



Para World Sailing Committee Minutes

The PWSC met virtually at 1100 UTC on 26th February 2026

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Opening of the Meeting | 7. Regional Games Committee representation |
| 2. World Sailing Updates | 8. Emerging Nations Working Group update |
| 3. Website and Ranking updates | 9. AOB |
| 4. Classification Sub Committee | 10. Thank you and Next meeting |
| 5. Inclusion Definition Guidelines | |
| 6. IPC Bid Update | |

Members Present:

Kay Rawbone (Chair)	Sarah Ogylvie	Paul Adrien Cuvillier
Yuki Hagiwara	Elliot Levy	Irina Perez
Betsy Alison	Henriette Smith	Gabriel Baroso
Alfred Pelinka	Jazz Turner	

Invited Presenters:

Helen McKenzie	Adrian Stoggall	
----------------	-----------------	--

Staff Present:

Hannah Stodel	Leo af Rosenborg	Scott Dougal
Daniel Nash	Fiona Kidd	

Board Present:

Cory Sertl	Sophia Papamichalopoulos	
------------	--------------------------	--

Agenda Items

1. Opening of the Meeting

a. Housekeeping (HS):

Hannah opened the meeting and confirmed that the session was being recorded. It was noted that microphones were muted by default and that members could use the chat and Q&A functions. Attendees were reminded to keep discussion respectful.

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

b. Chair's Opening Remarks (KR):

Kay welcomed attendees and noted the strong turnout. She referenced the recent Council meeting and thanked Cory for speaking in support of the Classification Sub-Committee proposal. It was noted that the proposal to include 11 classifiers within the new sub-committee was unanimously agreed at Council.

Kay thanked World Sailing staff for ongoing support and encouraged committee members to engage in working groups.

c. Moment of Remembrance – Captain Arvind Sharma

Kay acknowledged the passing of Captain Arvind Sharma and recognised his contribution to Para Inclusive Sailing, including involvement at the Asian Inclusive Sailing Series and the World Sailing Inclusion Championships (WSIC) in Oman.

Hannah noted that a news piece had been published and that a memory wall would be shared for community contributions. It was noted that Arvind's contribution to the global Para community was significant and widely appreciated.

Memory wall can be found here:

<https://captainarvind.muchloved.com>

d. Apologies for Absence:

Daniel Belcher AUS

e. Minutes of January Meeting:

Confirmed as read and accepted.

f. Matters Arising:

No Matters were arising

2. World Sailing Updates

a. Office updates (HS):

Hannah noted that activity levels in 2026 are significantly increased.

Key updates included:

- Classification revision work in line with the IPC Code remains a primary focus.
- A workshop of International Classifiers will take place at the London office to develop Draft 1 of the revised Classification Rules in March.

- 175 Para Inclusive events are currently being tracked globally (previously 57), demonstrating significant growth.
- Inclusive Development Programmes (IDPs) are planned, with Antigua identified as the first in June. The aim is to host 3-4 IDP's this year, run by the WS Team.
- WSIC 2026 in Portimão is progressing, with additional equipment included (2.4mR and multihull subject to approval).
- A proposal is being prepared to request additional Para World Titles under Policy K1, including Youth, Intellectual Impairment, Deaf and Vision Impairment categories.

It was noted that further circular votes will be required before submission to the Board.

b. Board updates (SD):

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

3. Website and Rankings update (LAR)

a. To update the PWSC on the refresh of the World Sailing Para sections of the website.

Leo noted that with the support of Daniel and Hannah, the Para Inclusive section of the World Sailing website has undergone a significant refresh.

Updates include:

- Dedicated Para Inclusive calendar (175 events).
- Advanced filters including "Classification Opportunity".
- Governance & Development calendar.
- Dedicated WSIC explanatory page.
- Updated ranking explanation pages.

Members were encouraged to submit events and opportunities for inclusion.

b. To update the PWSC on the Rankings.

It was discussed that rankings are now event-based rather than equipment-based. Rankings currently include:

- One Person Inclusive
- Para Men / Para Women

- Two Person Para Mixed
- VI
- II
- Athletes with High Support Needs

It was noted that rankings are critical for athletes, administrators, IPC reporting, and strategic planning.

Questions & Discussion

- It was clarified that Para Mixed refers to one Para male and one Para female crew in the two person classes.
- It was discussed that gender equity aligns with IPC requirements.
- It was clarified that 2.4mR results will appear in the next publication cycle following the November ranking system change.

Chat Comments – Rankings & Seeding

The following points were raised in chat and discussed under this item:

- Henriette (athlete rep) noted that problems have arisen with using rankings for seeding and that consideration should be given to how rankings may function more as an equaliser.
- Alfred asked where Para Rankings for one person technical are listed (clarified under Inclusive One Person following the ranking system change after the successful equipment removal proposal).
- It was clarified that Intellectual Impairment rankings are separate; Cognitive Impairment is currently included within Inclusive.
- Dan (RS Venture Connect Class) confirmed willingness to establish a working party to support the review ranking/seeding issues.
- It was suggested that analysis of numbers and fleet composition post-event should inform future seeding models.

Henriette raised concerns regarding fleet seeding and the issue of top sailors not racing each other in qualifying series.

It was discussed that:

- Current seeding is based on established international practice.
- Gold/Silver fleet separation will be implemented moving forward, confirmed by PRO Adrian Stoggall.
- Feedback from Oman and previous events has been taken onboard.
- Betsy proposed a banding model to ensure all sailors race each other in early rounds.
- Stoggs agreed to review feasibility, noting logistical constraints when charter equipment is used.

It was noted that feedback has been taken onboard and changes will be reflected in the Notice of Race for WSIC 2026.

4. Classification Sub Committee

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

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

Helen noted that the IC's will be meeting in London to draft the first rules in line with the new IPC Classification code. She noted that they are reviewing other sports models and there is significant workload pressure to get this done in the time available.

b. **To receive an update on the classification database.** (LAR)

Leo noted that:

- Globocol development is on schedule.
- Skeleton build is targeted for end of March.
- Backend classification structures are adaptable.
- Athlete-facing interface accuracy is a priority before public launch.

5. Inclusion Definition Guidelines (HS)

a. **To discuss the definition of inclusion events and the proposed guidelines.**

It was noted that the draft Inclusion Definition document was circulated to PWSC and the International classifiers ahead of the meeting for review.

Discussion points included:

- The document aims to clarify the distinction between Para and Inclusive categories.
- The intention is to support participation while protecting classification integrity.
- Gabriel raised challenges faced by MNAs when running Inclusive regattas, including lack of support for Inclusion vs Para.
- It was agreed that clearer guidance would support MNAs defending Inclusive formats.
- The International Classifiers requested extra time to review the document given their current workload.

It was noted that feedback will be collated and anonymised for further review.

6. IPC Bid update (SD)

a. To update the PWSC on the status of the IPC bid

Scott noted that:

- Engagement with IPC Governing Board continues.
- IPC executive review period runs January–April 2026.
- Final IPC Governing Board decision expected Q4 2026 (possibly Q1 2027).
- Classification compliance is critical to credibility.

7. Regional Games Committee (KR)

a. To discuss a member of the PWSC representing Para Inclusive sailing in the Regional Games Committee.

Fiona outlined the role of the Regional Games Committee and the need for Para Inclusive representation.

It was noted that:

- The Committee meets quarterly.
- Working groups include Development, Events Calendar, Impact, and Technical.
- A PWSC representative is sought.

It was agreed that further information will be circulated, and anyone with interest following that should contact Hannah and the Executive.

8. Emerging Nations Working Group (SO)

Sarah noted that a draft discussion paper has been circulated within the working group.

A substantive paper will be presented to PWSC in a future meeting.

9. Any Other Business

a. Update on timeline for VI Webinars (LAF)

Leo shared that the four-week WS-hosted VI webinar series is ongoing, with another session this evening at 1930 UTC (Week 2).

The Focus is on:

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

b. Other Items

- Autism on the Water Regatta (10–11 July, West Scotland) was noted.
- Positive feedback was received regarding Para leadership and future direction.
- RS Venture Connect Class confirmed continued engagement and support.

10. Next Meetings

The Committee Scheduled the next meeting as Follows:

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

Action Points

Office Actions (World Sailing Executive)

1. Minutes & Communication

- Circulate February PWSC minutes within 14 days.
- Publish minutes on website once approved.
- Share Memory Wall link for Captain Arvind with community channels.

2. Rankings & Seeding

- Review feedback regarding ranking-based seeding.
- Work with Stoggs (PRO), Betsy and Alfred on potential banding models.
- Reflect agreed seeding changes in WSIC 2026 Notice of Race.

3. Working Groups

- Implement Working Groups as approved under PWSC Work Plan.
- Draft and publish expressions of interest on website.

4. Classification

- Support London Classification Workshop logistics.
- Collate Inclusion Definition feedback (anonymised) for structured review post-workshop.
- Align terminology in Inclusion document with IPC Code requirements.
- Deliver skeleton system by end of March.
- Stress-test athlete-facing interface prior to public launch.

6. WSIC 2026

- Update Notice of Race reflecting:
 - Fleet separation (Gold/Silver).
 - Seeding refinements.
 - Equipment list updates.
- Prepare K1 World Title proposal for Board submission.

7. Regional Games

- Circulate formal outline of Regional Games Committee opportunity.
- Confirm representation pathway.
- Await updated Regional Games work plan prior to final nomination.

8. Emerging Nations

- Support Sarah in developing formal Emerging Nations paper for next PWSC.

PWSC Actions (Committee / Volunteer Support)

1. Rankings & Seeding Review

- RS Venture Connect Class to:
 - Consider establishing a working party on ranking/seeding structure.
 - Invite Henriette and Sol to contribute data/resources.
- Provide documented analysis (fleet composition & numerical modelling) to Office.

2. Regional Games Representation

- Members interested in representing Para Inclusive Sailing to contact Hannah directly.

4. Event Promotion

- Promote:
 - VI Webinar Series.
 - Upcoming IDPs.
- Submit additional Para Inclusive events to website calendar.

Strategic Follow-Ups (Shared Responsibility)

- Maintain focus on IPC reinstatement compliance.
- Strengthen international participation metrics.
- Continue alignment between Inclusion participation and formal Para classification pathways.