

Equipment Committee – Informal Meeting



World Sailing Equipment Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: February 12th 2026

Location: Virtually via MS Teams

Time: From 10:00 to 12:00 UTC

Agenda

- 1. Opening of the Meeting**
- 2. Regulation 11 Olympic Sailing Competition**
- 3. Equipment Related Governance**
- 4. Next meetings**

Committee Members Present:

Glen Stanaway **Chairman** (AUS)
Matteo Plazzi **Vice-Chairman** (ITA)
Aileen Loo (SGP)
Diana Kissane (IRL)
Ganapathy Kelapanda Chengappa (IND)
Haluk Suntay (TUR)
Jo Aleh (NZL)
Laura Marimon Giovannetti (SWE)
Niall McLeod (GBR)
Peter Vink (NED)
Roman Hagara (AUT)
Szymon Wierzbicki (POL)
Bill Abbott (CAN)
Alfred Pelinka (AUT) – PSC Rep
Andreas Kosmatopoulos (GRE) – WSCC Rep
Dimitris Dimou (GRE) – ERSC Chair
James Dadd (GBR) – SRSC Rep
Kimberly Lim Min (SGP) – AC Rep
Sandy Grosvenor (USA) – RRC Rep

In Attendance:

Dave Hughes (WS Vice-President)
Corinne Migraine (WS Vice-President)

Jaime Navarro (WS Technical and Offshore Director)
Francesco Gulizzi (WS Technical Manager)
Antonio Saporito (WS Olympic Equipment QC Manager)
Pilar Lopez (WS Classes Manager)

Apologies Received:

Cedric Fraboulet (FRA)

Agenda Items

1. Opening of the Meeting

a. Chair's Opening Remarks

Glen Stanaway welcomed members to the first Equipment Committee 2026 meeting and the first since the 2025 Annual Conference.

A brief reflection on 2025 highlighted the formation of the Committee and its focus on ongoing business, which helped establish the Committee's credibility and contributed positively to the reputation of World Sailing in equipment matters.

Looking ahead to 2026, Glen Stanaway noted that the Committee would begin addressing major projects. Members were reminded that both the Committee's and World Sailing's reputations will depend on how business is conducted, particularly in dealings with classes, builders, and other stakeholders.

Members were encouraged to contribute openly and express strong views while remaining open-minded. Active participation and full engagement were emphasised.

b. Vice-Presidents Remarks

Dave Hughes thanked members for their attendance and noted that, as this was the first meeting of 2026, it was timely to reiterate the Board's core priorities as discussed at the Annual Conference in Ireland.

The Board's key priorities were outlined as follows:

1. Commercial Growth – Continued focus on recruiting new partners and strengthening existing relationships to ensure the financial resources necessary to invest in and develop the sport.
2. Return to the Paralympic Games – Ongoing efforts to secure reinstatement, acknowledging the strong competition among 35 International Federations for limited places.
3. Olympic Vision Project – Active work to safeguard the future of sailing at the Olympic Games, including broadcast, competition formats, and related strategic considerations.
4. Digital Infrastructure – Organisation-wide commitment to strengthening and modernising digital systems.
5. Teamwork and Governance – Emphasis on collaboration under the new governance structure, with a focus on improving how committees and the Board work together.

Dave Hughes noted that the Board recently met and commended the cooperative approach demonstrated through the establishment of the Regulation 11 Working Group, highlighting it as a positive example of collaboration within World Sailing.

He concluded by thanking the Committee for its volunteer commitment and acknowledging the Chair's leadership.

Corinne Migraine introduced herself, outlining her previous roles within World Sailing and as Vice President of the French Sailing Federation.

Corinne Migraine noted that she is relatively new to the Board and that many aspects of the Committee's work are new to her, referencing her recent involvement in the vote on Submission 11.5. Corinne Migraine expressed her intention to ask questions where needed and confirmed her willingness to support the Committee in its work.

c. Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest

Apology from Cedric Fraboulet were noted.

d. Minutes of the Equipment Committee meeting of November 7th 2025

Francesco Gulizzi confirmed the minutes of the 2025 Annual Conference have been approved by the Committee and published on the WS website.

e. Matters Arising

No matters arising.

f. Decisions by Email

Francesco Gulizzi noted the November 2025 decision by email of the Equipment Committee to approve the Building Specification Change received from Chubanga, foil builder of the Formula Kite Class. It was noted that the approval is applicable only to prototypes.

Glen Stanaway confirmed that further details will be given under agenda item 3C

2. Regulation 11 Olympic Sailing Competition

a. Regulation 11.5 Working Group Update

Glen Stanaway confirmed the Board-appointed Working Group has been established to review four Olympic events: Mixed Double-Handed Multihull, Mixed Double-Handed Dinghy, Men's Kite and Women's Kite.

The group led by Laura Marimon Giovannetti includes representatives from the Events Committee, Equipment Committee, Athletes Committee, and Coaches & Team Leaders Commission, with balanced international representation.

Laura Marimon Giovannetti noted the stakeholder submissions will be collected by the office by the end of March. The Working Group will review these submissions and make recommendations to the Events Committee (event matters) and to the Equipment Committee (equipment matters). In addition, it was explained that the final recommendations to Council will come via the Events Committee and there will be no separate direct submission route from stakeholders to Council.

Glen Stanaway confirmed that the Equipment Committee will not submit independent proposals as a committee, encouraged Committee members to engage with their MNAs, since the MNAs as the International Class Associations may submit proposals, and highlighted that a joint Events and Equipment Committee meeting is scheduled (mid-August) to ensure alignment before formal decisions are taken.

b. Regulation 11.4(b)(iii) Task Team Update

Glen Stanaway introduced work under Regulation 11.4b)iii. concerning the potential evolution of equipment used in Olympic events not currently under review.

It was explained that this initiative is structured as an Equipment Committee delegated task team, rather than a Board-appointed working group. The task team will conduct initial work and report back to the Equipment Committee.

Glen Stanaway thanked the following members for volunteering: Haluk Suntay, Jo Aleh, Laura Marimon Giovanetti, Roman Hagara and Kimberly Lim

It was noted that the review will not include events currently under review under Regulation 11.5; the task team will consider whether equipment used in events not under review should be evolved for specific reasons, such as:

- Addressing known issues
- Improving accessibility
- Reducing cost
- Increasing longevity
- Enhancing participation

Classes referenced as within scope include: 49er and 49erFX, iQFOiL, ILCA and 470.

Jo Aleh raised the need to understand the current state of play within certain classes (e.g., discussions within the 49er class regarding potential evolution) and it was agreed that this would form part of the task team's early discussions.

Roman highlighted prior discussions concerning weight and weight limits in female classes, noting this may be an area requiring consideration within the review.

Glen Stanaway explained the process is expected to be collaborative and voluntary, cooperation with class associations and design/copyright holders will be essential and evolution should ideally address clear problems or opportunities rather than create conflict.

It was agreed the task team will make recommendations to the Equipment Committee, which may forward recommendations to Council. If approved by Council, any agreed evolution would apply to equipment for the next Olympic cycle and may result in changes to class rules or builder specifications.

Francesco Gulizzi confirmed that the first meeting of the 11.4 task team is scheduled for Wednesday 18th of February.

c. Regulation 11.7 Task Team Update

Glen Stanaway introduced the Agenda Item concerning Regulation 11.7 (FRAND – Fair, Reasonable, and Non-Discriminatory) equipment re-evaluations. He emphasized that this is a task team initiative, a subgroup within the Equipment Committee, responsible for preparing recommendations to the full Committee.

Members of the task team are: Ganapathy Chengappa, Haluk Suntay, Jo Aleh, Szymon Wierzbicki and Alfred Pelinka.

Glen Stanaway thanked members for their participation and reiterated the scope of the task: to ensure equipment fairness, compliance with European competition law, and adherence to Olympic event requirements for Brisbane.

Jo Aleh noted that while the topic is widely discussed, there are no clear historical guidelines; the team will start the process and clarify procedures.

Szymon Wierzbicki indicated he is new to this area and looks forward to guidance.

Ganapathy Kelapanda Chengappa confirmed his willingness to support the task team remotely.

Alfred Pelinka highlighted the ongoing importance of the 11.7 process as it applies to all equipment.

Bill Abbott raised the challenge of single-source equipment selection and ensuring FRAND compliance in the marketplace.

Glen Stanaway stressed the need for coordination between the 11.7 task team and other ongoing reviews under 11.4 and 11.5 to avoid contradictory recommendations and emphasized that the task team must propose a process for approval by the Board before commencing substantive work.

Jaime Navarro clarified that the project must be completed by the end of 2027.

Francesco Gulizzi confirmed that the first meeting of the 11.7 task team is scheduled for Tuesday 17th of February.

3. Equipment Related Governance

a. World Sailing Policies and Regulations

A task team has been formed under the Equipment Committee with the following members: Glen Stanaway, Aileen H. Loo, Diana Kissane, Peter Vink, Dimitris Dimou, Andreas Kosmetopoulos and Sandy Grosvenor

The group is lead by Glen Stanaway, provides expertise in class representation, equipment rules, governance, and legal matters and aims to review and improve World Sailing policies, regulations, and contracts relating to equipment governance to ensure clarity, transparency, and effective decision-making.

Glen Stanaway noted the task team held its first meeting on February 11th 2026 to define the project scope and approach and highlighted the task team will:

- Review World Sailing policies, regulations, contracts, and related documents governing equipment matters.
- Identify areas requiring revision, clarification, or new policies.
- Address gaps or operational issues resulting from recent governance changes, including the movement of items from regulations into policies.

- Improve clarity, accessibility, and efficiency of the governance framework.

Glen Stanaway also noted that approximately five existing policies require revision, several new policies may need to be drafted and the Equipment Rules Subcommittee, led by Dimitris Dimou, has already prepared a proposal regarding the interpretation process addressing the issue identified in the current regulations and policies which do not properly describe how interpretations should be handled.

Diana Kissane emphasized that the guiding principle should be certainty, clarity, and transparency for athletes and stakeholders. Clear governance enables athletes to plan training schedules, competitions, and finances with confidence.

Dimitris Dimou highlighted the importance of reviewing the recent shift of content from regulations into policies. The team must ensure that nothing was omitted during the transition, policies remain operationally effective and procedures are clearly specified.

Sandy Grosvenor noted that many policies are new, so they should be monitored and adjusted if they are not working effectively.

Andreas Kosmetopoulos indicated he will continue reviewing the materials and provide feedback after further analysis.

Glen Stanaway noted that the task team work is not bound by a specific regulatory timeline, allowing the team to focus on ensuring the framework is correct. The team will continue reviewing policies and governance documents throughout the year, with draft proposals submitted periodically for revisions which may be approved electronically, if minor, or discussed in committee meetings, if significant.

b. Processes under existing Regulations

To oversee and manage ongoing operational processes under existing World Sailing regulations, including handling requests and applications from international classes, a task team has been formed under the Equipment Committee with the following members: Glen Stanaway, Aileen H. Loo, Cedric Fraboulet, Diana Kissane, Ganapathy Kelapanda Chengappa, Peter Vink, Dimitris Dimou.

Glen Stanaway explained the team will work closely with the World Sailing office, particularly Francesco and Pilar and will manage routine but essential governance tasks to maintaining efficient and reliable service to World Sailing members, including:

- Reviewing build specification changes
- Assessing applications for World Sailing class status
- Reviewing existing class status and compliance

Dimitris Dimou noted the need to define clear deadlines for responding to requests and addressing matters raised by classes.

Diana Kissane highlighted the importance of close collaboration with the office and council, particularly for competition-related matters where formal advice must be obtained under policy.

Aileen Loo suggested reviewing criteria and information requirements for classes, including whether the current documentation and review format remain appropriate.

Glen Stanaway emphasized that the task team may be required to make difficult decisions, including declining applications or requesting further information where requirements are not met.

Francesco Gulizzi provided a summary of the previous year Class Status Reviews:

- The Equipment Committee initially recommended multiple classes for review of their World Sailing status.
- Following communication with classes and the office, three classes ultimately had their status withdrawn.
- This process demonstrated that formal review recommendations can prompt classes to address compliance issues.

Francesco Gulizzi provided a summary of this year Class Status Reviews:

- Annual class submissions were due 1 February.
- All but one class have submitted the required information.
- The office will compile and share information with the team for review and potential recommendations.

Francesco Gulizzi provided a summary of New Class Applications:

- An application from the WASZP class remains under consideration.
- The process is pending the final endorsement of the class constitution and approval of class rules
- The committee may be required to consider the application later this year.

c. Equipment related issues

Jaime Navarro and Francesco Gulizzi provided an update on current equipment-related matters being addressed by World Sailing, including equipment approvals, specification changes, reported equipment issues, and mechanisms for collecting feedback from the sailing community.

Formula Kite Class – Chubanga Hydrofoil building specification change update:

- The Equipment Committee after the 2025 Annual Conference approved the Prototype testing following the Building Specification Change request received from Chubanga under Policy D11.
- Prototype testing of the Chubanga Mark 2 equipment is underway.
- The equipment was used at the Fortaleza test event for evaluation under real sailing conditions.
- The Formula Kite Class is expected to submit a report on the testing results.
- The report will include performance feedback and potentially address warranty issues with the manufacturer.
- A final decision on approval may be considered by the Equipment Committee before or at the Mid-Year Meeting, depending on when the report is received.

49er and FX Classes - Equipment Specification Changes Requested in 2024 update:

- The Equipment Committee approved several build specification change requests from the 49er class at the 2024 Annual Conference under Policy D11.
- Some approvals were conditional upon receiving additional documentation from rights holders and builders.
- The Executive Office plans to audit both 49er hull builders in the coming weeks to address the outstanding requirements.

49er and FX Classes - Sticker / Royalty Issue

- Historically, class rules required royalty stickers on equipment.
- The class rules have now been amended to require limitation marks confirming equipment is built by licensed builders.
- The matter appears to be a commercial dispute between rights holders and builders regarding royalty arrangements.
- World Sailing considers this outside its regulatory scope, provided equipment certification requirements are met.
- Further communication with the parties will be handled by the Executive Office.

49er Class - Gennaker Material Issue

- An issue with the 49er gennaker sail material has been reported.
- The Executive Office will investigate further with the class, rights holder, and builders.
- If required, the class may submit a formal building specification change request under Policy D11.

Nacra 17 Class – Daggerboard Issues

- Reports have been received regarding cracking and leakage in Nacra 17 daggerboards.
- The issue primarily affects early production batches.
- The failure appears to relate to bonding at the trailing edge, causing water ingress rather than structural failure in most cases.
- The builder and class are investigating affected serial numbers.
- A repair manual is being prepared to guide sailors on appropriate repairs without affecting equipment compliance
- The Executive Office will investigate further with the class, rights holder, and builder.

ILCA Class – General Update

- No comments were provided regarding the ongoing legal case involving ILCA.
- The class has recently elected a new president.
- ILCA is reviewing governance and moving toward improved governance structures, updated policies and alignment with standard class rule formats
- The Executive Office and Equipment Rules Sub-Committee review of the ILCA standard Class Rules is ongoing

Glen Stanaway reaffirmed the importance of addressing equipment issues through established processes, maintaining clear separation between technical governance matters and commercial

disputes and supporting classes in resolving equipment issues while ensuring compliance with World Sailing policies.

d. Executive Office Update

Manufacturer Certification System (MCS) and Audit Updates

Francesco Gulizzi outlined the Executive Office plans for the 2026 audits of Olympic builders as part of the MCS program. The following was highlighted:

- 49er & FX Classes: Audits planned for both hull builders and rig builder at the end of February, beginning of March. Potential additional audit for 49er gennaker builder depending on discussions.
- Nacra 17 Class: platform, sails, and rig audits to be coordinated with right holder and builders; potential additional audit for foils builder depending on daggerboard discussions.
- iQFoil Class: plan to audit sails and foils builders; board audit to be confirmed.
- ILCA Class: audit for the 49er gennaker builder under consideration, depending on discussion.
- Formula Kite Class: all audits completed last year; no audits expected this year unless necessary.

Haluk Suntay asked if a portion of the audit report would be shared with the Equipment Committee.

Francesco Gulizzi emphasised the intention of the Executive Office on keeping the Equipment Committee informed for guidance and quality improvement. It was confirmed that a tailored report for the committee will be shared while respecting confidentiality.

Jaime Navarro clarified that the initial stage would highlight areas audited and areas of concern, not detailed findings, to enable committee guidance.

Digital and Augmented Race Management Systems

Jaime Navarro provided an update on the development and testing of digital and augmented race management systems. The following was highlighted:

- Systems include Vacaros, Velocitech, Metasails, and others.
- Event organizers and classes have requested approval; World Sailing has paused one-to-one discussions to develop a broader organizational framework.
- Framework aims to define acceptable requirements for Olympic qualifiers and World Championships, including verification and audit processes for sailor-owned equipment.
- Council to vote on the recognition framework at the upcoming meeting.
- Feedback from the committee is welcome; support already received from some groups, awaiting input from Events Committee and Equipment Rules Subcommittee.

Haluk Suntay suggested ensuring cross-compatibility of systems with other race management software.

Jaime Navarro confirmed Committee recommendations will inform the next stage of system endorsement and requirement setting.

Fortaleza Test Event and Supplied Equipment

Jaime Navarro: Noted discussions with ILCA to allow supplied equipment to also be used at the Brazilian Nationals, ahead of the World Championships:

- Open event, available to all competitors attending Worlds.
- Equipment use must ensure no modifications; same standards as World Championships will apply.
- Follow-up actions will be communicated.

Aileen H Loo raised supervision concerns and venue logistics.

Jaime Navarro confirmed these factors will be considered before final decisions.

Invited Events at World Sailing World Championships

Jaime Navarro provided an update on additional disciplines at the upcoming World Championships:

- Wing Foil proposed as invited event at Fortaleza and Gadinia events.
- Discussions ongoing with X15 and Formula Wing classes; both have expressed interest.
- Test events will help inform future Olympic discipline decisions.

Kite Identification

Jaime Navarro provided an update on kite identification highlighting that a new Class manager has been appointed which delayed the decision-making process. Observations from the Fortaleza test events indicated potential recommendations. The Executive Office will provide further updates at the next meeting.

Helmets for Olympic Classes

Jaime Navarro confirmed that the recommendation to have supplied helmets at the Games was approved; the next steps requires the Olympic Broadcasting Service (OBS) to coordinate with the supplier to accommodate cameras. Further work is required on padding and individual identification. The Executive Office will provide further updates at the next meeting

4. Next meetings

Glen Stanaway announced the next Equipment Committee meetings:

- 6 May 2026 – Mid Year Meeting
- 18 Aug 2026 – suggested joint EC/EQ meeting to informally discuss Reg 11.5 as a collective
- 21 Aug 2026 – EQ meeting to vote on equipment related proposals under Reg 11.5
- 29 Sep 2026 – EQ meeting to finalise proposals being made for Council and General Assembly

Glen Stanaway closed the meeting highlighting that task teams including governance and equipment-related matters, should prepare updates or draft proposals for review at the Equipment Committee Mid-Year Meeting.