

The Events Committee met online, at 1100 UTC on 3 February 2026

Members Present:

Wolfgang Mayrhofer (AUT) Chair	Aiko Saito (JPN) Vice-Chair	Shevaun Bruland (AUS)
Saskia Clark (GBR)	Lisa Darmanin (AUS) Athletes' Committee representative	Tayfun Erey (TUR)
Nuno Gomes (ANG)	Anna Holmdahl White (SWE)	Ferran Muniesa (ESP)
Piotr Oleksiak (POL)	Ben Remocker (CAN) Olympic Classes SC representative	Ed Russo (FRA)
Molly Vandemoer (USA)	Tian Wang (CHN)	Geoff Wooley (NZL)

In attendance:

Daniel Belcher (AUS) Vice President	Cory Sertl (USA) Vice President	Michael Downing (Interim Director of Events)
Tim Hancock (Project Manager)	Corinne McKenzie (Events Consultant)	Matt Wheaton (Competitions Manager)

Apologies:

Walter Boddener (BRA)	Paula Douat (COL)	
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1. Opening of the Meeting

- a. The Chair of the Events Committee welcomed committee members and observers to the meeting.
- b. A quorum of 15 members was established.
- c. The chair noted apologies received from members prior to the meeting.
- d. The Committee noted the declarations made in the Conflicts of Interest register and the updates reported in the meeting.
- e. The Committee noted the minutes of the meeting on 6 November 2026 (available at <https://www.sailing.org/inside-world-sailing/organisation/governance/commissions-committees-edi/committee-minutes-archive/>).
- f. There were no matters arising from the minutes not covered elsewhere.

2. Update from the Board

- a. The members received an update from the two Vice Presidents responsible for liaison with the Events Committee. An outline and overview of the Board's five key priorities with reference to this committee was presented, which feature: revenue diversification, returning sailing to the Paralympics, the Olympic vision project, digital infrastructure and teamwork.
Other notable highlights since the last Committee meeting were the inaugural WS Inclusion Championships held in Oman in December, the Youth Sailing World Championships in Portugal and the Fortaleza Test Event which had just concluded in Brazil, with further reports to follow.
The importance of teamwork was emphasized and the work of the World Sailing Executive Office was acknowledged in improving event bidding procedures; noting that the bid process for the 2030-31 World Sailing Championships was underway with expressions of interest expected to open in February.

The VPs offered their thanks to the members of the Committee for their continued dedication to supporting World Sailing and the wider sport.

- b. The committee noted the minutes of the Board meetings since their last Events Committee meeting.

3. Update from the Events Committee Chair/Co-Chair

- a. The Chair of the Events Committee provided updates on the 2026 work plan and commented on ongoing work with working group leaders, building on the progress made in 2025 and working towards next steps. Regarding regulation 11.5, the review of Olympic Events and Equipment, a joint Working Group between the Events, Equipment and Athlete Committees was established with the aim to make aligned recommendations to the Events Committee and the Equipment Committee, respectively, based on available data and in line with the various strategic documents addressing the future of sailing at the Olympic Games, and a clear vision deriving from these documents and the core stakeholder groups within the sailing community. This will be an important part of this year's work for the Events Committee, more to follow in due course.

As previously shared on 10 December 2025, World Sailing Council approved the recommendations of the Format Working Group and Piotr was thanked for his continued work within this area which is both formidable and ongoing.

Thanks were also offered to the World Sailing Staff for their support to the Events Committee in what is expected to be another busy year.

4. World Sailing Championships

- a. The Competitions Manager gave an update on the 2027 World Sailing Championships in Fortaleza, Brazil, reporting that the test event has just concluded and it was a valuable opportunity for the organising committee to evaluate their concepts. There were a number of learnings that will come from the test event that will shape the plans for the championships in 2027, even though entries were low in some events. One such outcome is to review the feasibility to start the championships one week earlier, to reduce the risk of heavy rain and subsequent surface water run-off impacting the regatta.
- b. The Events Consultant gave an update that progress for the 2027 World Sailing Championships in Gdynia, Poland is on track and the test event Notice of Race is published and entries will soon open. The announcement of the America's Cup being raced over the same dates as the championships is planned in July 2027 has necessitated a review of the championship dates in 2027. Urgent work is underway to evaluate the various possibilities, noting the 2027 Panam Games have also recently announced a change to their competition dates, starting a week later 23 July – 8 August 2027. The committee will be updated as soon as a decision is taken on the championship dates.
- c. It was reported the World Sailing Board have selected 'Wing' to be an invited event at the 2027 World Sailing Championships. The World Sailing Executive Office is now investigating the options to implement various Wing events, such as expression or racing, with the hosts of each World Sailing Championship regatta in 2027. The Evaluation Panel is unlikely to recommend further invited events as the remained of the proposed candidates are already known to World Sailing.

5. Olympic Sailing Competition – Los Angeles 2032

- a. The Interim Director of Events reported that the Qualification System for sailing for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games was approved and published by the IOC along with most other sports. LA28 has made progress on their search for a Sport Manager and they continue to progress the details of the required Sport Equipment, e.g., marks, measurement equipment, vessels, and flags. With the delay to the Panam Games in 2027, World Sailing will engage with LA28 to see how this impacts the sailing Olympic test event in 2027. There is a window of opportunity at the end of August 2027 that may suit LA28 and sailing; further details will be shared as they come forward. World Sailing continues to ask for LA28 to recognise a test events in 2026 such as the LBOCR and LAOCR, and along with US Sailing, is working to finalise their schedule.

- b. The Interim Director of Events reported the following progress:

Recommendation 1	Visual Clues for male and female athletes	In Progress	The Team Leader & Coaches Commission will discuss this topic with the view to making a proposal for the EC to consider.
Recommendation 2	Prominent national identifiers	In Progress	The Equipment Committee and Olympic Classes are investigating the possibilities for each Class.
Recommendation 3	Development of standardised and audience-friendly terminology	In Progress	Initial work on the format terminology is complete. Detailed analysis with audience and broadcast experts is due to commence.
Recommendation 4	Race Officials preparation for Olympic Sailing Competition	In Progress	The EAWG has commenced with planning of the WSC and Olympic Games roles as part of the wider strategic appointments of race officials and their development.
Recommendation 5	Integration of race officials into audio-visual presentation during broadcast	Not yet started	On conclusion of the MC26 Paralympic Winter Games, WS will engage with OBS on this recommendation. Work on the WSC broadcast planning has commenced.
Recommendation 6	Opening series scheduled over no more than three days	Implemented	The schedule by Event has been finalised with the Qualification Series scheduled for 3 days.
Recommendation 7	Competing in a wide range of conditions	In Progress	Analysis of the likely weather conditions will lead to updates in the World Sailing Race Management Policies to set the range of conditions.
Recommendation 8	Starting and finishing on time	In Progress	The adjustment of WS Race Management policies, and the use of technology for race management is underway.
Recommendation 9	Not running Windsurfing Marathon Race	Implemented	The schedule by Event has been finalised for Windsurfing without a Marathon Race.
Recommendation 10	Maximum Number of Opening Series Races and Target Durations	Implemented	The schedule by Event has been finalised with the number of dinghy, skiff and multihull Qualification Series races reduced by 20% compared with Paris 2024 and target times set.
Recommendation 11	Variable Leg Lengths	In Progress	Analysis of the likely weather conditions is ongoing to determine the range of feasible options.
Recommendation 12	Course Layout Options and Grandstand Finish Zones	In Progress	Analysis of the likely weather conditions is ongoing to determine the location and configuration of feasible options.
Recommendation 13	Number of Formats	Implemented	Council has approved two formats.
Recommendation 14	Dinghy, Skiff and Multihull Format	Implemented	Council has approved the format.
Recommendation 15	Windsurfing and Kite Format	Implemented	Council has approved the format.
Recommendation 16	Target Times	In Progress	Testing is ongoing.
Recommendation 17a	Testing and test plan	In Progress	Testing is ongoing.
Recommendation 17b	Test plan reporting	In Progress	Testing is ongoing and being reported.
Recommendation 17c	Parameter adjustment	Implemented	Council has approved the delegation of authority to the Events Committee.

- c. The Committee received an update on the testing plan and the tests conducted to date. Feedback from the board classes is positive with the default parameters appearing to be viable. The feedback on the boat classes format is less positive and quite heterogenous. It was noted the format is still maturing as sailors, organisers and race officials adapt to it.
- d. The Committee received an update on the industry's progress to develop Digital Officiating Systems for Olympic Class racing. Race management systems are yet to have enough units for more than proof of concept test although some providers are due to have units available in sufficient quantities in the coming months. Olympic Classes and regatta organisers are willing to engage with possible suppliers as soon as they are ready. Work is ongoing to develop a policy to manage the implementation of Augmented Race Management Systems to enable World Sailing to assess standards and performance, and to allow the categorisation and use of the technology in regattas.

Umpiring systems are still in the design phase as there are various approaches that have widely different technical requirement, e.g., video, tracking, audio and wearables. This is an urgent priority for the board Events and all stakeholders are urged to be proactive in addressing this challenge.
6. <u>Events Committee Work Plan in 2026</u> a. WG1 – Quota and Qualification: the WG chair updates the committee on the formation of the evaluation panel and their plans to coordinate with the Olympic Class 2028 dates in mind. b. WG2 – Event review: addressed in item 7 c. WG3 – Format: already addressed in item 5 d. WG4 – Cost of campaigning: discussions are continuing and the WG has selected the M & W Skiff events for a more detailed analysis with a few to establishing the viability of supplied equipment for BNE2032. e. WG5 – Calendar and rankings: the WG Leader reported the WG focus for 2026 will be rankings element of their remit
7. <u>Olympic Sailing Competition – Brisbane 2032</u> a. The Leader of the Event Review WG provided an update on the next steps of the event review as set out by Regulation 11.5. All World Sailing stakeholders have been informed the process has started and provided with a template to assist them to submit proposals. Proposals must be received by 31 March 2026 to be considered and can only be submitted via the proposals portal at sailing.org. The WG Leader outlined the target timeline of the review and the collaboration with the Equipment Committee on this combined topic. b. The committee members were invited to share their vision for the 2032 Olympic Sailing Competition in line with the Olympic Vision and other strategy documents.
8. <u>Proposals</u> a. None.
9. <u>AOB</u> a. None.

The Chair thanked members and observers and closed the meeting at 12:55 UTC.