



Para World Sailing Committee Minutes

The PWSC met virtually at 1000 UTC on 23rd April 2026

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

Members Present:

Kay Rawbone (Chair)	Henriette Smith	Paul Adrien Cuvillier
Alfred Pelinka	Jazz Turner	Emma Hallén
Betsy Alison	Irina Perez	Yuki Hagiwara
Gabriel de Baroso	Sarah Ogilvie	

Invited Presenters:

Helen McKenzie	Adrian Stoggall	Dan Jaspers
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Staff Present:

Hannah Stodel	Leo af Rosenborg	Daniel Nash
Scott Dougal	Fiona Kidd	Alberto Carrero

Board Present:

Sophia Papamichalopoulos	Cory Sertl	Daniel Belcher
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Agenda Items

1. Opening of the Meeting

a. Housekeeping (HS):

Hannah opened with housekeeping, who welcomed a notably high number of observers and highlighted the broad World Sailing staff presence on the call, including representatives from communications, development and e-sailing. Hannah reiterated expectations around respectful participation, use of the chat/Q&A functions, and noted that the meeting was being formally recorded with minutes to follow.

Leo (Para Assistant) and Daniel (Communications Team) supported in the background.

b. Chair's Opening Remarks (KR):

Kay Rawbone formally opened the meeting and reflected on the continued momentum across Para Inclusive Sailing activity globally. Particular recognition was given to the recent newsletter output, growing engagement from Paralympic stakeholders, the upcoming Steering the Course activity, and the work undertaken by the classification team. Kay noted the significance of increasing interest from both the IPC and wider Paralympic movement and acknowledged the amount of work currently being undertaken by both volunteers and staff.

The March meeting minutes were accepted without amendments or matters arising.

c. Apologies for Absence:

Jazz Turner GBR

d. Minutes of March Meeting:

Confirmed as read and accepted.

e. **Matters Arising:**

No Matters were arising

2. World Sailing Updates

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

Hannah provided an overview of current activity within the Para team. She noted that the team was operating under an extremely busy workload, with simultaneous delivery of rankings work, newsletter communications, classification rule drafting, event preparation, IPC engagement and development activities. Eight Para Inclusive events were scheduled for the coming weekend alone, illustrating the current scale of activity taking place globally. Hannah noted that despite resource pressure, significant gains had been made in the areas of classification, IPC engagement and development delivery.

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

Daniel Belcher then addressed the committee on behalf of the Vice Presidents and Board representatives. Daniel highlighted the “astounding” breadth of current activity and confirmed that substantial effort had been undertaken over the previous month in direct engagement with IPC stakeholders and Brisbane 2032 decision makers in support of the Paralympic reinstatement campaign. Particular emphasis was placed on classification as a critical pillar of the bid strategy.

Sophia Papamichalopoulos reinforced the Board's continued prioritisation of Para Inclusive Sailing and reflected positively on attending the classification workshop in London. She acknowledged the complexity and scale of the work being undertaken by the classifiers and stressed the strategic importance of classification reform within the reinstatement process. Sophia confirmed that communication with both the IPC and Brisbane 2032 stakeholders remained active and ongoing.

3. Classification Sub Committee

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

Helen reported that following the workshop, work had continued intensively between the classifiers, World Sailing legal team, Hannah and Leo to produce the first draft of the provisional classification rules. The draft was nearing completion and would shortly be submitted to the IPC following final classifier review. It was noted that only five International Federations had submitted draft rules to date, positioning World Sailing ahead of a number of other sports in the compliance process.

Further discussion focused on the future implementation and testing of the revised classification process. Helen noted that upcoming classification opportunities were limited in the short term, however the World Sailing Inclusion Championships in Portugal would provide a major opportunity to test the new systems and athlete pathways at scale. Helen stressed the importance of future sailor consultation and confirmed that town hall meetings would be organised to gather athlete feedback once the provisional rules were circulated publicly.

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

Leo af Rosenborg then updated the committee on the new classification database project, referred to operationally as the “Parasailing Classification Hub.” Leo explained that following initial demonstrations from Globocol, extensive follow-up meetings and feedback sessions had accelerated the development process significantly. World Sailing now had access to a live testing platform for stages one and two of the system.

The system would enable athletes and MNA administrators to upload Medical Diagnostic Forms, which could then be assessed by the Underlying Health Condition panel. Leo confirmed that the project

remained on track for operational use at the World Sailing Inclusion Championships in October 2026. A pilot programme involving selected MNAs would commence within weeks to test live functionality.

4. IPC Bid update (SD)

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

Scott Dougal provided an extensive update regarding the Brisbane 2032 Paralympic reinstatement bid. Scott confirmed that World Sailing's submission had been lodged in December and that the IPC Governing Board was expected to receive an initial executive report on all submissions shortly. However, timelines remained fluid due to the IOC's ongoing Olympic programme confirmation process. Scott advised that a final IPC decision could realistically extend into late 2026 or early 2027. Scott noted that World Sailing remained in close communication with IPC stakeholders and praised both the Board representatives and classification team for their contribution to the process. He highlighted that World Sailing had been invited to present during the IPC Open Days plenary session as an example of a recognised International Federation demonstrating strong development progress outside of the Paralympic Games programme itself. This was recognised internally as an important reputational achievement for the organisation and the Para programme.

The messaging strategy for the IPC Open Days was outlined around three core pillars: classification progress, a cost-effective and operationally viable Paralympic event proposal, and global participation growth. Scott stressed that the worldwide reach and increasing participation statistics were central to the credibility of the bid.

Hannah followed this by directly addressing the committee and wider community regarding the importance of continued athlete participation. She stressed that every additional sailor competing internationally was strategically valuable and urged all committee members and MNAs to actively support athlete participation at every level. The target of



surpassing forty regularly participating nations was referenced as a key metric within the IPC narrative.

Henriette Smith further reinforced the importance of regional collaboration between MNAs, highlighting practical examples from Scandinavia and mainland Europe where countries were sharing resources, coaching and equipment to strengthen participation pathways.

5. WSIC (AS)

Adrian Stoggall provided a detailed operational update on the World Sailing Inclusion Championships 2026 in Portimão, Portugal. He confirmed that entries were now open, the Notice of Race had been published, and planning was progressing positively with the local organising authority. Eleven events were currently included within the programme.

A major focus of discussion was the urgent need for early entries. Adrian stressed repeatedly that current entry numbers remained lower than required for effective operational planning. He highlighted that without confirmed participation numbers, the organising team could not finalise fleet allocations, charter arrangements or event infrastructure planning. Flexibility and support remained available for athletes and MNAs experiencing barriers to entry, but the organising team required visibility of likely participation.

Henriette Smith raised concerns from sailors regarding access to equipment and uncertainty around double-handed partnerships. Hannah responded by reinforcing the development philosophy of the championships, noting that coaching support would be available for athletes trying new equipment or classes for the first time. The event was framed not only as a World Championship but also as a developmental opportunity intended to encourage wider participation and accessibility. Betsy Alison requested additional clarity around fleet structures and race formats, particularly regarding combined inclusive and para fleets. Hannah confirmed that racing would continue under the “all-in” format used



previously, with para results extracted from inclusive fleets following racing. The possibility of introducing gold and silver fleets was also discussed as a response to feedback from the inaugural championships.

Further discussion focused on communication gaps around athlete support and equipment access. The committee agreed on the importance of clearer communication to sailors regarding available support mechanisms, coaching access and entry flexibility.

6. Rankings Grading System (BA)

Discussion on the rankings grading system was deferred. Betsy Alison noted that she had not been prepared to lead the discussion due to missing the previous meeting and requested that the matter be revisited at a future session. The committee agreed to defer the discussion and support Betsy offline ahead of the next agenda item on rankings.

7. IDP- F Antigua

Dan Jaspers delivered an extensive update on the upcoming Inclusive Development Programme in Antigua. Dan reflected personally on the significance of returning to Antigua, referencing his own involvement in the Emerging Nations Programme in 2014 and describing the current IDP as a major evolution of that earlier work.

The programme was described as strategically important in demonstrating momentum, credibility and regional growth within the Caribbean. Dan confirmed that approximately ten countries had already shown active interest, surpassing initial participation expectations. Several Caribbean nations with limited or no prior Para sailing activity were expected to participate, alongside interest from Central and South American nations.

Dan emphasised that the programme was intentionally designed around entry-level participation and confidence building rather than high-performance racing. Cultural and environmental barriers around water participation in some Caribbean communities were discussed in detail, with the programme seeking to address these through safe, supportive introduction pathways.



The programme would include practical coaching, land-based sessions, classification opportunities and a final regatta intentionally framed as participation-focused rather than elite competition. Dan also confirmed the use of World Sailing development funding to support emerging nation participation through accommodation, food and travel grants.

Henriette Smith spoke passionately about the life-changing impact of previous IDP experiences for athletes, stressing the confidence-building value of the programme and encouraging sailors to actively pursue opportunities through their MNAs. Hannah later confirmed that World Sailing was close to finalising an expanded global IDP schedule for 2027, with activity planned across most world regions.

Further discussion also identified North America as a remaining development gap for 2027, with agreement to continue discussions offline regarding potential future performance clinics and support structures in the region.

8. MarineVerse Testing Day – World Sailing Office

Hannah introduced the upcoming MarineVerse testing day taking place at World Sailing headquarters. The project was originally initiated as part of classification research for athletes with intellectual impairment but had since evolved into a broader accessibility and training initiative.

The initiative aimed to test the accessibility of VR sailing systems for athletes with varying impairments, including the usability of controls, headsets and hand recognition technologies. Alberto Carraro explained that the MarineVerse system already supported multiple interaction methods, including keyboard input, VR hand controls and gesture recognition, with further accessibility testing planned.

The ambition was confirmed to integrate MarineVerse into the World Sailing Inclusion Championships as a training and development tool within the sailors' lounge environment. Considerable discussion focused on accessibility and cost concerns, with Henriette Smith raising the importance of ensuring technologies remained affordable and adaptable



Para World Sailing Committee Minutes

for athletes with physical coordination challenges. The committee also discussed potential collaboration with universities and research institutions to further support accessibility development.

9. PWSC Working Groups

Hannah confirmed that the call for volunteers for the working groups had received a very strong response from the community. Work was continuing with the Board to finalise the structure and appointments prior to formal announcement.

Kay noted that a lead would still be required for the Promotions Working Group and suggested that this may come from within the committee membership itself.

10. Any Other Business

Leo provided an update on upcoming webinars, particularly those linked to MarineVerse and VR sailing development. Two sessions were scheduled across different time zones to maximise global accessibility.

Hannah additionally confirmed that further webinars relating to classification and the World Sailing Inclusion Championships would be organised in the coming months.

Kay also reminded the committee of the upcoming Steering the Course Women's Sailing Festival and encouraged centres globally to participate and promote activity through World Sailing channels.

A minor issue regarding webinar calendar timings and daylight savings discrepancies was identified by Henriette Smith and acknowledged by Leo for correction.

11. Next Meetings

The committee discussed the possibility of introducing a third rotating meeting time slot to better support Oceania participation. Hannah outlined the possibility of introducing an evening UK time slot, though no final decision was made and the matter would continue offline with affected regions.



Para World Sailing Committee Minutes

The meeting concluded with thanks from both Kay Rawbone and Hannah Stodel to the committee, observers and wider World Sailing team for their ongoing contribution and engagement.

The next meeting is 21st May 1400 UTC

Action Points

Executive / World Sailing Actions

1. Continue development and testing of the Parasailing Classification Hub, including rollout of the pilot programme with selected MNAs.
2. Organise future classification town hall meetings and athlete consultation sessions once provisional rules are published.
3. Strengthen communications encouraging early entry for WSIC 2026, including targeted messaging around equipment access, coaching support and participation pathways.
4. Publish clearer guidance and communications regarding support for sailors seeking crews, equipment access or first-time participation at WSIC.
5. Continue operational planning for WSIC 2026, including charter arrangements, race management structures and fleet planning.
6. Finalise and publicly announce the 2027 global IDP schedule.
7. Continue discussions regarding future North American development and performance clinic opportunities.
8. Deliver the MarineVerse testing day and publish follow-up findings relating to accessibility and athlete feedback.
9. Continue exploring affordable and accessible VR and e-sailing technology solutions for athletes with impairments.
10. Finalise appointments and announce the PWSC Working Groups.



11. Correct governance calendar discrepancies relating to webinar scheduling and daylight savings.
12. Explore feasibility of introducing a third rotating PWSC meeting time slot to improve accessibility for Oceania participants.

PWSC Actions

1. Continue advocating within MNAs for increased participation at all levels of Para Inclusive Sailing activity.
2. Encourage MNAs to commit athlete entries early for WSIC 2026 to support operational planning and fleet viability.
3. Support regional collaboration initiatives between neighbouring MNAs to strengthen athlete pathways, shared coaching and equipment access.
4. Promote IDP opportunities actively within national programmes and encourage emerging sailors to engage with development pathways.
5. Encourage sailors and MNAs to participate in upcoming MarineVerse webinars and provide accessibility feedback.
6. Support identification of a lead for the Promotions Working Group.
7. Continue discussions offline regarding improved accessibility of committee meeting time zones.