The Para World Sailing Committee met at 09:30 – 18:00 hours on Wednesday 30 October 2019 at the Fairmont Southampton, Bermuda.

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

1. Opening of the Meeting
   a) Welcome by the Chairman: The Vice Chair David Staley opened the meeting and welcomed the Committee members and observers to the PWSC meeting on behalf of Betsy Alison, Chair.

b) In Attendance were Betsy Alison (USA), David Staley (AUS), Brian Todd (CAN), Maja Lesny (POL); Alfred Pelinka (AUT), Masakazu Suto (JPN), Jens Kroker (GER - Athletes Commission), W. Scott Perry (URU) Vice President, Massimo Dighe - Staff

Apologies received from Andrew Clouston (NZL), Bernard Destrube (FRA), Megan Pascoe (GBR), Leo Sanchez (ESP), Luiz Velasco (ARG)

2. Para World Sailing Committee and Working Party
   a) Noted the members of the Working Parties

   i. Rankings

      Leader – Megan Pascoe
      Alfred Pelinka
      Brian Todd
      Masa Suto

   ii. Communication (Worlds questionnaire analysis)

      Leader - Alfred Pelinka
      Jens Kroker
      Megan Pascoe
      Luis Velasco

   iii. Race Documentation for World Championships

      Leader - Technical Delegate (TBC)
      Massimo Dighe

   iv. Intellectual Disability Sailing

      Leader - David Staley  DS
v. RS Venture Connect centerline helm seat / transferring crew testing

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

vi. 2017 2020 Strategic Plan Review
Leader – Betsy Alison
Andrew Clouston
Maja Lesny
Emma Hallen

b) Received a brief update on the Working Parties
   i. Classification Working Party: Massimo, Bernard and Jurgen worked with Race officials Manager to review appointments of ICs as Race Officials. The number of events required to qualify has increased with typical time taking 8 years, but fast tracking with review by Chief Classif er can be done in exceptional cases. This was presented to the RO committee – details to come. Currently, we have 12 active International Classifiers.

   With changing structure and timing of designated ParaWorld Championships aligning with Class World Championships in non-Combined World Championship years, there are questions as to what the challenges will be at class worlds for classifiers and the classification process (2.4, Hansa, RS Venture) and there may be some difficulty in how to manage the process and costs.

   Need to review RMM and economize scope and scale. Funds that have been used to support annual World Championship events with provided boats, staff, etc can help offset the costs of ICs at Class World Championships and regional events. We need to encourage opportunities for classification on a national and regional basis to maximize economic efficiencies. We need national level feeds into the IC pathway. Currently we have 4-5 Classifiers in Training. This plan has an impact on the RMM and on Goals 2-4 in the Strategic Plan. Need to coordinate a plan with the Classification WP to streamline the process. Action by WP.

   ii. Technical Working Party: Brian Todd reported no technical issues this year. The WP for 2 Person RS Venture seating discussed if it was practical to do inline seating and/or one center seat with crew transferring. Competitors don’t want inline seating. Anecdotally in AUS, the SKUD fleet changed to helm on centreline with crew transferring which has resulted in an increase in participation from 7 in ’18 to 10 in “19. Suggestion was made to
provide opportunities for sailors to try this configuration by sailors with a disability in the RS for feedback and input. Though testing at staged events was suggested, it did not happen on the RS boats in 2019. Must be done in a way to ensure safety during testing and to make sure the equipment fits the boats and sailors. There must be a clear method for communicating feedback. After Puerto Sherry, there was a strong desire by sailors to test different configurations for the 2-person seating. Sailors also mentioned that seats side-by-side were too narrow and sailors with wider torso cannot fit. Discussion was to set up local sessions using RS provided center seats and crew transferring to solicit sailor feedback.

Rob Holden gave a short description of his experience with the SV14 in Thailand at a clinic and event with fixed version of centreline seats (non-canting). The boats and equipment held up well but the event did not exceed 12 knots of breeze – no spinnakers used. Fixed seats appeared more practical than canting due to height of the actuator. Water comes in through spinnaker launching “sock”. Manufacturer was receptive to feedback and adjustments but did not agree that fixed seats would be better. In fact they have quiet the opposite experience. Crew on side rail would not have made much of a difference due to narrow nature of the hull. Steering handles were a problematic issue – could solve by single joystick. Straps were important, and sailors personalized seats to some extent. Price is inexpensive for emerging nations and the boats are simple. Not much testing yet in high winds or extensively with spinnakers.

RS/SV14 testing – Can we get testing done. In theory, Yes. In practicality, it may be difficult to get enough testing done with a June target date so that the WP can get info update out to sailors. Betsy to try in Newport with single seats in RS. Jens to work with testing in SV 14 in Germany. Hope to test some RS seating options in the UK this spring, contingent on getting seats from RS.


v. Athletes Working Party: No formal report

vi. Ranking Working Party: Para events should easily fit within the new World Sailing ranking system. Weight of the quality of the fleet should factor into that. Focus needs to be having as many events as possible entered into the ranking system. Digitization for automatic output of rankings would be ideal. The option is to move forward with this new ranking system for 2020

c) Working relationships with World Sailing Committees: Regional Games Sub-Committee update was received from Fred Hagadorn. 54 Regional Games around the world in any given quadrennial. Sailing is in 20 of them. Contact is being made with all of the ones that don’t currently have sailing to increase opportunity. The sub-committee wants to build off these efforts to try to gain opportunities for Para Sailing in the Regional Games.
ParaPan Games are managed by IPC who won’t let in a sport that is not in the Paralympic Games. This is different than the Pan American Games which will include sailing events/classes that are not in the Olympics. This makes the 2.4mR class a perfect option for consideration in future Pan Am Games as an event that any athlete can qualify in.

Para Sailing is represented in Equipment Committee and Sub-Committee. Most business there revolves around Olympic classes. Sub Committee deals with ERS issues.

Medical Commission has Para representation on it. No report from there.

d) Proposal to Reform the Governance of World Sailing: Proposed reforms don’t change much for the Para World Sailing Committee in function or purpose. With the proposed second Council (Participation and Development), the PWSC would have a seat on that Council along with 3 BOD members, four non-Olympic Class Reps, and 26 MNA reps. There would be specialist sub-committees for sailing disciplines and multiple working parties. It will have a broad scope of responsibility for the growth and development of classes and sailing worldwide. The impetus for the proposed governance change is quite broad in scope, with most MNAs not happy with current processes and the unwieldy complexity of the submission process. Though the reform proposal may not be a perfect solution, it does address many of the problems and issues that World Sailing’s current system has. It is a compromise and is a move in the right direction. The governance proposal strives to take out the imbalance that the current Olympic-centric system has. The balance comes from the establishing of two equal Councils. One question is how the Para Athlete rep would be selected as this is so far not detailed for the case that Sailing is not part of Paralympics. Scott noted the mentioned aspects and will bring them into the fine-tuning process for the governance reform. Cross fertilization and representation across committees by Para Sailing is important to maintain.

3. International Paralympic Committee

a) IPC Relationship: Discussions are ongoing with IPC. Still challenges to overcome issues with IPC. Confirmed that we can have open/inclusive events and use results of identified classified sailors in our rankings and for IPC consideration. IPC is undergoing a Governance Review (like the one WS just has undergone) to deal with issues like conflict of interest and lack of transparency. Survey will be coming from the governance committee to WS. We can give feedback to the governance committee and ask question on governance issues like lack of vote and representation by IFs (like World Sailing) that are not represented in the Paralympics. In case rights of non-paralympic sports remain suggested to be reduced WS shall make contact with other non-paralympic sports and evaluate legal actions.

b) Discussed possible steps for future reinstatement to the Paralympic Sports Program: Early 2022 the application process will begin for 2028. Need to continue growth and participation by MNAs. More difficult if Para Sailing has no representation at Regional Para Games.
Must continue to push for inclusion. We need to examine old application and have working party look at Red/yellow/green evaluations and note our progress since then. WS should enlist the help of external lobbying consultants for advice on how to positively effect the impact of our application for 2028.

4. Para World Sailing Strategic Plan 2020-2024

   a) Strategic Priorities and Tactics for Goal #1 (Participation) and identify priority actions
      - Development Hotpsots - Committee members to put forward recommended sites and seek Expressions of Interest with the aim of publishing a list of Hotspots by November 2020.
      - Education Resources – A working group (Rob Holden, Andrew Clouston, Betsy Alison, Massimo Dighe) to develop resources which articulate the pathways for para sailors, provide guidelines and material for PDP Seminars and Clinics and a module on Para Sailing Awareness.
      - Equipment – Technical Working Party to review the existing list and publish a table of recommended para sailing equipment by November 2020.

   b) Strategic Priorities and Tactics for Goal #2 (Competition) and identify priority actions
      - A four year events calendar needs to be maintained. A survey to be forwarded to MNAs and relevant Class Associations. Sailing World Cup, other WS events and RegionalGames to be included to assist planning and avoid conflicts.
      - Noted that Blind Match racing and Blind Fleet Racing Worlds are alternate years with one year rest between (3 year cycle).
      - Noted that an event for sailors with intellectual disability should be targeted for 2021 or 2023. Action - DS and working group.
      - Details of the 2022 Sailing World Championships for the Para Sailing disciplines need to be confirmed. Fleet limits are important to inform the ability to include classified para sailors and non-classified sailors. Action – BA, DS & AF.
      - A proposal for regional qualification to be developed once the event limitations are known. Action BT & AP.
      - Current Para World Sailing disciplines will be included in the 2022 Sailing World Championships and the equipment will be confirmed by November 2020.

   c) Strategic Priorities and Tactics for Goal #3 (Communication) and identify priority actions
      - David to contact Daniel Smith regarding a media toolkit and key messages. Action- DSt & DSm.
      - Massimo & Daniel to develop a media communications plan for the coming year. Action MD & DSm.

   d) Strategic Priorities and Tactics for Goal #4 (Governance) and identify priority actions
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5. Events
   a) Sailing World Cup: No participation in 2019. 2.4 will be in Genoa and Hansa in Japan in 2020.
   b) 2019 Para World Sailing Championships: Notable items were results of survey – mainly positive; issues with private boat charters; PWSC should do oversight on vetted providers in future if possible.
   c) 2019 Blind Fleet Racing World Championship: 6 nations/4 continents
   d) Other 2019 Events:
      - Asian Sailing Championship (THA) SV14 - 6 countries
      - Europeans in Austria
      - Pacific Games in Samoa - 7 countries
      - South American Hansa Championships - 3 countries
      - Hansa Europeans - 10 countries / 93 entries
      - Open 2.4 Worlds - 10 countries / 91 sailors. Para sailors placed 1,3,4,7,8
   e) 2020 Para World Sailing Championships to be held with 2.4mR and Hansa Open Class Championships; plans of RS to hold Open Championships or a Championship circuit to be clarified
   f) 2021 Para World Sailing Championships to be held with Open Class Championships
   g) 2022 Sailing World Championships: Combined Worlds in The Hague: Intend is to have the Para Classes as Open World Championships of those classes during that event to continue the pathway of inclusion. Quota discussions and communication with classes to follow.
   h) Other Future Events: Presentation by Jens Kroker on Inclusive Sailing and regattas of “Mixed Athletes’ using SV14s in conjunction with League events. Progressive messaging building mainstream inclusion for all. To begin in Hamburg, GER and emphasize social responsibility.
   i) Events Survey and Sailor’s Forum feedback was noted.

6. Paralympic Development Program
   Received a report regarding the PDPs organized in 2019 and an update regarding the planned events for 2020.

7. World Sailing Trust
   Hannah Hoare gave an update on the focus of the Trust and its three areas of focus: Marine Health; Youth Pathways; and Access to Sailing. The first project in the access category was the study done on Barriers to Access for Women. The Trust will look at broader inclusion, and will be working on how to increase awareness and participation by building inclusive pathways on local and regional levels.
8. **Submissions**
   
a) Considered submissions for which the Para World Sailing Committee is a Reporting Committee and make a recommendation to the Council
   
i. 112-19 Sailor Classification Code: Change of terminology - Regulation 22: Committee unanimously recommends to approve.
   
ii. 119-19 Para World Sailing Events: Regulation 24.6: Committee unanimously recommends to approve.
   
b) To consider submissions for which the Para World Sailing Committee is another Committee: None

9. **Annual Report**

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

10. **Any Other Business:**

    Noted that this committee is about team achievement. We have a great team and need to continue working with each and every MNA to encourage worldwide participation. We have made much progress towards this goal and those in our long term strategic plan and must continue to move forward.

    Regularly scheduled PWSC Meetings to be held on 3rd Tuesday of each month alternating times with meetings no longer than 1 hour.