Women’s Forum Minutes

The Women’s Forum met at 16:00 – 20:00 hours on Sunday 8 November 2009 at the Paradise Hotel, Busan, Korea

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Present:
Fiona Kidd - Chairman
Teresa Lara – Vice-President
Helen Mary Wilkes
Anna Andreadis
Tatjana Antoncic
Liz Baylis
A. Lynne Beal
Carolijn Brouwer
Elena Dimitrakopoulou
Yana Dobzhitskaya
Janet Grosvenor
Josje Hofland-Dominicus
Eva Homsten
Hyo-Kyung Jang
Sarah Kenny

Dina Kowalyshyn
Maja Lesny
Cathy Mac Aleavey
Renee Mehl
Elena Papazoglou
Magriet Pannevis
Lotte Meldgaard Pedersen
Corinne Rolland-McKenzie
Cory Sertl
Nadine Stegenwalner
Sofia Truchanowicz
Sylvia Vogl
Suzanne Ward

Apologies:
Nazli Imre – Vice-President
Corinne Aulnette
Laura Baldwin
Sofia Bekatorou
Sally Burnett
Adrienne Cahalan
Nilufer Cakmakli
Jane Correia
Jan Dawson
Marcelien de Koning
Barbara Farquhar
Agnieszka Gruska
Ewa Jodlowska
Aslihan Kutlu
Krystyna Lastowska

Annie Lush
Amelie Lux
Olga Maslivets
Shuxia Meng
Marianne Middelthon
Jane Moon
Maria Munoz Miranda
Esperanza Perez Crespo
Ana Sanchez del Campo Ferrer
Alessandra Sensi
Sacha Simmons
Maria Torrijo Moll
Carmen Vaz Pardal
Marta Weores
Iskra Yovkova
1. **Welcome & introductions**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Women’s Forum committee and advised the Forum the plans for the next four years. The Chairman gave a brief outline of her experiences and asked the rest of the Forum to introduce themselves to the Women’s Forum.

The Chairman went through the Terms of Reference 50.1 for the Women’s Forum.

2. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

(a) **Minutes**

The Committee noted the minutes of the Women’s Forum meeting of Saturday 8 November 2008. The minutes can be downloaded at www.sailing.org/meetings.

(b) **Minutes Matters Arising**

There were no other matters arising not covered elsewhere on this agenda.

3. **Reports on Women’s Issues on ISAF Committees**

(a) The Forum received a verbal report from Teresa Lara Vice-President on the Executive Committee on women’s sailing issues.

Teresa Lara Vice-President informed the Forum that she was currently working on a project regarding the Environment. The aim is to have a page in the next issue of the Racing Rules of Sailing. This will also be advertised on the ISAF website. All help and support would very much be appreciated.

(b) The Forum received a verbal report from Dina Kowalyszyn, Equipment Committee.

The Forum received a verbal report from Carolyn Brouwer, Events Committee.

The Forum received a verbal report from Helen Mary Wilkes, ISAF Classes Committee.

The Forum received a verbal report from Suzanne Ward, Development & Youth Committee.

The Forum received a verbal report from Lotte Meldgaard Pedersen from the Match Racing Committee and the Match Racing Sub-committee.

The Forum received a verbal report from Anna Andreadis, Regional Games Committee.

The Forum received a verbal report from Josje Hofland-Dominicus, Race Officials Committee.

The Forum received a verbal report from Sofia Truchanowicz, Racing Rules Committee.

The Forum received a verbal report from Cory Sertl, Olympic Commission.

The Forum received a verbal report from Linda Merkle, IFDS.

The Forum received a verbal report from Janet Grosvenor, Oceanic & Offshore Committee.

The Forum received a verbal report from Margriet Pannevis, Medical Commission.

4. **ISAF Events**

Due to the time constraints, there were no reports received from the following ISAF Events:
(a) ISAF Women’s Match Racing World Championship  
   ii) 2010 ISAF Match Racing World Championship, Newport, Rhode Island, USA – 20 – 25 September.  

(b) ISAF VOLVO Youth Sailing ISAF World Championships, Buzios, Brazil - 9 – 17 July 2009.  

(c) ISAF Sailing World Cup  


5. Submissions  

There were no submissions as deemed important by the Women’s Forum to make any recommendations to Council.  

6. 2016 Olympic Sailing Competition  

Due to the work being currently done on this issue with the Olympic Commission, the following items were not discussed and will be deferred to the November 2010 meeting.  

(a) Events Selection – Strategy.  
(b) Equipment Selection – How and when?  

7. Workshop Sessions –  

There were five Workshop sessions. The attendees of the Forum were divided into equal groups to discuss the following topics. Each group discussed and summarized their findings.  

(a) Keeping Girl’s in the Sport – Junior to Youth to High Performance.  
   Keypoints from this group as follows:  
   - To be encouraged to stay involved after youth, ISAF Youth Olympics and the ISAF Youth Worlds.  
   - Participation in as many events as possible  
   - University sailing  
   - Mixed sailing  
   - To encourage all countries to participate  

(b) Women as Race Officials – The challenges of getting more women into the technical side of the sport.  
   Key points from this group as follows:  
   - Promoting women as Race Officials  
   - Culture issues – Not always allowed to become Race Officials  
   - Clinics need to be encouraged  
   - Keeping women involved in the sport when they have retired from sailing to have a family
- Involved the MNA’s and Classes to promote Women as Race Officials
- Identifying the strength of women, awareness and to encourage women to stay involved in sailing

(c) Women’s Sailing and the Media – How to increase women’s profile in sailing and develop role models in the Sport.

Key points from this group as follows:

**Fact**: Women in sport represents 5% of total sport media coverage

**Image**: Women are showcased for their sex appeal and feminine attributes rather than their athletic abilities.

Sailing has great individuals and stories that need to be showcased. Sailing can gain in general coverage if we promote our key sailors in a constant and professional way.

Need to showcase positive values linked to sailing: competitiveness, racing with and against men, personal achievements, women sailors combining sailing, family and work.

**Creating Heroes**:

- Profiling top girls + women in sailing different areas:
  - Youth
  - Olympic classes
  - Paralympic classes
  - Match Racing
  - Offshore
  - Race officials + administrators (at a later date)

Compile a comprehensive media package for these girls + women including:

- biography
- photos
- TV footage
- feature stories
- racing programme
- short and long term objectives

Promote at key events during year 1:

- target ISAF and events organisers media listing
- report at selected event in coordination with ISAF media manager, event organiser, and sailors MNA media manager.
- News content: racing news, features, interviews/quotes, pictures, TV footage.
- Link to dedicated homepage on ISAF website: including YouTube, Face book, Twitter…regularly update by ISAF media and/or athlete.

Implementation: ASAP

Evaluation: after the end of year one, compile media coverage worldwide and assess
results.

(d) Women and Offshore Racing – Capitalizing on the successes of women in offshore racing – recognizing achievements and promoting the genre.

Key points from this group are as follows:

Women in Offshore Sailing – how do we capitalize on their success? The women at the top level of the sport (most single or double handed sailors currently) are very well publicized, most people are familiar with Ellen MacArthur, Sam Davies, Dawn Riley, Isabelle Autissier and Florence Arthaud. We as an ISAF entity could do more by promoting their success within our own organization.

The challenge lies in how to develop the next generation of offshore sailors. It’s difficult in some parts of the world to get women involved in big boat sailing. Some obstacles include the need to have a yachtmasters certification and radio license in some areas, and a culture not friendly to including women onboard mixed crew boats in others. Suggestions to promote sailing would be to suggest to OA’s (through the MNA) that prizes are offered or recognition to all women crews, and also to have all women’s events in borrowed boats. The borrowed boats may need an owner or owner’s rep onboard as a safety officer, depending on local regulations. Some bigger boats that use a weight limit are also able to include women onboard to meet their weight limits.

There is a question of whether the initiative comes from ISAF or if it belongs more to grass-roots organization to get women sailing bigger boats. There does need to be an introduction to bigger boats followed by time on the boats to gain the experience needed to race offshore. This might be accomplished by working with groups who are trying to get girls to stay in the sport during their teen years

(e) The Strategy for Women’s Sailing in the Olympic Programme – A vision for women’s Olympic sailing in 2016 and beyond.

Key points from this group as follows:

- Increased participation of women in the Olympic Programme
- “5 + 5” – *Equality of men and women in the Olympic Programme*

Barriers:

- The main barrier to this goal is the continued participation of women in the sport leading up to Olympic level competition

Strategy:

Develop pathways for women

- Keeping the youth involved and motivated
- The youth want to have fun and be with their friends
- Youth Olympic Games – a stepping stone with equal numbers of girls and boys events
- ISAF Youth Worlds
- University Sailing
- The British “Team 15” model of getting kids out on the water and having fun
- Parallel pathways of both fun and serious sailing – increase the overall numbers of women participating
- Develop the dream through “Heroes” and the media
8. Working Parties – Submissions for 2010

Due to time constraints, this item was not discussed in particular, however, due to the outcome of the Workshops, Working Parties may be set up in order to discuss issues in order to make Submissions in 2010.

9. IOC Questionnaire – Women and Leadership in International Federations 2009

The Forum received a verbal report from Teresa Lara, Vice-President regarding the “Women and Leadership in National Olympic Committees and International Federations”. This Questionnaire is prepared by the ISAF Secretariat and is submitted to the IOC.

10. Recommendations

There were no recommendations to Council.

11. Annual Report

The Women’s Forum noted the Chairman’s report to the ISAF Council meeting on November 2009 on the activities of the Women’s Forum for the period 1 January 2009 to date.

12. Any Other Business

The Executive Committee has requested that the Women’s Forum develop a policy to select a nomination for the IOC Women and Sport Award each year. This policy is to be presented to the Executive Committee meeting in February for consideration.

There being no further business the meeting was closed.