

World Sailing
Growth of Sailing Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: January 27, 2026

Location: Teams Webinar Meeting

Commencement Time: 11:00 UTC

<u>Present:</u>	
Malav Shroff (IND) – Chair	Jenny Trumble (VIN)
Inga Jakobson (LAT) – Vice Chair	Irina Pérez Leroux (DOM)
John Philp (FIJ)	Alain Alcindor (SEY)
Sigrid Beckhmann (MEX)	Mandiaye Diouf (SEN)
Mengdi Zhang (CHN)	Albassel Ibrahim (EGY)
Stratis Andreadis (GRE)	Emma Hallén (SWE) - Para Sailing
Borka Bachrata (SVK)	David Covo (CAN) - PANAM Sailing
Maciej Szafran (POL)	
<u>Apologies for Absence</u>	
Raynor Haagh (NZL)	Larisa Zejen – WS Development Assistant
Tomasz Chamera (POL) – Vice President	
Beatriz Gonzalez Luna (MEX) – Vice President	
Sophia Papamichalopoulos (CYP) – Vice President	
<u>Absent :</u>	
Mohamed Alobeidli (UAE)	Luis Velasco (ARG)
Pinar Coskuner Genc (TUR) - EUROSAF	Abdur Rehman Arshad (PAK) - ASAF
<u>In Attendance:</u>	
Fiona Kidd – WS Head of International Development	

<u>Agenda Items</u>	<u>Action/Person</u>
1. <u>Opening of the Meeting</u> <i>Chair's Opening Remarks</i> The Chair welcomed all of the Committee Members to the first meeting of the Growth of Sailing Committee in 2026. <i>Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Conflicts of Interest</i> Raynor Hague sent her apologies that she was unable to attend the meeting. Vice Presidents Tomasz Chamera, Beatriz Gonzalez Luna, and Sophia Papamichalopoulos also sent their apologies as they had a scheduling conflict with a Board meeting that was taking place at the same time. <i>Minutes of the meetings on December 2, 2025</i> The Minutes of the Meeting on December 2nd were circulated and approved by the committee prior to this meeting. <i>Matters Arising</i> There were no matters arising not covered in the meeting agenda.	MS



e. <i>Decisions by Email</i> There were no decisions by email.	
2. 5 Pillar Recommendations a. Each Working Group presented their top recommendation from each of the following 5 Pillars: 1. Competitive Sailing (Olympic, Professional Youth & Para) 2. Leisure Sailing (Youth, Women, Adults and Para) 3. Sailing Support (Coaches, Race Officials, Event Organisers, Volunteers). 4. Projects, Events, Funding & the Sailing Ecosystem. 5. MNA Leadership & Administration Support. <u>Oceania:</u> Presented by John Philp Pillar 1: Reduce the costs to buy and rent equipment / Change equipment in Olympics so that majority of MNAs are able to participate Pillar 2: Leverage major events to promote the sport Pillar 3: Leverage the WS Academy platform to create standardisation for training of volunteers and event organisers Pillar 4: Engage with NGOs for supporting the positive aspects of sailing development. Establish a network for MNA Administrators (like General Secretaries or similar positions) (this one is from Pillar #5 but overlaps with Pillar #4) Pillar 5: Initiate Data Driven KPIs to improve performance & Ensure transparency in MNAs and support financial audits. <u>Africa:</u> Presented by Alain Alcindor Pillar 1: Set up a Regional Training Centre on the continent where athletes, coaches and race officers can go to improve their competencies before they venture outside the continent. (Algeria has the facility to host that Centre now) World Sailing should come in to assist. Pillar 2: Launch an Equipment Donation and Recycling Program in partnership with international donors, sailing clubs, and manufacturers to provide second-hand but seaworthy boats and gear. Similarly to what IODA is doing with the "ROPE" programme Pillar 3: Train local Race Officers and Juries to organise local races and highlight the benefits of volunteering: travel, networking, skill-building Pillar 4: Actively involve residents, foster cultural exchange, and create job opportunities tied to events and sailing in general. (Blue economy and tourism) Pillar 5:	MS/IJ/WG



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Support the creation of new MNAs in countries currently without representation, targeting an increase from 21 to at least 30 active MNAs by 2028.

Americas: Presented by Sigrid Beckmann

Pillar 1:

COMPETE TOGETHER

Create a Pan-American regatta circuit

Pillar 2:

SAIL FOR LIFE

Launch a Pan-American “Community Sailing for All” program

Pillar 3:

GROW THE PEOPLE RESOURCES

Build a Pan-American coach and official development pathway

Pillar 4:

SHARE THE ASSETS

Promote a Pan-American equipment-sharing program

Pillar 5:

STRENGTHEN THE MNAs

Launch a Pan-American MNA Admin Accelerator and Shared Services Hub,

Europe: Presented by Borka Bachrata

Pillar 1:

Strengthen regional competitive pathways as cost-efficient stepping stones to Olympic and professional sailing.

Pillar 2:

Support MNAs and clubs to promote simple, inclusive, and locally relevant entry points to sailing, beyond the traditional Olympic-focused model.

Pillar 3:

Continue to use and further develop the World Sailing Academy as the central platform for education, and professional development - develop tools and space (online and in person for mentoring programmes)

Pillar 4:

Use World Sailing–led and supported projects to test and scale simpler, more flexible, and move towards affordable sailing formats - be a support and leader to MNAs.

Pillar 5:

Provide practical leadership support and mentoring, combining structured resources with peer-to-peer learning.

Asia: Presented by Mengdi Zhang (CHN)

Pillar 1:

Introduce affordable, regionally-suited equipment classes for competitions

Pillar 2:

Establish various leisure sailing programs for youth, women and para-sailors

Pillar 3:

Introduce tiered certification for race officials and coaches , which can be conducted partially online.



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Pillar 4: Encourage private and corporate sponsorship aligned with marine and sustainability values. Pillar 5 : Strengthen engagement with sports ministries and Olympic Committees for recognition. Action: For the next meeting, the Chair asked that each Working Group present an Execution Plan for the top recommendation in Pillar 1 for their Region. The Execution plan should cover why, how, when and by whom a specific project is to be achieved. Create SMART objectives using the Survey data as the benchmark to define how to measure the impact over time. If the data is missing from the survey, the WG will need to go back to their regional MNA's and collect more data.	
3. <u>2026 Work Plan</u> a. The 2026 Work Plan was circulated prior to the meeting. The purpose of the Work Plan is to guide the work of the committee over the coming year by providing objectives and tasks of the Working Groups with a final deliverable of presenting the Development/ Growth Plan for approval by Council at the Annual Conference in November. Action: Update the 2026 Work Plan to reflect the timing and deliverables of the Execution Plans for each pillar.	MS/IJ
4. <u>Report from Executive Office</u> a. Report from the Board Representative(s) The Vice-Presidents were attending a Board Meeting at the same time as the committee meeting so there was no report received from the Board Representatives. b. Report from the Staff <u>2025 WS Training Course Summary Report</u> Fiona Kidd, Head of International Development presented a summary of the following World Sailing training programs. delivered in 2025. i. Technical Courses for Coaches (TCC) ii. National Race Officer Training Program – 3 languages iii. Steering the Course Technical Courses iv. YOG Athlete Development Training Program v. Youth ENP Programme vi. Performance Coach Scholarship vii. World Sailing Academy The report covered the # of courses delivered, the countries, # of attendees and gender balance. Missing from the list is the Development of a National Sport System (DNSS), an Olympic Solidarity funded programme.	BGL/TC/SP FK



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Iceland completed a DNSS this year and Slovakia has just made an application for a second phase of the DNSS that they completed a few years ago. It was suggested that the DNSS framework could be helpful in the creation of an MNA toolkit. <u>Action:</u> FK to add the DNSS to the report and to locate the DNSS framework. <u>2025 Development Symposium Report</u> The 2025 Development Symposium Report was circulated to the Committee prior to the meeting. The Development Symposium received very favourable feedback from the attendees in terms of the format and integration within the Annual Conference and should be repeated again next year. The split between two locations had an effect on the attendance. However, due to the lack of time, there was no discussion on the contents of the report. <u>Action:</u> The Committee Members are to review the report and provide any feedback to the staff. <u>Action:</u> To assist in the planning for the 2026 Development Symposium, each Working Group is to provide a topic for the Development Symposium for discussion at the next meeting. <u>2026 Webinar Series</u> Planning for the Development Webinar Series is underway. The Committee was asked to present some ideas on subjects and presenters for the 1st Webinar Series in the spring. A theme for the Webinars will be created and promoted to our members. <u>Action:</u> The Committee Members were asked to provide 3 to 4 Webinar topics and possible names of presenters for the next meeting.	
5. <u>AOB</u> There was no other business. The date and time of the next meeting is Wednesday, February 19th at 11:00 UTC. The following meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 18th at 11:00 UTC. The meeting concluded at 14:00 UTC	MS/IJ