

## Events Committee Minutes

**The Events Committee met from 08:30 – 18:00 hours on  
Monday 12 June at the Real Club Marítimo de Santander  
Santander, Spain**



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### Present:

Sarah Kenny (AUS) (Chairman)  
David Abercrombie (NZL)  
Philip Baum (RSA)  
John Derbyshire (GBR)  
Fiona Kidd (CAN)  
Takao Otani (JPN)  
Ben Remocker (CAN)  
Chancheng Zhou (CHN)

Guillaume Chiellino (FRA) (Vice Chairman)  
D Ozlem Akdurak (TUR)  
Gary Bodie (USA)  
Polina Golovina (BLR)  
Ferran Muniesa (ESP)  
Stefan Rahm (SWE)  
Sofia Tedin (ARG)  
Sofia Bekatorou (GRE) (Athletes' Commission)

### Apologies:

Riccardo Simoneschi (ITA)  
Jan Dawson (NZL)

### In attendance:

Charles Glover (GBR) Youth Events Sub-committee  
Andy Hunt (CEO)  
Alastair Fox (Director of Events)  
Antonio de la Madrid (Head of Sailing Competitions)

Cathy MacAlevey (IRL) Equipment Committee)  
Hugh Chambers (CCO)  
Katherine Mason (Events Executive)

## 1. Opening of the Meeting

The Chairman opened the meeting, thanking the warm welcome from the City of Santander and the Real Club Marítimo de Santander.

The Chairman welcomed the new Committee to the first Events Committee meeting of the quad.

The Chairman stressed the need for an open discussion on all of the key issues and made it clear that there were many important decisions that would need to be made at the 2017 Annual Conference.

The World Sailing CEO thanked the Events Committee members for their commitment to World Sailing. The CEO also reported that with the World Sailing Executive Office relocating to London in August 2017 there would be challenges for the Executive Office staff over the coming months.

The following Working Parties were confirmed:

- Event Strategy: chaired by David Abercrombie and Fiona Kidd
- Format: chaired by Ferran Muniesa
- Qualification and Quotas: chaired by Gary Bodie
- Sail Rankings: chaired by Gary Bodie
- Class Worlds (working with the Classes and Equipment Committees)

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- YOG 2018 (reporting to the Board)
- In addition, it was noted that two additional Working Parties would be created:
- 2024 Events & Equipment
- World Cup

It was noted that the Youth Events Sub-committee was represented at the Events Committee meeting by Charles Glover.

It was noted that the Equipment Committee was represented by Cathy MacAlevey.

It was reported that Match Racing Sub-committee and Team Racing Sub-committee would be meeting at the 2017 Annual Conference and would report directly into the Events Committee.

### 2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Minutes

The minutes of the Events Committee meeting of 10 November 2016 (circulated and approved after the meeting) were noted and approved. The minutes can be downloaded at [www.sailing.org/meetings](http://www.sailing.org/meetings)

It was noted that there should be a clear record of decisions made and future action points to enable Committee members to stay on top of the key issues. It was agreed that an issue tracker would be created.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising that were not already on the agenda.

### 3. Conflicts of Interest

The Committee noted the Statements of Interest that had been lodged with the World Sailing Executive Office. Stefan Rahm and David Abercrombie updated their COIs.

### 4. Board Update

The Committee received a summary of decisions that had been made by the Board since the 2016 Annual Conference and noted the key issues that the Board were taking forward.

The key areas noted included:

- The decision of the IOC to reduce the athlete quota for Sailing at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games to 350 athletes (there were 380 athletes at Rio 2016 Olympic Sailing Competition);
- The need to ensure gender equity at a sport level for Tokyo 2020;
- The selection of Olympic events and equipment for the 2024 Olympic Games;
- World Sailing event strategy, including the World Cup;
- European Anti-trust / monopoly concerns over the selection of Olympic equipment;
- The evolution of the Nacra 17 to a foiling Nacra 17; and
- The World Sailing Commercial Strategy.
- Special Event Status. It was agreed that 1 or 2 members of the Committee would join a WP to work with the Director of Events and CCO to take Special Events forward.

### 5. Commercial Strategy

The Committee received a report on the World Sailing Commercial Strategy from the Chief Commercial Officer (see Appendix A – circulated via Dropbox).

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### 6. Broadcast Strategy

The Committee received a report on the World Sailing Broadcast Strategy from the Chief Commercial Officer (see Appendix B – circulated via Dropbox).

### 7. World Sailing Event Strategy

The Committee received an update from the Chairman about the work of the Board Sub-group regarding the World Sailing event strategy, including the World Cup, Calendar, Classic regattas, World Rankings and services for sailors.

It was noted that there were existing contracts in place for the World Cup Series and that the Working Party would be reviewing a long-term strategy.

The Events Committee approved the creation of a Working Party to work with the World Sailing Executive Office to ensure that where possible practical improvements to the existing World Cup Series could be made for the 2018, 2019 and 2020 World Cup Series. In particular the Working Party would look at changes to the quotas and qualification system.

The Committee received and discussed preliminary verbal reports from the Chairs of the Event Strategy and Rankings Working Parties.

In general, the Committee noted that:

- The current World Cup is not attracting the best sailors to all events and needs to be improved;
- The calendar and location of events make it logistically and financially difficult and in many cases impossible to attend all events in a year;
- There is currently no compelling reason for a World Cup Final;
- Year 1 of a quad is very difficult for MNAs and sailors and year 4 is challenging because of the Olympics in that year;
- Grouping more events at the same time/location will help with crowded calendar; and
- The traditional, successful, sailing events must be enhanced not limited by the World Cup.

It was agreed that Event Strategy and Calendar Working Party would prepare options and recommendations for the future World Sailing Event Strategy including the World Cup and calendar.

### 8. 2020 Olympic Formats

The Committee reviewed the formats for the 2020 Olympic Sailing Competition and received and discussed an update report from the Chair of the Format Working Party.

The Committee noted that the final decisions on format for the 2024 Olympic Games should be made at the 2017 Annual Conference. It was also noted that the Council had approved changed to the Skiff and Multihull formats at the 2016 Annual Conference. However, the final details of the Skiff and Multihull formats still had to be finalised. It was reported that the Skiff and Multihull formats would be tested at the Class Europeans, Worlds and the Aarhus test event.

The Committee thanked the Olympic Classes for using their European Championships to test new format proposals. The RS: X, Finn and 470 Classes had all been working hard to test new formats and ensure that by November 2017 the Events Committee was able to make the best decisions for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games.

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It was agreed that the Format Working Party would work on final proposals and prepare a paper for the 2017 Annual Conference with different options for the Committee to consider. The Committee will then make a final recommendation to the Council at the 2017 Annual Conference. The Working Party was also encouraged to consider any format options that may be suitable for the 2024 Olympic Games in cases where the option was attractive but changes would be too late to introduce for Tokyo 2020.

### 9. 2020 Olympic Qualification

The Committee reviewed the qualification system and qualification events for the 2020 Olympic Sailing Competition and received and discussed a preliminary report from the Chair of the Quotas and Qualification Working Party.

The Committee discussed the impact of the IOC decision to reduce the athlete quota for Sailing by 30 for Tokyo 2020. It was noted that the IOC had approved a quota of 350 athletes for Tokyo 2020 of which 175 would be Men's quota places and 175 would be Women's quota places. It was noted that the IOC had approved the 10 Events and Equipment for Tokyo 2020:

- Men's and Women's Windsurfer (RS: X)
- Men's and Women's One Person Dinghy (Laser / Laser Radial)
- Men's One Person Dinghy Heavyweight (Finn)
- Men's and Women's Two Person Dinghy (470)
- Men's and Women's Skiff (49er / 49er FX)
- Mixed Multihull (Foiling Nacra 17)

There was a broad discussion on how to finalise the Event quotas for Tokyo 2020. The issues of Universality, gender equity and continental participation were reviewed. The Events Committee agreed that although this decision should be made as soon as practical to provide certainty for stakeholders the Qualification and Quotas Working Party should review the possible options and other implications of quota changes thoroughly before making a final recommendation. See Appendix C.

The Qualification and Quotas Working Party also reported on the Olympic Qualification Events for Tokyo 2020. It was noted that the Aarhus 2018 Sailing World Championships would be the first Olympic Qualification Event with 40% of the quota places. The 2019 Class World Championships would be the second qualification opportunity and lastly there would be a series of Continental Qualification Events. It was noted that the Working Party was finalising a recommendation for the venues and dates of the Continental Qualification Events. It was also noted that the Olympic Classes had also been working on a solution for the 2020 Olympic Qualification Events.

The Committee noted that the IOC would publish the Qualification System Principles for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games in August. It was agreed that the Qualification and Quotas Working Party would finalise a complete qualification system for Tokyo 2020, including quotas, for approval by the Events Committee and the Council.

### 10. 2024 Olympic Events and Equipment

The Committee reviewed the process for selecting Events and Equipment for review for the 2024 Olympic Games. There was broad agreement from the Committee that the reduction in 30 athletes by the IOC for Tokyo 2020 sends a strong message to Sailing and it was fortunate that World Sailing did not lose an Event. In light of the quota and Event decisions made by the IOC in relation to other sports, it is clear that many other sports are addressing key IOC Agenda 2020 recommendations and that World Sailing is not. Some other sports had even received additional Events.

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It was also noted that the IPC had removed Sailing from their 2020 Event Programme and it was essential that World Sailing ensure the best possible decisions for Events for the 2024 Olympic Games.

The Committee agreed that there was a clear need for change to the Sailing programme for the 2024 Olympic Games. Gender equity at an Event level, innovation, Universality and continental participation were all areas that were discussed by the Committee. It was noted that with a reduction in athletes it was essential to ensure Universality through the Olympic Qualification Events.

The Committee noted the value of the PWC report on World Sailing Classes and agreed that objective data should be used when considering changes to the 2024 Event programme. It was agreed that the Committee members and Olympic Classes to give feedback as soon as possible on the key PWC criteria to ensure that the correct data can be used for any decisions.

It was also noted by the Committee that Regulation 23 may not be flexible enough to permit the most appropriate review [go far enough in ensuring] to ensure World Sailing submits the best possible slate of Events to showcase Sailing at the 2024 Olympic Games.

It was agreed that a 2024 Events and Equipment Working Party would be created to finalise recommendations on how to treat Regulation 23 and ensure the best possible Event decisions for the 2024 Olympic Games.

See Appendix D.

### 11. Event Update

The Committee received the following reports on upcoming major events from the Director of Events (See Appendix E):

- i) Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games
- ii) 2024 Olympic Games
- iii) 2018 World Sailing Championships
- iv) 2017 Youth World Championships
- v) 2018 Youth Olympic Games

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### 12. Submissions & Supporting Papers

The Committee noted the submission deadline of 1 August 2017 and agreed that the Working Parties would consider any necessary Events Committee submissions for the 2017 Annual Conference.

The Committee noted the possible Supporting Papers, including recommendations to the Council, for the 2017 Annual Conference.

The Committee noted the process and timelines for finalising submissions and supporting papers for the 2017 Annual Conference.

### 13. Any Other Business

The Committee reviewed current issues with the Ranking system. It was noted that the database still had issues splitting points between skipper and crew. It was also agreed that there would be problems introducing the foiling Nacra 17 with regards to the Ranking system. In general, the Rankings need to be reviewed against the future World Sailing Event Strategy.

There was a broad discussion around Rule 42 policies, in particular with regards to the Laser and Laser Radial.

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The timing of the 2019 Class World Championships was discussed in order to ensure minimal conflicts with the timings of the Continental Qualification Events for Tokyo 2020.