

World Sailing
Race Officials Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: 2nd March 2026

Location: Virtual

Commencement Time: 12 UTC

Attendees:

Chair - Ricardo Navarro (BRA)	Vice-Chair Elena Papazoglou (CYP)	Aileen Loo (SGP) – IMSC Chair
Kevin Hawkins (USA) – IJSC Vice Chair	Chris Lindsay (IRL) – IUSC Chair	Anne Malledant (FRA)
Alan Baser (GBR)	Miguel Amaral (POR)	Bence Borocz – RRC Representative
David Brookes (AUS)	Lynne Beal (CAN)	Liang Chou (CHN)
Giorgio Davanzo (ITA)	Christophe Gaumont (FRA)	Sandy Grosvenor (USA)
Francisco Jauregui (MEX)	Ewa Jodlowska (POL)	Captain Arshad Rehman (PAK)
Nino Shmueli (ISR)	Vice President – Tomasz Chamera	Vice President – Cory Sertl
	Megan Griggs – World Sailing (MG)	Michael Downing – World Sailing (MD)

Agenda Items

1. Opening of the Meeting

a. Welcome by the Chair

Chair, Ricardo Navarro welcomed all committee members to the meeting.

VP Cory Sertl thanked members and noted the annual conference date change to 16 November to accommodate the Youth Olympic Games in Senegal. Cory confirmed the Board had approved the Race Officials Committee work plan.

VP Tomasz Chamera

Tomasz thanked members for all their efforts and identified EROC and EAWP remains persistent outstanding issue. Tomasz requested input on any proposed Event

Appointment Working Group, noting a priority for critical upcoming events including the

2027 Sailing World Championships and Olympics. TC shared an updated from Winter Olympic Games and warned of realistic reductions in sailors and events after Los Angeles and highlighted essential need for Sailing to strengthen technical presentations of the sport.

- b. Apologies received from Dimitris Dimou (GRE).
- c. The Committee noted the declarations made in the Conflicts of Interest register with no further matters arising.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous Race Officials Committee meeting held on 6th November 2025 were reviewed, with no matters arising from those minutes not already covered by this agenda.

3. Work Plans

- a. Ricardo presented the Race Officials Committee work plan as approved by the Board and outlined its key objectives. These include evaluating technology for umpiring and race management, advancing educational initiatives to broaden MNA engagement, progressing EROC activities, delivering national-level education courses, providing assessment support for appointments, and establishing a mentoring program for World Sailing race officials.
- b. Sub-Committee Chairs to share an update on their workplans

Anne Malledant (AM) provided a summary of work across four key focus areas: technology, policies, education, and mentorship. AM confirmed that technology development is progressing in partnership with the Executive Office. Two policy updates are planned for 2026: an initial update prior to the Princess Sofia event in Palma, followed by a further update, including a comprehensive technology overview, to be completed ahead of the first Olympic qualifier in September. AM also noted that the education programme is being developed in collaboration with the Executive Office and will include 4 seminars with geographic distribution across Europe (two seminars), Oceania, and Asia. In addition, mentoring guidelines are currently under development.

Aileen Loo (AL) provided an update highlighting the Digital Race Office as a key priority. She also noted the importance for IMSC to advance digital education initiatives. This project is being led by Jurgen Cluytmans, who has developed a framework for a basic Equipment

Inspector training course to be delivered online and accessible to all. AL expressed the intention to prioritise implementation of this programme within the year. AL confirmed proposal for 3 IM seminars this year.

Kevin provided updates on several initiatives: the launch of a new IJ report website designed to streamline judge entries and reviews; ongoing manual edits; planned updates to event reference forms scheduled before 1 June; the formation of a new working team to manage digital tool requests, with a first draft expected by 31 March; and four upcoming seminars in 2026.

4. Education and Development

- a. Megan Griggs (MG) shared a report from the Executive Office on the MNA application process for 2026 Race Official education courses, including Seminars, Clinics, and the National Race Officer Training Program, aiming to improve transparency, streamline administration, and support strategic education delivery.

A total of 40 applications from 29 MNAs across all continents were received. Applications are now under review in collaboration with Sub-Committee Chairs, with course approvals, instructor appointments, and online publication to follow. A proposed process for 2027 application, with support received from Race Officials Committee.

- b. Megan Griggs (MG) shared a report from the Executive Office on the Pilot Development Programme outlining the adaptations made following feedback from the Annual Conference, with the pilot prioritising event-based opportunities for newly qualified officials.

5. Working Group Updates

- a. Giorgio Davanzo advised delays had occurred on the conflict-of-interest review. RN confirmed Prepare a full report for the mid-year meeting.
- b. Christophe Gaumonth confirmed he was awaiting responses from those identified within the working group. RN encouraged all members to proceed with contacting Christophe to allow for a suitable update at the mid-year meeting.

6. Any Other Business

The committee discussed the proposal to designate the Jury Secretariat position as an International Technical Official (ITO) role. It was noted that existing IOC accreditation allocations are fixed, meaning that any additional ITO position would likely require the reallocation of an existing accreditation, particularly within the context of the Olympic Games and World Sailing Championships.

The committee also noted that if the Jury Secretariat were to be recognised as an ITO role, it should be filled by an individual with international status. However, doing so would require redistributing current accreditations.

After consideration, the committee confirmed that they do not support the creation of a new ITO role for the Jury Secretariat.

7. Closed Session

- a. To committee discussed recommendations from Sub-Committees regarding updates to the instructor and assessor list.