Para World Sailing Committee Minutes

The PWSC met virtually at 1400 UTC on 26th March 2026

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. World Sailing Updates
3. Classification Sub Committee
4. IPC Bid Update
5. Emerging Nations Working Group
6. Regional Games Committee representation
7. Rankings Grading System
8. World Abilitysport Games 2027
9. Para World Championship Titles 2026
10. Eurasian Cup 2026
11. AOB
12. Thank you and Next meeting

Members Present:

Kay Rawbone (Chair)	Henriette Smith	Paul Adrien Cuvillier
Alfred Pelinka	Jazz Turner	Emma Hallén

Invited Presenters:

Helen McKenzie	Adrian Stoggall	

Staff Present:

Hannah Stodel	Leo af Rosenborg	Daniel Nash
Tom Roberts	Fiona Kidd	

Board Present:

Sophia Papamichalopoulos		

Agenda Items

1. **Opening of the Meeting**

   a. **Housekeeping (HS):**

   Hannah opened the meeting and confirmed that the session was being recorded. It was noted that microphones were muted by default and

that members could use the chat and Q&A functions. Attendees were reminded to keep discussion respectful.
Leo (Para Assistant) and Daniel (Communications Team) supported in the background.

b. **Chair's Opening Remarks (KR):**
Kay started the meeting at 14:00 UTC and welcomed attendees.
She acknowledged the full agenda and highlighted that the meeting would include several substantive updates across classification, the IPC bid, and development programmes, alongside key decisions relating to Para Titles and future event alignment.
Kay encouraged focused and constructive discussion to ensure the agenda could be covered in full.

Kay reflected on the current phase of work within Para Sailing, noting the volume and complexity of activity across multiple areas including classification reform, event delivery, and strategic positioning.
She highlighted the importance of maintaining alignment between the Committee and the Executive Office, particularly given the pace of delivery and the number of concurrent workstreams.
Kay also noted that the Committee's role in providing guidance and oversight remains critical, particularly in relation to decisions being taken at this stage of the cycle.

c. **Apologies for Absence:**
Daniel Belcher AUS
Yuki Hagiwara JPN
Sarah Ogylvie AUS
Betsy Alison USA
Jenny Davey CAN

Hannah noted that the meeting had not met quorum, and therefore any votes would not be able to proceed, and the meeting would be discussion only.

d. **Minutes of February Meeting:**

Confirmed as read and accepted.

e. **Matters Arising:**

No Matters were arising

2. World Sailing Updates

a. **Office updates (HS):**

Hannah provided a comprehensive update on behalf of the Executive Office.

She outlined that a significant volume of work is currently being delivered across multiple areas, including:

- Planning and delivery of upcoming events, including WSIC and associated development programmes
- Ongoing coordination with hosts and stakeholders
- Delivery of classification-related workstreams
- Continued global engagement with MNAs
- IDP Delivery for 2026

Hannah highlighted that the Executive Office remains under considerable pressure due to limited resource and the breadth of activity being managed concurrently. Despite this, key deliverables continue to progress.

She also referenced ongoing support being provided to MNAs in preparation for events, including participation support and programme delivery.

b. **Board updates (SP):**

Board-level updates were shared.

Sophia reiterated the strategic importance of the IPC bid and confirmed that it continues to be a priority area at Board level.

She emphasised the importance of classification progress and governance alignment, noting that this is an area of particular interest and scrutiny.

Sophia referenced the Board's ongoing engagement with Para Sailing, including regular updates on participation growth, development programmes, and event delivery.

Overall, the Board remains supportive, with continued focus on demonstrating progress and impact.

3. **Classification Sub Committee**

   a. **To receive an update from the Chair of the Classification Sub Committee** (HM)

   Helen was noted as not present, so Hannah gave an update on her behalf.

   Hannah provided an overview of progress within the Classification Sub-Committee, confirming that the group is now formally structured and actively progressing work aligned with the IPC 2025 Classification Code. This includes the establishment of dedicated working groups focused on rules alignment, research, and database development. Emphasis was placed on maintaining momentum and ensuring delivery against agreed timelines.

   Hannah updated the Committee on the upcoming Classification Workshop to be held at the World Sailing office. The workshop will bring together key stakeholders to focus on aligning World Sailing Classification Rules with IPC model rules, alongside addressing practical implementation considerations. It was highlighted that this workshop represents a critical milestone in progressing classification readiness and shaping the next phase of delivery.

b. To receive an update on the classification database. (LAR)

Leo provided an update on the development of the new classification database. Initial development is underway with the selected provider, with early-stage versions currently being reviewed. The importance of ensuring a secure, robust, and user-friendly system was discussed, particularly in relation to data management, confidentiality, and operational usability.

Overall, the Committee acknowledged that significant progress is being made across classification, with clear structures now in place. However, it was also recognised that continued focus and resource will be required to deliver against the timelines associated with IPC compliance and implementation.

Leo noted that:

- Globocol development is on schedule.
- Skeleton build is targeted for end of March.
- Backend classification structures are adaptable.
- Athlete-facing interface accuracy is a priority before public launch.

4. <u>IPC Bid update (SD)</u>

a. **To update the PWSC on the status of the IPC bid**

The Committee received an update on the status of the IPC bid and engagement, presented by Hannah on behalf of Scott.

The submission reflects a significant body of work across multiple areas, including event delivery, classification, and global participation, with a strong emphasis on demonstrating growth and long-term sustainability of Para Sailing.

The Committee was updated on upcoming IPC Open Days, which will provide an opportunity for further engagement with IPC stakeholders. World Sailing will be represented at these sessions, with a focus on reinforcing the strength of the bid and responding to any queries or feedback.

It was highlighted that the bid is underpinned by clear evidence of progress, including increased global participation, expansion of events, and the development of structured programmes such as the Inclusive Development Programme. The importance of maintaining consistent messaging and alignment across all interactions with the IPC was emphasised.

Hannah noted that the delivery of the bid has required significant coordination across the organisation and continues to require focused effort to support the next stages of engagement. Maintaining momentum and ensuring clarity in communication will be critical as the process progresses.

The Committee acknowledged the scale of work undertaken and the importance of continued alignment and support in the lead-up to IPC decision-making.

5. <u>Emerging Nations Working Group (SO)</u>

The Committee received an update from Jazz on the progress of the Emerging Nations Definition Working Group.

Jazz outlined that the group is continuing to develop a clear and consistent definition of "emerging nations," recognising the importance of this in supporting fair and effective delivery of development programmes across World Sailing.

The Working Group has reviewed a number of potential approaches and confirmed that it is progressing with Option A as outlined within the supporting document. This approach is considered to provide the most practical and balanced framework for defining emerging nations, while remaining adaptable across different regions.

Henriette provided additional comments, highlighting the importance of ensuring that any definition remains inclusive and does not unintentionally exclude nations that may still require support. She emphasised that the criteria should reflect both current participation levels and broader development context, rather than relying on a single metric.

Discussion within the Committee reflected general support for the direction of travel. Members noted the importance of:

- maintaining clarity and transparency in how the definition is applied;
- ensuring consistency across programmes and regions;
- avoiding unintended barriers to entry for developing nations.

It was also recognised that the definition will have direct implications for eligibility and resource allocation across development programmes and therefore requires careful consideration.

Jazz confirmed that further refinement and validation of the proposed approach will take place before a final definition is presented. This will include continued consultation and testing to ensure the framework is both practical and aligned with World Sailing's development objectives.

The Committee supported the continued work of the Working Group and agreed that a further update will be provided at a future meeting.

6. <u>Regional Games Committee PWSC Representative</u>

a. To discuss representation from the PWSC to sit on the Regional Games Committee

The Committee discussed the requirement to appoint a Para World Sailing Committee (PWSC) representative to the Regional Games Committee.

Fiona introduced the item, noting the importance of ensuring appropriate representation of Para Sailing within the Regional Games structure, particularly as regional events continue to play a growing role in the development pathway.

The role of the representative was discussed, including:

- acting as the primary point of contact between PWSC and the Regional Games Committee;
- ensuring alignment between regional initiatives and World Sailing's Para Inclusive Strategy;
- supporting the integration of Para Sailing within regional events and development opportunities.

The Committee considered the experience and availability required for the role, with an emphasis on ensuring continuity, effective communication, and a clear understanding of Para Sailing priorities.

Following discussion, it was agreed that Elliot will take on the role of PWSC representative to the Regional Games Committee.

The Committee welcomed Elliot's recommendation and noted that his involvement will support stronger coordination and representation within the Regional Games framework.

7. Rankings Grading System

a. To discuss the current rankings points system

Deferred to next meeting.

8. World Abilitysport Games 2027

a. To receive an update on the invitation from World Abilitysport to have sailing in the Games for 2027.

The Committee received a briefing from Hannah on the opportunity for Para Sailing to be included in the World Abilitysport Games 2027 sports programme.

Hannah outlined that World Sailing has been invited to consider participation, noting that the Games present a valuable opportunity to further develop Para Sailing pathways, particularly within a multi-sport environment. The potential alignment with youth and emerging athlete development was highlighted, alongside the opportunity to strengthen collaboration with World Abilitysport.

The Committee discussed the strategic value of participation, recognising that inclusion in the Games could:

- provide increased visibility for Para Sailing within the wider para-sport landscape;
- support athlete development, particularly for emerging and youth sailors;
- offer an additional competitive platform outside of existing World Sailing events.

Consideration was also given to delivery implications, including:

- resource requirements and capacity to deliver alongside existing programmes;
- alignment with the current competition calendar;
- ensuring clarity of format and positioning within the Para Sailing pathway.

The discussion reflected general support for the opportunity, with members recognising the potential long-term benefits for the sport. It was also acknowledged that further detail and planning would be required before any formal commitment is made.

No vote could be conducted due to lack of quorum.

9. Para World Championship Titles 2026

a. To discuss the Para World Championship titles for 2026.

The Committee received an update from Hannah on the proposed Para Titles for 2026, presented in the context of Policy K1 and the ongoing development of the World Sailing Inclusion Championships (WSIC).

Hannah outlined the proposed structure of Para Titles, noting that the recommendations are based on current participation levels, class activity, and the need to support a clear and sustainable development pathway across Para Inclusive Sailing.

The proposed titles included:

- Para One-Person Non-Technical Open (Hansa 303)
- Para One-Person Keelboat Open (2.4mR)
- Para Two-Person Keelboat Open (RS Venture Connect)
- Para Multihull Open (Challenger)
- Para Vision Impairment (with Sighted Guides) Open (TBC)
- Para Intellectual Impairment (One and Two Person) (ILCA 6 & Hansa 303)
- Para Athletes with High Support Needs (Hansa Liberty)
- Youth Para One-Person Keelboat (U25) – World Abilitysport Youth Games

Hannah explained the rationale for this structure, highlighting:

- the importance of aligning titles with active participation and demand;
- the need to ensure deliverability across events;
- the role of titles in supporting classification integration and athlete pathways;
- the intention to balance consistency with flexibility as the programme continues to develop.

The Committee discussed the proposed titles in detail, including:

- the balance across different impairment groups and classes;
- the practical considerations of delivering multiple titles within a single event;
- alignment with broader strategic objectives, including growth and inclusion.

There was general recognition that the proposed structure reflects the current state of the sport and provides a framework to support continued development.

Hannah also introduced the potential addition of a Para WingFoil title to Policy K1, noting that while this represents an emerging area of interest, further development work would be required before formal inclusion.

The discussion reflected general support for the proposed structure.

It was noted that the meeting was not quorate at the time of this agenda item. As a result, no formal vote could be taken during the meeting.

The Committee agreed that the proposed Para Titles for 2026 will be circulated to members following the meeting, with a vote to be conducted by circular resolution.

10. Eurasian Cup 2026

a. To receive an update regarding the 2026 Eurasian Cup and the proposed IDP.

The Committee received an update from Hannah on the status of the Eurasian Cup 2026.

Hannah outlined that planning for the event is ongoing, with continued discussions taking place with relevant stakeholders regarding delivery, structure, and participation. The Eurasian Cup was positioned as an important opportunity to support regional development and expand competitive opportunities within Para Sailing.

She highlighted that the event has the potential to play a role within the broader development pathway, particularly in supporting engagement across the Eurasian region and providing additional competition experience for sailors.

The Committee discussed the importance of ensuring that the event is aligned with existing programmes and calendars, and that it is delivered in a way that supports both participation and long-term development objectives.

It was acknowledged that further work is required to confirm key elements of the event, including format, logistics, and integration within the wider event calendar.

Hannah confirmed that updates will continue to be provided as planning progresses and further details are finalised.

11. **Any Other Business**

No noted discussions or actions.

12. **Next Meetings**

The Committee Scheduled the next meeting as Follows:

23rd April 1100 UTC

21st May 1400 UTC

Action Points

Actions – Executive Office (Hannah / WS Team)

Working Groups

- Review all applications received for PWSC Working Groups and shortlist candidates.
- Circulate proposed Working Group compositions to the Committee for comment and approval.
- Confirm timelines for Working Group initiation and first meetings.

Classification

- Deliver the Classification Workshop at the World Sailing office.
- Progress alignment of WS Classification Rules with IPC 2025 Classification Code.
- Continue development and testing of the Classification Database with provider.
- Provide follow-up update to PWSC on workshop outcomes and implementation timeline.

IPC Bid

- Support ongoing IPC engagement following bid submission, including preparation for IPC Open Days.
- Ensure consistency of messaging and supporting evidence across all IPC interactions.
- Continue coordination across internal teams to support next phase of the bid.

Regional Games

- Liaise with Elliot following his appointment as PWSC representative.
- Ensure handover of key information and alignment with WS strategic priorities.

Para Titles 2026

- Circulate proposed Para Titles to PWSC members for **circular vote** (due to lack of quorum).
- Include clear rationale and any supporting documentation.
- Confirm and communicate final outcome following vote.

Meetings & Comms

- Schedule April and May PWSC meetings and circulate invites.
- Prepare and publish March PWSC meeting minutes.

Actions – PWSC Committee

Working Groups

- Review proposed Working Group member lists once circulated.

Classification

- Engage with Classification Workshop outcomes as required.

- Support progression and adoption of updated Classification Rules.

IPC Bid

- Continue to support IPC bid messaging and alignment where required.
- Engage in IPC-related discussions or opportunities if requested.

Emerging Nations Definition

- Review updated proposal from Working Group (Option A).
- Provide feedback and support agreement on final definition.

Regional Games

- Support Elliot in his role as PWSC representative where appropriate.
- Maintain alignment between PWSC and Regional Games activity.

Para Titles 2026

- Participate in **circular vote** on Para Titles.
- Review supporting documentation and provide informed decision.