

World Sailing
Growth of Sailing Meeting Minutes

Meeting Dates: March 24 & April 7, 2026

Location: Teams Webinar Meeting

Commencement Time: 11:00 UTC

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

Agenda Item
1. <u>Opening of the Meeting</u> <i>a. Chair's Opening Remarks</i> The Chair opening the meeting and welcomed the Committee members and any observers. There were technical issues for the Meeting on March 24th, so it was deferred to April 7th to continue the discussion on the Agenda Items. The only items discussed at the March 24th meeting was the approval of the February 18th meeting Minutes. The Chair welcomed Jennifer Hall, the appointed member of the Oceanic and Offshore Committee as their representative on the Growth of Sailing Committee. The Vice Chair also welcomed the committee members to the Meeting. <i>b. Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Conflicts of Interest</i> Apologies or their absence received from Borka Bachrata (SVK). <i>c. Minutes of the meetings on February 18, 2026</i> The February 18th Meeting Minutes were circulated to the committee. The Minutes are approved as read.

d. *Matters Arising*

There were no matters arising from the February 18th meeting.

e. *Decisions by Email*

The Committee members approved the Proposal that was submitted on March 31st regarding Regulation 11 and the selection of Olympic events/equipment.

2. Pillar 1 Execution Plans

Working Groups presented their measurable Execution Plans for Pillar #1 – on how to grow Competitive Sailing (Olympic, Professional Youth & Para) in their respective region.

Pillar #1 Pan American Execution Plan was presented by Sigrid Beckman (SB).

Their plan is based on **3 priorities**:

1. Strengthen Youth to regional, Panam and Olympic pathways
2. Expand access to double-handed and performance classes
3. Build inclusive competitive systems (Para and Women)

Execution Plan Summary:

1. Youth to Olympic Pathway – deliver regional transition clinics & launch a regional ranking system, certify HP coaches
2. Performance Classes Expansion – Introduce new youth fleets & equipment pool + add regional events & hubs of activity
3. Inclusion (Para & Women) – launch new Para sailing programs & delivery inclusive coaching clinics, new scholarships.

KPIs for the plan were presented along with the resources required (funding, equipment, coaching events and partnership) and the impact of the plan in the region.

Pillar #1 Africa Execution Plan was presented by Alain Alcindor (AA)

Sailing development across Africa remains uneven, with limited access to structured training, certification pathways, and high-performance support for athletes, coaches, and race officials.

AA summarized the implementation of a Regional Training Centre in Algeria based on the following strategic objectives:

- Central location within the **North Africa region**
- Year-round sailing conditions
- Existing sports governance structures
- Existing sailing facilities and equipment
- Opportunity to support **small MNAs**

AA presented the key components (training programmes, HP camps, technology development), partnership framework, estimated budget and timelines for implementation. He outlined who would run the centre and how much it would cost in Euros and provided an income vs Expenditure analysis.

It is estimated that the Algeria Minister of Sport and World Sailing would be financial contributors along with 2 main sponsors / partnerships that would need to be brought on board over the next 2 years. Increasing the number of regional /continental competitions in classes other than the Optimist are important. The training camp in Algeria is well suited of this role.

Their goal is to have the Regional Training Centre in Algeria up and running by the end of 2026. The plan is to use the existing Algeria training centre as the pilot in the north and then over time add another hub in the east, west and south.

Further discussion evolved around the Youth Olympic Games, and that the goal in the region should be to increase the number of WS members and hence NOC's that would become involved in activity in the region.

Pillar #1 Asia Execution Plan was discussed briefly by the Chair. The presentation itself was deferred to the next meeting as the presenters were not in attendance. However, the Chair provided a summary that the Asian Plan is like the North & South America's Plan. Asia wants to host regional and continental events/series to build talent at home and only focus on a few Olympic pathway equipment. Most of the funding in Asian countries comes from governments. If they have a good plan, it will likely be funded by the government.

Pillar #1 Oceania Execution Plan was presented by John Philp (JP) JP presented the plans of a National Training Centre in Fiji like that in Algeria. It involves a strip of reclaimed land in 2007 for the Hobie Cat World Championships. The land is shared with the University of South Pacific. In the past, they have used large regional and global events as leverage to get government funding, tax breaks, and sponsors to create the facilities. Their plan is to reclaim a small portion of the public beach so that they create one large recreational water facility. There is also a Maritime school on the other side of the university that trains personnel for ships captains for the region.

The Fiji Voyaging Society has an office at the Fiji National Sailing Centre, which will become the Oceania Centre that engages with traditional sailing. There is an issue of ownership of the land that needs to be resolved if this plan was to move forward.

The Oceania WG will present budget projections of their plan in the next meeting.

Pillar #1 Europe Execution Plan was not presented by the Europe WG as they are initiating a Combined Committee WG to look at the youth to Olympic Pathway.

The Chair commented that for all the WGs, it is important to take the strategic work one step further and determine who will do the tasks, how are they to get done & what is the cost. The Africa template was very good and could form the basis of a standard template.

Emma Hallen, the Para Sailing Committee Representative urged the committee to consider options in making sailing centres accessible for Para Sailors. It is much easier to consider accessibility when building a facility than changing it after it has been built. She also urged the sailing centres to have accessible Para sailing equipment and coaches that know how to instruct sailors with disabilities.

Action: FK to create a budget template of a training centre with the basic dinghy structure and consider the needs of inclusion and Para Sailing at the same time. The template is to be shared across the working groups.

3. 2026 Work Plan

The revised 2026 Work Plan that included the new Cross Committee Working Group is being reviewed by the Board. The revised Work Plan was not received in advance by the Board at their last meeting to be considered. It will be discussed in their next meeting.
4. Olympic Classes Proposal The Proposal from the Growth of Sailing Committee was submitted on March 31st. The Chair of the Events committee sent an email to the Growth of Sailing Chair on April 4th with information on the review and evaluation process. They received 25 registered proposals from MNAs, Classes Committee Chairs, Continental Associations, and IROs out of four continents. A Town Hall Meeting is planned to place in late April/early May to the broader sailing public on next steps.
5. <u>2026 Development Webinar Series</u> This item was not discussed. The Executive Office did not receive any topics from the committee for the Webinar Series 1 taking place in May & June. The staff will proceed with the planning of the Webinar Series and report back with any confirmations at the next meeting.
6. <u>2026 Development Symposium</u> Fiona Kidd (FK) updated the committee regarding the 2026 Annual Conference schedule taking place in Qingdao, China. There are only two x 3-hour time slots available for the Development Symposium this year compared to 1 ½ days and a series of lunch & learn and keynote speaker sessions that occurred last year. As a result, the staff will review options and update the committee at the next meeting.
7. <u>Report from Executive Office</u> - Report from the Board Representative(s) Due to the lack of time, the VP's did not present a report. The next Board meeting is taking place in London on March 19th & 20th. - Report from the Staff FK provided an update report on the activities in the Development Department since the last meeting. They include: - Youth ENP Deadline was March 31st – Selection to start week of April 6th - Development Coach Scholarship to start on April 20th – 10 Candidates –BIZ, IND, JAM, MAD, MRI, SOL, TAN, TTO, VIN. (IRQ) - Race officials course applications are finalized – approx. 40 courses are planned - up from 15 in 2024. - YOG Camp #3 – Tangier, Morocco – May 4-9th – planning, flights, OS. NOC Funding and support. - Steering the Course Festival Dates - May 22nd to 31st & Sept 25th to Oct 4th - Deadline to apply for STC Technical Courses ends April 10th - World Sailing Academy – new course content & hubs – e-sailing & offshore – Online Safeguarding Course to be completed, VR Training - WISH Program – Cohort 6 residential course complete – Cohort 7 & 8 candidate selections have been made - Upwind by MerConcept Ocean 50 collaboration – April 29th - YOG Camp #4 – 1st/2nd Week of September in Saly, SEN - Performance Coach Scholarship - Sept 21st to Oct 17th. (NEW DATES)

8. AOB

There was no other business.

The next meeting is scheduled for either May 4th or 5th at 11:00UTC. FK to confirm and inform the committee of the final date.

The meeting concluded at 12:30 UTC.