

Women's Forum Minutes

The Women's Forum met virtually between 16:00 and 18:00 hours on Monday 25 October via BlueJeans Events



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Present

Elena Papazoglou (CYP) Chair
Sylvie Harlé (FRA) Vice-Chair
Cary Lee Byerley (AHO) Women's Rep for Classes
Rowena Farrugia - Committee Manager
Catherine Duncan – Presenter
Maddie Dunn – Presenter
Andrie Kypridemou (CYP) - Presenter
Victoria Low – Presenter
Ana Jasna Gamulin (SLO)
Anastasia Maletina (RUS)
Anita Yngve (SWE)
Beatriz Luna Gonzalez (MEX)
Betsy Alison (USA)
Cory Sertl (USA)
Dee Caffari (GBR)
Dina Kowalyszyn (USA)
Elena Matzaridou (GRE)
Fiona Bolger (IRL)
Fiona Kidd (CAN)
Hannah Stodel (GBR)
Inga Jakobsone (LAT)
Irina Perez Leroux (DOM)
Lucia Bermudez (URU)
Lynne Beal (CAN)
Maayan Davidovich (ISR)
Margriet Pannevis (NED)
Nadine Stegenwalner (GER)
Penny McIntyre (BAR)
Raynor Haagh (NZL)
Ruth Miller (STT)
Sachiko Sault (JPN)
Sally Garrett (NZL)

Apologies

Agnes Lill (EST)
Aileen Loo (SGP)
Aiko Saito (JPN)
Alessandra Sensini (ITA)
D. Ozlem Akdurak (TUR)
Ewa Jodlowska (POL)
Gelly Skarlatou (GRE)
Jo Aleh (NZL)
Line Juhl (DEN)
Marina Psychogiou (GRE)
Marianne Davis (CAN)
Nadia Chubenko (RUS)
Sharon Hardwick (BIZ)
Shevaun Bruland (AUS)
Stephanie Lyons (AUS)
Tatiana Kurbatova Lueders (RUS)
Ute Reisenger (AUT)
Vicky Song (CHN)

Sally Lindsay Honey (USA) Smadar Pintov (ISR) Sofia Papadopoulou (GRE) Sophia Papamichalopoulos (CYP) Yana Dobzhitskaya (RUS) Zeynep Fencimen (TUR)	
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1. Welcome & Introductions

- a) Chair Elena Papazoglou opened the Women's Forum meeting by welcoming all attendees and thanking them for their virtual attendance. Elena introduced herself as the re-elected Chair for Women's Forum. Elena also introduced Cary Byerley as the new Women's Forum representative for Classes and the new Vice Chair Sylvie Harlé. They both introduced themselves and they are looking forward to be working with the Women's Forum members.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

- a) Minutes
- i. The Women Forum noted and approved the minutes of the Women's Forum meeting held in virtually on 29 October 2020. The minutes were sent out via email and can also be downloaded at www.sailing.org/meetings. Fiona Kidd took the motion and seconded by Dina Kowalyszyn
- b) Matters Arising
- Point raised by Chair Elena Papazoglou is whether Women's Forum changes to a Committee or remains as a Forum. Elena suggested that if the members agree they will discuss in Point 7 under Any Other Business. This has been approved.

3. Reports on Women's Issues on World Sailing Committees

- a) New VP Ozlem Adurak is absent due to elections for the National Federation in Turkey. However, David Graham gave a brief update on the Board in Ozlem's absence. David raised the following points:
- i. The Board has been very active since they came in November 2020. They have had a number of legacy issues, cash flow issues, ethics complaints in the public domain as well as the IOC and 10th Medal. They have had several meetings and are yet to meet in person. However, the good news is that World Sailing is now in a very strong position.
 - ii. The office is back twice a week, and they are working with the Board on many positive things and moving forward.
 - iii. There are four strong women on the Board. Gender equality is mentioned at each meeting, and they acknowledge that there is a lot of work to do.
 - iv. Fiona Kidd asked about Governance. David responded stating that the President has set up a Working Party led by Philip Baum. Over the next few days, a letter will be sent out to all MNAs outlining the Working Party's intentions and a time line. The letter will also ask the MNAs to re-affirm if they would like the Board to continue working on Governance. There will be a vote at the AGM.

- b) Brief reports sent to Women's Forum members by email by the female members in WS Committees and Commissions. A verbal report was given by:
- Sophia Papamichalopoulos from the Medical Commission gave a brief update as follows:
They have been very busy with Covid 19 and safety measures. Another field that they have been working on includes Athlete's health and wellbeing including safeguarding, mental health and the transgender policy.

4. Submissions and Recommendations

- a) Women's Forum sent submission 021-41 to Appoint a Working Party for the Transgender Athletes.

An email was received from WF member where Elena, Cary and Sylvie researched the topic and found that there was not such a policy in World Sailing. After several discussions they decided to make a submission in order to create a WP to work on this new policy.

In the meantime, Elena noted that she read an article from the IOC ([link](#)) where they describe that they are delaying the update to its Transgender policy till after the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics. This is due to conflicting opinions on the framework. The guidelines will be delayed by 3 years.

- Some other sport federations such as Athletics, Cycling and Rugby Union have included a Transgender policy within their guidelines.
- WS office have a Working Party working on this policy. Women's Forum would like to create a WP on Transgender to introduce a policy for Transgender Athletes.
- Dr. Sophia Papamichalopoulos updated the WF on the work being carried out by the WP. Sophia stated that there is need of a proper policy in place, so Transgender Athletes do not feel excluded nor discriminated against. She also suggests that the policy should be based on the IOC's finding and is disappointed that it is delayed. It is a very delicate and complex subject and they must base it on expert advice and opinion.
- Maddie Dunn, WS Sports Manager updated the WF on the WP's progression. The WP's members are looking at relevance in terms of World Sailing events and competitions, they are also looking at structure and regulations, taking in consultations and guidance from other sports as well as organisations such as Transathlete.

Cary Byerley stated that once the WP is formed, the people recommended to be part of it must participate, and also stated that in the Classes Meeting they would like to join the WP. Cary also mentioned that there was a request for this submission 021-41 to be withdrawn. However, Cary asks, what would happen to the athletes who sail and are going through the process if we wait for the IOC's guidelines. Something must be done now. As time goes on the policy will however be updated with new findings, etc. It will be a working policy.

- Elena asks if Submission 021-41 is to be withdrawn or keep it.
- Proposer: Fiona Kidd
- Seconder: Cary Byerley
- Poll Question: Are we keeping Submission 021-41?
- Poll results: 96% Yes 0% No 4% Abstain

- b) Submission 008-21 Submission to change the grading criteria for Equipment Graded Events (Reg 27)

Cary Byerley spoke on the behalf of the submission to drop the size of the boats in Match Racing in Grade 1 and 2. It is a good boat for women. The Classes Committee have approved it. It would be a good move. WF should approve.

Yana Dobzhitskaya also commented that Match Racing Sub-committee have supported this submission. It is important for mixed groups. It would be equal, and it would mean there will be more women in mixed teams.

- Proposer: Yana Dobzhitskaya
- Seconder: Anita Yngve
- Poll Question: To approve Submission 008-21
- Poll Results: Yes 100%

- c) Submission 012-12 Team Racing World Championship – Terms of Reference

Fiona Kidd, Chair of Team-Racing Sub-committee describes Team Racing as a vibrant part of our sport and a very active group, but it stops at the age of 15. In submission they ask to modify the term of reference Open Team Racing Championship. They are keen to include a World Team Mixed Racing Group which would be gender equal. It would be a good and strong step to move this discipline forward. Fiona asks the WF to support this submission because she believes it is good for women sailing and girls' sailing as they are already Team Racing. If approved a Test Event will happen next year and hopefully introduce it in 2023.

- Proposer: Fiona Kidd
- Seconder: Lucia Bermudez
- Poll Question: To support Submission 012-21
- Poll Results: Yes 96% No: 0% Abstain: 4%

5. Short Presentations

- i. Steering the Course Festival 1 – 2 by Catherine Duncan
- ii. Safe Sailing by Madeleine Dunn
- iii. Update from World Sailing Trust by Victoria Low

The presentations were followed by discussions. Emails were separately sent on all above projects including the presenters' contact details. After the WF meeting.

6. Future of Women's Forum

- a. Chair Elena informed the Women's Forum that she has together with VC Sylvie and Women's Rep for Classes Cary have had several meetings since they have been elected. They have identified three main goals to achieve by the end of their term.
1. Increase participation of Female Race Officials
 2. Safeguarding women in Sport
 3. Maternity and ranking

To also discuss from last year's minutes if Women's Forum remains as is or changes to a Committee.

Further to the above three topics Sylvie Harlé and Andrie Kypridemou gave a brief explanation

i. Sylvie Harlé – Race Officials statistics and perspectives

14% of the International Race Officials are Women.

ii. Andrie Kypridemou – Maternity and Ranking

Elena introduces Andrie and invites her to discuss her topic.

Andrie wanted to put her idea across to the WF to support women athletes who are Pro Sailors to get back into competitive sailing/training and not to be discouraged by the rankings that they would have lost during their maternity and to start from zero. Andrie suggests that women should retain their ranking to get back to training and races and to start on the on the same level that they were on a year or so ago.

Recommendation not based on Submissions - To create three Working Parties for the following: Increase Participation of Female Race Officials, Safeguarding women in sailing and maternity and ranking.

- Proposer: Cary Byerley
- Seconder: Andrie Kypridemou
- Poll Question: To create 3 Working Parties as detailed above:
- Poll Results: Yes 100% No 0% (18 votes in total)

7. Any Other Business

- Elena to discuss whether to remain a forum or become a committee by email exchange, and WF could then make an urgent submission in the Mid-Year Meeting. Cary pointed out that a list of pros and cons should be sent first and then discussed.
- Any more ideas on what the WF should work towards please email WF representatives.
- Elena closed the meeting and thanks everyone who attended, with special thanks to Sylvie and Cary for their great contribution to WF.