

The Para World Sailing Committee met at 09:30 – 18:00 hours on Thursday 1 November 2018 at the Hyatt Regency Sarasota, Florida, USA.

Please refer to the World Sailing website www.sailing.org for the details of the submissions on this agenda.

Attendees

Committee: Betsy Alison USA, David Staley AUS, Alfred Pelinka AUT, Andrew Clouston NZL, Bernard Destruabe FRA, Luis Velasco ARG, Masakazu Suto JP, Brian Todd CAN, Maja Lesny POL, Megan Pascoe GBR, Jens Kroker GER

Apologies: Leo Sanchez ESP

World Sailing: Scott Perry, Andy Hunt, Massimo Dighe

Observers: Emma Hallen SWE, Cliff Cook CAN, John Partridge RS Sailing, Dee Smith USA, Tony Pocklington USA, Raema Von Reiche SAM

1. Opening of the Meeting

Welcome by the Chairman

Betsy Alison welcomed the committee and observers, *noting* that one members were unable to attend and Scott Perry was able to join via Skype.

Conflicts of Interest have been declared and will be addressed on specific agenda items if required.

Previous Minutes

Moved by David Staley that the minutes of the previous annual meeting and skype meetings through the year be approved.
Seconded by Brian Todd. Carried Unanimously.

2. Para World Sailing Committee Working Parties

To note the members of the Working Parties and receive a brief update

a) To note the members of the Working Parties

The Working Party Chairs were noted.

b) To receive a brief update on the Working Parties

i. Classification Working Party

Classification was performed at three events: European Para Sailing Championship (Kiel, GER), Blind Match Race World Championship (Helensburgh, GBR) & Para World Sailing Championship (Sheboygan, USA)

- Classification performed at 2 PDPs: Malcesine (ITA), Hiroshima (JPN)
- 67 sailors classified
- 10 International Classifiers involved
- 1 Classifier Seminar conducted in Sheboygan during the World

Championship - Chief Instructor Bernard Destrube, 6 junior/national classifiers inducted (2 AUT, 1 NED, 1 CHI, 1 HKG, 1 USA)

ii. Technical Working Party

No Report

iii. Equipment Evaluation Working Party

See Item 8.

iv. Development Working Party

- Regional Games Sub Committee has maintained efforts to have sailing integrated or re-integrated in Regional Games around the World.
- Striving to have inclusive information into the coaching documents. Work progressing on Connect to Sailing portal.
- Although no submission has been prepared, there are discussions to consider the 2.4 as an inclusive keelboat in the Olympics and also possibilities in 2023 Pan Am Games in Chile.
- Noted that the WS Board was shocked hearing the exclusion of Para Sailing by IPC from its 2024 Sports Program but continues to be committed to the ongoing support of Para Sailing.

v. Athletes Working Party

- There was a good response to the Para World Sailing Championships questionnaire.
- Sailor Forums were held at World Cup Series in Hyeres, at the European Championship in Kiel and both World Championship (Sheboygan and Scotland).
- Athletes are positive in their wish to grow participation.
- Additional work to seek sailor input (MP)

c) To discuss the working relationship with World Sailing Committees

Members of the Para World Sailing Committee are included in the Equipment Committee, Medical Committee, Regional Games Sub-Committee and Development and Regions Committee.

3. 2024 Paralympic Games

a) To discuss the IPC report regarding the exclusion of Para Sailing from 2024 Paralympic Games program

- CEO Andy Hunt noted that IPC has imposed strict confidentiality limitations on the exchanges of communication following the WS application, including the IPC Report which formed the basis for their Governing Board's decision-making. It is a huge disappointment to be rejected so early, and it is difficult to understand the IPC decision making which does not seem to reflect an objective transparent process.
- World Sailing made a comprehensive application with strong support

material including data from 655 events over a 4 year period.

- 4 core criteria and 5 secondary criteria were examined by IPC. The different scoring points were briefly outlined, showing green score for 2 criteria, red score for world-wide reach which excludes sailing from the remainder of the evaluation process. The other points were amber. It was noted that despite a substantially improved application package in 2018 and strong participation data, the scoring by IPC is surprisingly worse than 4 years ago when 4 criteria scored green.

b) Next steps for a possible participation

- WS discussions with IPC are to be continued, in particular through a face to face meeting between the Presidents and CEOs of both organizations scheduled for January 2019. A comparison of the two applications should be done prior to the January meeting.
- BA and DS to assist office staff in any way possible in analysis of confidential documents as needed/requested by AH/KA/Office staff. (BA/DS)
- It is important to continue increasing the number of countries participating in Para Sailing.
- The WS Para Classification Database is being moved to the IPC system, however the IPC personnel have requested this be delayed until sometime in 2019
- Changes of equipment should be avoided in order to build a stable program history of participation
- All World Cup events will include the 2.4 as an inclusive open class, with the results for classified para sailor extracted from the open fleet results and published separately
- While sailing seems uniquely positioned to be an inclusive sport, WS need to confirm the IPC's definition of "inclusion"
- CEO Andy Hunt insists that despite the IPC rejection, World Sailing remains committed to continue to fully support Para Sailing through PDPs and all other channels that favour inclusion and the progress of para sailing.

4. Para World Sailing Strategic Plan

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5. Events

a) Sailing World Cup

- The 2.4 is included in all SWC events. 2.4 will be Open to classified and non-classified sailors in Genoa.

b) 2018 European Sailing Championships

- 57 boats from 15 countries participated at the Championships held in conjunction with Kieler Woche

c) 2018 Blind Match Racing World Championship

- 5 teams from 4 countries sailed in Sonars in Helensburgh, Scotland

d) 2018 Para World Sailing Championships

- 88 teams competed in the 3 Classes / 4 disciplines, with 39 countries participating
- Support included £50K for sailor support, £32K for provided boats and £7.5K shipping support from GAC Pindar
- Sailor feedback was received via the online questionnaire with a good

number of responses (57 answers on 115 targeted). Views regarding the race format were mixed and there was some negative feedback regarding on-water management. SIs were subject to many modifications.

- TD Brian Todd thanked the officials and volunteers, particularly Betsy Alison for organization of dock logistics, Gene Hinkel for supporting measurement, along with the RS Sailing and Hansa Sailing teams for boat management
- Better preparation is needed ahead of Puerto Sherry and there were many lessons from the introduction of the new formats and provided boat fleets in Sheboygan

e) Other 2018 Events

- The US Para Sailing Championship were used to test the RS Venture race format ahead of the Para Worlds.
- 2.4mR CanAm Series in Port Charlotte
- Hansa Class World & International Championships in Hiroshima attracted 190 sailors from 23 nations – A PDP was held in advance of this event. An opportunity to complete additional classifications in the future. Request IHCA provide event data on gender and disability (DS)
- 2.4 and Hansa 303 regatta in Argentina during April with support from Chile
- The Invictus Games included Sailing for the first time in Sydney, Australia. A single day event using the Hansa 303 and Elliot 7 classes

f) 2019 Para World Sailing Championships Puerto Sherry (Cadiz) ESP

- 2.4mR, Hansa 303 & RS Venture Connect
- July 1-7, 2019
- NOR to be finalized and published by mid-December (MD)
- Technical Delegate to be appointed by December
- Possibility to hold a sit kiteboarding demonstration event in conjunction with the Worlds

g) Other 2019 Events

- The European Para Sailing Open Championships will be held in Gmunden, Austria for 2.4, Hansa, and possibly RS Venture Connect.
- European Para Youth Games will be held in Lahti, Finland– details TBA
- Blind Fleet Racing World Championships in Kingston, Canada – details TBC
- Mediterranean Beach Games will be held in Patras, Greece – details TBA
- Oceania Para Sailing Championships as part of the Pacific Games in Apia, Samoa in early July. To be sailed in Hansa 303. While this event clashes with the Para Sailing World Championships, the focus of the Oceania event is on regional development. A PDP is scheduled in conjunction.

h) 2020 Events

- Expressions of Interest for hosting the Para Sailing World Championships have been received from JPN (Tokyo) and AUS (RPAYC)
- 2020 Hansa World & International Championships will be in Newport

Beach CA, USA

- Invictus Games will be held in The Hague, NED

i) 2021 Events

- Expressions of Interest for hosting the Para Sailing World Championships have been received from DEN (Aarhus) and AUS (RPAYC)

j) 2022 Sailing World Championships

- This is the new "Pinnacle" event for Para Sailors with no Paralympics in 2024.
- 2022 World Championships will be held in The Hague NED in conjunction with the Olympic classes.
- Asian Para Games in 2022 are in discussion

k) Future Events

- Scheduling of Para Sailing and 2.4 and Hansa open events needs to be well managed. Establish better communication with classes to coordinate future events. (MD)
- Committee to further consider holding combined World Championships every two years (even years to coincide with Sailing World Championships) with the intervening (odd) years being focused on regional championships and events.

6. 2024 Paralympic Games

PDPs organized in 2018 included:

- ITA (Malcesine) 8 sailors 5 coaches & classification.
- USA (Sheboygan) More competitive, a lot of on water training, including new sailors that later participated in the World Championship. Classification of 5 countries.
- JPN (Hiroshima) 9 sailors, 6 coaches, classification instruction
- AUS (Melbourne) To be held in conjunction with the Australian Para Sailing Championships and Sail Melbourne International Regatta

Through the PDPs, 6 new countries have commenced participating. There have been some good results and great progress for some of the sailors.

Possible PDPs for 2019 include:

- ANT Jan 20-25
- CHI Mar
- RSA April
- ESP June (in conjunction with Para World Sailing Championships)
- SAM July (in conjunction with Pacific Games)
- Asia

There is potential for support from the IPCs Agitos Foundation who have been impressed by the PDPs. (MD)

7. Rankings - To discuss the Para World Sailing Ranking System

- Rankings for 2.4 are online, while Hansa 303 and RS Venture have been prepared but not yet online.
- Presently rankings are based on major championships only. This should be modified to include many more events.
- A Working Party will address the future ranking system and list the proposed events including regional and inclusive regattas. MNAs will need to forward grading forms and results

8. Equipment Evaluation - To discuss the proposed equipment to be used in future Para World Sailing Championship, Sailing World Cup events and Paralympic Sailing Competition

- Discussions concluded that the RS configuration with centerline helm seat and transferring crew should be further tested before implementation, according to a well-defined timeline.
- Sailors should be encouraged to forward video of testing this configuration in a variety of conditions and provide reports via an online form.
- Side by side seating to remain for the 2019 World Championships.
- Equipment Evaluation Working Party to action with the support of Megan Pascoe & Jens Kroker

9. Submissions

a) To consider submissions for which the Para World Sailing Committee is the Reporting Committee and make a recommendation to the Council

Submission 009 - 18 – *Moved David Staley that the submission be approved. Seconded Brian Todd. Carried unanimously.*

This submission will be withdrawn at Council after explaining its intent. Discussions have been held with Chairs of the Sailor Classification Commission, Racing Rules Committee and members of the Constitution Committee. Agreed that the Sailor Classification Code will be amended and the word "classification" removed and reserved for use for Para Classification. Draft to be prepared by February and a new submission to be co-authored by the Chairs of these committees for 2019. Can be submitted for May meetings if considered urgent.

b) To consider submissions for which the Para World Sailing Committee is another Committee

Submission 048 -18 – Moved Betsy Alison that approval of this submission be supported. Seconded Alfred Pelinka. Carried unanimously.

10. Annual Report

The Chairman's annual report to the World Sailing Council was presented

11. World Sailing Trust

A presentation from Head of Fundraising, Hannah Goldie, regarding the World Sailing Trust and the Access Fund. Hannah indicated that of the three fields to be supported by the funds, one is dedicated to Access to the sport which includes Para Sailing.

12. Any Other Business

Intellectual Disability

- It was noted that the Committee should encourage inclusion of athletes with Intellectual Disability in the Hansa 303. This athlete group has been discussed in the past but no action has resulted.
- Suggested that ID is not addressed in the Para Classification Manual but the sailor group can be included through the NOR with eligibility for INAS classified individuals.
- There is a large athlete population with ID. Both INAS and Special Olympics have included sailing in their sports programs. There are 5 levels for Special Olympics competition.
- Proposed that WS sanction an ID Sailing event in 2019-2020.
- Alfred Pelinka noted that Austria had included ID athletes in competition in a two person format.
- ID athletes will be included in the December 2018 competition in AUS
- Noted that the committee is in favor of inclusion of ID athletes in our competition organization.
- A Working Party to bring forward proposals for future inclusion of sailors with intellectual disability.

Blind Sailing

While Blind Sailing currently has alternating World Championships for Fleet racing and Match Racing, blind and vision impaired sailors would also like additional opportunities to participate in the Para World Sailing Championships (currently only possible in the two-person keelboat RS Venture Connect).

Para World Sailing Committee Working Groups identified by the 2018 meeting

Rankings

Leader – Megan Pascoe
Alfred Pelinka

Brian Todd
Masa Suto

Communication (Worlds questionnaire analysis)

Leader - Alfred Pelinka
Jens Kroker
Megan Pascoe
Luis Velasco

Race Documentation for Puerto Sherry World Championships

Leader - Technical Delegate (TBC)
Massimo Dighe

Intellectual Disability Sailing

Leader - David Staley DS
Bernard Destrube
Jens Kroker
Maja Lesny
Massimo Dighe

RS Venture Connect centerline helm seat / transferring crew testing

Leader - Brian Todd
Alfred Pelinka
Bernard Destrube
Megan Pascoe
Jens Kroker

2017 2020 Strategic Plan Review

Leader – Betsy Alison
Andrew Clouston
Maja Lesny
Emma Hallen

Meeting closed at 1606 hrs