World Sailing Board Minutes

The World Sailing Board met virtually on Tuesday 27 January 2026 between 10:00 – 12:00 UTC

Present	**In Attendance**
1. Quanhai Li - President 2. Daniel Belcher – Vice President 3. Tomasz Chamera – Vice President 4. Beatriz Gonzalez Luna – Vice President 5. Dave Hughes – Vice President 6. Corinne Migraine – Vice President 7. Sophia Papamichalopoulos – Vice President 8. Josep M. Pla – Vice President 9. Cory Sertl – Vice President	1. David Graham – Chief Executive Officer 2. Antonio Cozzolino – General Counsel 3. Michael Downing – Olympic and Youth Olympic Games 4. Corinne McKenzie – Events Consultant 5. Raksha Patel – Director of Finance & Business Operations 6. Jaime Navarro – Director of Technical & Offshore 7. Lisa Anderson – Director of Executive Office

1. Opening of the Meeting

a) Presidents Opening Remarks

The President welcomed everyone to the meeting. The President noted the success of the World Sailing Inclusion Championships and the World Sailing Youth World Championships that had both concluded and noted the test event in preparation for the World Sailing Championships in Fortaleza. The President commended the dedication of the World Sailing staff, the Board, the World Sailing volunteers and the global sailing community.

b) Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest.

There were no apologies for absence. Vice President Tomasz Chamera declared his continued interest in the World Championships in Gdynia, Poland.

c) Minutes of the 2 December 2025 Board Meeting

The minutes had been approved on email in advance of the meeting.

d) Matters Arising

Appear below under Any Other Business.

e) Decisions by email

The following items had previously been circulated by email and approved by the Board:

i. The World Sailing Bid Procedure document
ii. Cherbourg Yacht Club (FRA) as the 2027 Nations Cup Match Racing host
iii. The Offshore Double-Handed World Championship bid process for 2027-2029
iv. The LA28 Olympic Qualifiers Evaluation Panel
v. Regulation 11.5 Olympic Event and Equipment Reviews Working Group and 31 March 2026 closure date for proposals.
vi. 2026 Staff salary review
vii. eSailing Commission Chair appointment
viii. The Terms of Reference of the Cultural & Arts Commission

It was noted that further discussion would take place on matter v. under Any Other Business.

2. Executive Office

a) Management Report

The Board noted an update from the CEO by means of the Management Report that was provided as part of the meeting documents.

b) CEO Objectives

It was agreed that the 2026 CEO Objectives would to be circulated to the Board by email.

c) Elections Panel update

The Elections Panel is preparing a formal report, which will be presented to the General Assembly following its completion.

3. Participation & Development

a) Growth of Sailing survey discussion

The Board noted a paper on the topic of the Growth of Sailing Survey and Committee Work Plan for 2026. It was noted that the Growth of Sailing Committee Work Plan 2026 will be reviewed by Council at their next meeting, alongside other Committee Work Plans. The Board voted unanimously to approve this Supporting Paper and deadlines provided therein.

4. Sustainability

a) World Sailing Human Rights Policy

The Board received a copy of the World Sailing Human Rights Policy and noted that it was also available on the World Sailing website.

5. Events

a) World Sailing Championships "Invited Events" update

The Board received a verbal update on the ongoing discussions with event organisers for hosting the 2027 World Championships in Fortaleza and Gdynia.

b) 2030/2031 World Sailing Championships bid timeline

The Board noted a Supporting Paper on the content of the bid document and the timeline. It was discussed and agreed that the Board would be kept updated as the process continues.

c) Evaluation Panel selection for the 2027/2028/2029 Youth and Women's Match Racing World Championships

The Board received a paper containing the proposed composition of the Evaluation Panel. The Board discussed the inclusion of members from other regions and the World Sailing Academy for future panels. The Board voted unanimously for the members of the

Evaluation Panel contained in the paper and it was noted that a participant from the African continent may also be encouraged to join the Evaluation Panel.

6. Technical & Offshore

a) Augmented Race Management Systems governance framework

The Board received a paper with respect to the development of a World Sailing Policy on augmented race management systems (ARMS). Following discussion, it was agreed that the draft policy on ARMS would be prepared by the Executive Office and submitted through the World Sailing Proposal Portal for allocation and consultation with the relevant stakeholder groups. The Board voted unanimously to approve the recommendation as set out in the paper.

b) Update on the Regulation 11 process and timeframe for Brisbane 2032

The Board noted a presentation setting out a summary of the process governing the selection of Olympic Events and Equipment for Brisbane 2032.

7. Legal & Governance

a) Independent Bodies update

The Board received a verbal update from the General Counsel.

b) Written Resolution on 2027 subscriptions 5% increase update

The Board noted that the written resolution proposing a 5% increase in World Sailing annual subscriptions for 2027 had been formally approved by MNAs.

c) ASOIF Governance Survey update

The Board noted that the General Counsel had submitted the 2025/2026 ASOIF Governance Survey.

d) EGM and written resolution process update

The Board received a verbal update from the General Counsel outlining the current status and immediate next steps.

e) Applications for Committees and Sub-Committees update

The Board noted the relevant supporting documents and voted unanimously in favour of recommending the candidate to Council to become a member of the International Umpires Sub-Committee.

f) Neutrality Applications update

i) The Board discussed the approval process for persons regarded as either medium or high risk, in which the General Counsel would provide a recommendation to the Board after discussions with the external screeners. The Board voted unanimously in favour of this process.

ii) The Board discussed the approval process for persons who are 20 years or younger, which will be internal screening. The Board voted unanimously in favour of this process.

g) Eligibility Cases – Nationality change
The Board reviewed the relevant documentation provided by the legal department. The Board voted unanimously in favour of the nationality change.

h) Safeguarding (Standing item)
The Board noted no new safeguarding matters.

i) Case List Update (Standing item)
The Board noted an updated case list as presented by the General Counsel.

j) Safety (Standing Item)
The Board noted no new safety matters.

k) Proposals allocated to the Board (Standing item)
The Board noted no new proposals.

8. Committees, Sub-Committees and Commissions that report to the Board

a) The Board reviewed the 2026 Workplans for the Race Officials Committee, Racing Rules Committee, International Judges Sub-Committee, International Measurers Sub-Committee, International Umpires Sub-Committee, Race Management Sub-Committee, International Regulations Commission, Medical Commission, Safety Commission, Sustainability Commission and the Team Leaders and Coaches Commission. The Board voted unanimously to approve the Workplans.

It was explained that the finalised versions of the Governance Committee and the Athletes Committee would be sent by email circulation for approval by the Board.

9. Finance

a) Management Accounts to 31 December 2025
The Board noted updated financial information for the period ending 31 December 2025.

b) World Sailing Investment Fund update
The Board noted a proposal presented by the Director of Finance in relation to the World Sailing Investment Fund.

10. Any other business

a) It was noted that the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee had requested the formation of a working group with the Race Officials Committee.

b) The Board discussed the composition of the Regulation 11.5 Working Group. This proposal would be recirculated on email with some amendments.

c) The Board discussed diary dates for World Sailing events for 2026 and 2027, in relation to World Sailing Special Events.

There being no further items the President closed the meeting.

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