need to concentrate on events that matters as the calendar is not expandable. Ben pointed out the ongoing challenges in securing sponsorships and the need to balance regatta scheduling with public engagement. Markus Schwendtner emphasized the necessity for change in the calendar planning process, acknowledging the complexities of scheduling around major events like the Olympics. Matt noted that the objective is to publish a eight-year calendar on the WS website to provide more visibility.

Matt Weaton informed the OCSC of the process in place to collect events dates for the calendar and that many classes events dates were missing. Markus Schwendtner will ensure that the Olympic classes submit their dates for world championships next year.

5. AOB

Event Appointments and Advisory Group Updates

Megan Griggs discussed the executive office's responsibility for event appointments, highlighting the formation of an advisory group that includes Markus Schwendtner. She is working on guidelines to define the advisory group's role and plans to gather information on the number of officials needed for upcoming events. Tomasz Chamera emphasized the importance of using objective data in the appointment process and the creation of a database for monitoring race officials.

Megan Griggs will reach out to collect information on the number of officials needed for upcoming championships.

Jaime Navarro relayed a message from Alexandra Rickham about emails sent regarding equipment lifecycle assessment and the need to answer them.

The Chair thanked the members and closed the meeting at 13:58 UTC