World Sailing Board Minutes

The World Sailing Board met by conference call on Tuesday 14 September 2021 between 09:00 – 13:00 UTC.

Present	In Attendance
1. Quanhai Li - President 2. Ozlem Akdurak – Vice President 3. Jo Aleh – Chair, Athletes Commission 4. Philip Baum - Vice President 5. Tomasz Chamera – Vice President 6. Sarah Kenny – Vice President 7. Yann Rocherieux – Vice President 8. Cory Sertl – Vice President 9. Marcus Spillane – Vice President	1. David Graham – Chief Executive Officer 2. Raksha Patel – Director of Finance & Business Operations 3. Alex Brooks – Interim Director of Legal & Governance 4. Nelia Smith – Executive Assistant

1. Opening of the Meeting

a) Presidents' Opening Remarks

The President welcomed everyone, expressing his wishes for the meeting to be efficient and fruitful. He also pointed out that there is an extensive agenda on the table that and requested that attendees keep their discussions focused. He proceeded to give a comprehensive update of the time spent in Japan, during the Toyo2020 Olympic Games. The delivery of all sailing events in Enoshima were regarded as very successful which is a result of the close collaboration between the WS staff, volunteer group and the local organising committee for which the President passed on his sincere gratitude to all. The support received from the Japanese Sailing Federation was outstanding. Broadcast coverage results of the sailing events showed a sharp increase as the quality of the coverage encouraged plenty of people around the world to tune into the action. He further thanked the VP's and CEO who attended the event for their hard work and commitment with hosting key stakeholders in Enoshima during the event. This was an opportunity to meet many people and strengthen relationships. Over the duration of the event, the sailing venue was visited by several high-ranking officials, amongst others IOC President Thomas Bach, IOC VP Ser Miang Ng, IOC Director General Christophe de Kepper, IOC Sports Director Kit McConnell, President of Paris 2024 Tony Estanguet. The discussions revolved around the promotion of the development of sailing in the future and the limitation of infighting causing reputational damage to the Federation. The reinstatement of parasailing in LA2028 were was also covered with the IOC and a follow up meeting at the 2022 Winter Olympic Games in Beijing was agreed upon. Regional development was identified as a primary area of focus and further work on the plans presented is important.

b) Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest

No Apologies were received

VP Marcus Spillane – for information declared a change in Director status related to private company holdings (not conflict of interest)

VP Jo Aleh – for information declared her contractor status to Mackay Boats (Events Customer Support) and Moths (Sales & Marketing)

c) Approval of previous minutes

The minutes of the Board meeting that took place on 22 July 2021 were circulated on 2 August 2021.

Decision - It is noted that these minutes were approved during the meeting and will be published accordingly.

d) Matters arising

Board Charter

Decision - It is noted that the Board Charter was approved during the meeting, to be signed by the President & CEO and distributed to the members.

2. Executive Office

a) Management Report

The Board received and update from the CEO via the Management report, included as a supporting paper in the Board pack.

b) SMT Appraisal Update/CEO Annual Review

The CEO provided an update to the Board on the current staff structure and future plans for recruitment of vacancies. This update included the details of interim solutions. He went on to confirm that formal (postponed mid-year) performance appraisals for all SMT members were scheduled to take place by the end of September 2021. Noting sustainability as a key focus area for WS, there was agreement that the incoming Head of Sustainability should report directly to the CEO.

The CEO highlighted he had been employed over a year now and suggested an annual review. The Board noted a high-level summary from the CEO of his first 12 months in office, outlining challenges and areas of success.

Decision – A formal review will be setup and managed by the WS HR lead and a sub-group of the Board. The Board sub-group will include the UK Directors Marcus Spillane, Tomasz Chamera, President Quanhai Li and VP Yann Rocherieux.

c) 2021 Virtual Annual Conference/AGM

The CEO confirmed that planning for the 2021 virtual Annual Conference was proceeding well. According to the planning timeline, the schedule of meetings would be published on the WS website along with a note to stakeholders by Friday 17 September 2021. It was also agreed that the current schedule would be circulated to all Board members for information.

Decision – The special resolution required to make necessary changes to the WS Regulations in order to accommodate a virtual gathering was circulated via email prior to the Board meeting and was approved during the meeting.

d) Spring 2022 Annual Conference/AGM
The CEO updated the Board on recent discussions relating to the 2022 World Sailing meetings. Indicating a need to normalise the meeting cycle as well as considering travel costs for all stakeholders the Board agreed to the following:
Decision – Subject to discussion and agreement with the Abu Dhabi Sports Council, the 2022 Mid-Year meeting will be in person in Abu Dhabi as a normal mid-year meeting at the end of March. The 2022 Annual Conference (Oct 2022) will also be an in person meeting in Abu Dhabi (specific dates to be confirmed).

3. Events

a) Tokyo 2020 – Update
The Board received an update from the Director of Events

b) Parasailing – Update
The Board noted an update from the Director of Events

c) iEAWP – Update
The Board approved the recommendations as indicated in the supporting paper for Agenda item 3(c)
Decision -

- The Board should instruct the World Sailing Executive Office to finalise a submission including amendments to regulation 25.8.2 and regulation 25.8.3 for council review and discussion at the 2021 Annual Conference.
- Subject to the decision of the World Sailing Council the Board should appoint a new EAWP to proceed in implementing the processes and recommendations outlined within the EAWP Review Group report.
- When appointing a new EAWP the Board should follow the EAWP Review Group Recommendation 1: that in order for the EAWP to consider the recommendations issued by parties with sometimes conflicting interests, that the EAWP must be independent. A member of the EAWP shall not be a member of any group involved in any stage of the appointment process, including the Race Officials Committee or its Sub-Committees, the Olympic Classes Sub-Committee or any person in charge of issuing recommendations on behalf of a class, an Organising Authority or a Continental Association.
- Following the decisions made at the 2021 Annual Conference the Board should appoint the EAWP no later than 30 November 2021.
- The EAWP will be put under review by the Board every 2 years.

d) Technical Delegate Appointments - Paris2024 & The Hague

The Board approved recommendations on the next steps in this process as indicated in the supporting paper received for Agenda item 3(d).

Decision –

- The Board should approve the appointments of the Technical Delegates for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games and the 2023 Sailing World Championships.
- The World Sailing CEO, Director of Events, Olympic Manager, Sport Manager and Race Officials Executive will prepare a paper with the recommendations for the Technical Delegates and Chair / Vice Chair roles having consulted with the Vice President responsible for Race Officials and the Vice Presidents responsible for the Olympic Games.
- The paper will set out the recommended appointments alongside a summary of restrictions relevant to those appointments (as highlighted in Section 3).
- In addition, the Board should approve the appointments of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Jury for both events.
- VP Tomasz Chamera requested reports from Tokyo 2020 Technical Delegates, Principal Race Officer, Safety Officer, Jury Chairman, Technical Committee chairs before any further actions are taken. The EO will aim to deliver these by the end of September.

e) Oman Youth World Championships – Update

An update from the Director of Events was noted by the Board

f) Safeguarding

An update from the Director of Events was noted by the Board

g) Offshore World Championships

An update from the Director of Events was noted by the Board

4. Technical & Offshore

a) IQFoil – Update

The Board acknowledged receiving a supporting paper for information from the Director of Technical and Offshore.

b) OEP Questionnaires

For information, the class questionnaires related to the Olympic Equipment Policy was shared with the Board. The Nacra class questionnaire is still pending and therefore was not part of the pack

5. Finance

a) 2020 Statutory Accounts

An amendment, previously approved, is noted to the minutes of the Board meeting of 12 May 2021 to correct a statement regarding the presentation of the statutory accounts to the mid-year meeting.

Decision – the Board approved the 2020 Statutory Accounts which were circulate via email on 16 August 2021.

b) Management Accounts - August 2021
The Board noted a report from the Director of Finance

c) Preliminary Tokyo2020 costings
The Board noted a report from the Director of Finance

d) WS Investment Fund
The Board noted a report from the Director of Finance

e) MNA Debtors list
The Board noted a report from the Director of Finance

f) Office Lease – Update
The Board noted a verbal update from the Director of Finance

6. Commercial

a) Sponsorship & Pipeline – Update
The Board received a sponsorship and pipeline update from the Commercial Director. A request was raised by VP Philip Baum to receive a comprehensive report showing details of pipeline leads that have not been realised.

b) China Sponsorship – Update
The Board noted a supporting paper from the Executive Office addressing the WS Limited procedure to acquire new sponsors & to establish a foreign subsidiary, as well as the progress to date and required next steps.
Decision – As it is a change in strategy, the Board agreed to present the issue to Council for Council to consider and to vote on the proposal to set up a Chinese entity as a subsidiary of World Sailing and establish an office in China on the basis of Ningbo Sports Bureau's offer (noting that the other potential China sponsorship opportunities in the pipeline have not yet proceeded to a formal commitment).

c) New Business Sports Agency
The Board noted a verbal update from the Commercial Director confirming that a proposal seeking to employ an external sales agency will be shared for the Board's consideration in the coming weeks.

d) Event/Commercial Strategy Update 2022
The Board noted a verbal update from the Commercial Director.

7. Legal & Governance

a) Governance Reform Update – VP PB

VP Philip Baum provided a summary of the work done and progress made to date by the Governance Reform Sub-committee. He reminded the Board that the communication to all MNAs on 13 August 2021 clearly stated that Members should "be assured the Board is merely proposing a timeline for a process to allow sufficient time to build a consensus on possible changes to our Constitution. The Board does not have a pre-determined view on what those changes should be. Nor is it absolutely fixed on the timeline."

Following this letter, the Board and its Sub-committee have had some correspondence and conversations with MNAs about the further direction of the Governance Review. Effluxion of time meant that there was little opportunity for the promised "full consultation with all stakeholders – with particular emphasis on the decision makers in the MNAs".

In consideration of these issues, especially the need for considered debate with all stakeholders, it was proposed that the Board submit to the 2021 Annual General Meeting an ordinary resolution asking the MNAs to confirm, or otherwise, whether in principle they still wished the Board to continue the Governance Review. This would be instead of asking for a view on whether the MNAs preferred a "One Council", or "Two Council" Governance structure as previously discussed. If the AGM approved the resolution, the Board would indicate the process to be conducted for engagement with all Stakeholders and the topics the Board believed needed to be addressed at a minimum.

Decision - The Board approved the proposal unanimously. The Governance Sub-Committee was tasked to prepare a draft ordinary resolution from the Board to the Annual General Meeting."

b) 2021 Virtual Annual Conference – Submissions

The Board noted an overview of the current submissions received

c) Regulation 23 – Update

The potential impact and challenges that the originally proposed approach (to have the annual meeting postponed to Abu Dhabi in March 2022 rather than October 2021) could have on items such as Regulation 23 was debated. As such the idea to have a normal 2022 Mid-Year meeting in Abu Dhabi in addition to the 2022 Annual Conference in October was considered a better option and agreed to during the meeting.

8. AOB

a) Board Effectiveness

VP Philip Baum put forward a request and draft template for unified documentation to be used when sending/submitting communication to the Board. The aim of his request is to simplify content and contribute towards efficiency.

Decision – The Board agreed that the Executive Office should consider the template and integrate it with any existing templates. A final version to be circulated for use moving forward.

b) Asian Games Technical Director Appointment
VP Tomasz Chamera raised a request for enhanced communication when discussing important decisions, e.g. appointment of Technical Directors.

c) Athlete's Commission One Design Policy
VP Jo Aleh requested an update on the One Design Policy from the Director of Technical & Offshore. To be managed via email exchange.

There being no other business, the President closed the meeting.