



PWSC Meeting Minutes

The PWSC met virtually at 1300 UTC on 21st May 2026

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| 1. Opening of the Meeting | 7. Rankings Event Grading System |
| 2. World Sailing Updates | 8. IDP-F Antigua June 2026 |
| 3. IPC Bid Update | 9. PWSC Working Groups |
| 4. Classification Sub Committee | 10. AOB |
| 5. WSIC 2026 | 11. Thank you and Next meeting |
| 6. Event updates | |

Members Present:

Kay Rawbone (Chair)	Emma Hallen (Vice Chair)	Besty Alison
Jazz Turner	Henriette Smith	Elliot Levy
Paul Adrien Cuvillier	Helen McKenzie (CSC)	

Invited Presenters:

Adrian Stoggall	Dan Jaspers	
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Staff Present:

Hannah Stodel	Leo af Rosenborg	Daniel Nash
Fiona Kidd	Scott Dougal	Tom Roberts

Board Present:

Cory Sertl		
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Agenda Items

1. **Opening of the Meeting**
 - a. **Housekeeping (HS):**

The meeting was opened by Hannah, who welcomed attendees and observers to the May Para World Sailing Committee meeting. Hannah explained that the agenda order would be adjusted slightly to allow Board comments at the beginning of the meeting before returning to the standard structure. Hannah completed housekeeping, reminding attendees that microphones would remain muted unless activated by moderators, the chat and Q&A should remain respectful, and the meeting should not be independently recorded as official recordings and notes would be circulated following the meeting.

b. **Chair's Opening Remarks (KR):**

Kay thanked all committee members, observers and volunteers for their continued work and commitment to Para sailing globally. Kay noted that the committee had a very positive and substantial agenda ahead and encouraged participation, questions and discussion from all attendees throughout the meeting.

Kay reflected on the growing international recognition of sailing's inclusivity model, noting conversations taking place in Hong Kong around inclusive sport and Para sailing. Cory agreed and stated that the inclusive model of sailing was now increasingly recognised internationally as a major strength of the sport.

c. **Apologies for Absence:**

Yuki Hagiwara JPN

Sarah Ogilvie AUS

Daniel Belcher VP

Sophia Papamichalopoulos VP

d. **Minutes of April Meeting:**

Taken as read.

e. **Matters Arising:**

None noted.

2. World Sailing Updates

a. Office updates:

Hannah then delivered the World Sailing office updates. Hannah noted that the previous month had been exceptionally busy due to Board meetings in London, IPC Open Days, ongoing classification work, preparations for the Antigua Inclusive Development Programme and preparations for WSIC 2026. Hannah confirmed that WSIC registration was now open and reminded sailors that the early bird registration fee remained available until the end of May. Hannah explained that countries could provisionally enter sailors without confirmed names in order to secure the reduced entry fee. Hannah also confirmed that further accommodation guidance, support package details and logistical information would shortly be added to the WSIC website. Sailing Instructions were also nearing completion. Hannah thanked the wider World Sailing staff team for their increasing support and noted that the strong staff attendance at the meeting reflected the growing organisational engagement in Para sailing activity.

b. Board updates:

Cory addressed the committee on behalf of the World Sailing Board following recent Board meetings in London. Cory noted that the Board had spent time with Hannah and Leo and had been extremely impressed by the scale and professionalism of the Para programme activity. Cory explained that the IPC had positively recognised Para sailing as one of the Board's highest priorities and confirmed that the Board remained fully committed to the reinstatement campaign. Cory particularly highlighted the importance of continuing to accelerate classification work where possible, describing it as a critical area that could strengthen World Sailing's position with IPC. Cory thanked Kay for her leadership and praised Hannah and Leo for the energy and credibility they had brought into the Board environment.

3. IPC Bid Update

Scott then provided a detailed report on the IPC Open Days in Bonn attended by Hannah, Emma and himself. Scott explained that the Open Days involved meetings with IPC departments including sport, anti-doping, classification and communications, as well as broader strategic discussions between international federations and IPC leadership. Scott highlighted that World Sailing had been invited to lead a session for recognised international federations during the Open Days, which he described as a strong indicator of the progress and credibility the federation had developed within the IPC environment.

Scott described the meeting with the IPC Sports Team as particularly significant. Historically, this was the team responsible for identifying weaknesses in World Sailing's participation data during previous Paralympic applications. Scott explained that World Sailing had submitted evidence of 400 athletes across 39 countries, however IPC independently reviewed the data and identified participation in 40 countries instead. Scott described this as one of the most positive moments of the Open Days and as a clear indication of how far the programme had progressed in recent years.

Scott further noted that IPC feedback strongly recognised improvements in participation numbers, event delivery, anti-doping and classification. He explained that previous applications had made it relatively easy for IPC to reject sailing because the sport had not been meeting several baseline requirements. Scott credited the current progress to the strategic focus placed on Para sailing by the World Sailing Board and the implementation of the Inclusion Strategy developed by the committee several years earlier. Scott cautioned however that significant work still remained, particularly around classification compliance. Scott emphasised that if World Sailing failed to fully deliver on classification reform, it would once again create an easy reason for IPC to reject the application. Scott also acknowledged that Paralympic inclusion would likely require another sport to lose its place

on the programme, making the process highly competitive regardless of sailing's progress.

Emma agreed with Scott's assessment and stated that IPC now appeared to have a much clearer understanding of how sailing operates and what the sport can contribute to the Paralympic movement. Emma noted that the classification discussions had been constructive and positive and that World Sailing had clearly demonstrated its seriousness and commitment to the process.

Scott added that the classification discussions at the Open Days had been far more constructive than in previous years and praised the work being undertaken by the classification team. Kay reflected positively on the update and commented that sailing's inclusive model continued to be a major strength within the reinstatement conversation.

4. Classification Sub Committee

Helen then delivered the Classification Sub Committee update. Helen explained that following the London workshop, the core group of international classifiers had continued intensive work to finalise the provisional draft classification rules. Helen confirmed that the draft rules had been submitted to IPC shortly before the Open Days. Helen noted that the work remained particularly complex as it involved not only alignment with the new IPC Code but also broader revitalisation and restructuring of the classification system itself.

Helen reported that feedback from IPC was not expected until approximately July but that this would still allow sufficient time for testing and implementation work ahead of WSIC 2026. Helen described the IPC classification meeting as highly constructive and explained that discussions had covered rule revisions, sport class structures, research proposals, testing plans and transition arrangements. Helen also confirmed that work was continuing on research proposals relating to intellectual impairment classification and that an IPC research grant application was being prepared.

Kay referred back to Cory's challenge regarding accelerating timelines and asked Helen how that would impact workload and delivery. Hannah responded that the current timelines were already tightly planned but confirmed that the team would continue progressing as quickly as possible and accepted the challenge from the Board. Helen suggested that regular milestone updates to the Board might help demonstrate progress more clearly throughout the process. Kay thanked Helen and the classification team for their significant workload and commitment.

Henriette asked whether testing opportunities at summer events such as the RS Venture Connect Europeans and Travemünde Week could support the classification transition process. Hannah confirmed that those events had already been identified as testing opportunities and explained that testing would take place across multiple events during the summer, including the RS Games and the Eurasian Cup, ahead of the larger-scale testing planned for WSIC. Helen added that earlier events would effectively function as trial environments allowing processes to be refined before WSIC.

Leo then provided an update on the new classification database. Leo confirmed that Globocol had delivered a functional application platform which would allow MNA administrators to request classification access for athletes. Leo explained that a pilot programme was now being launched with selected administrators and that the system would allow underlying health condition documentation to be collected prior to events. Leo noted that this would significantly improve transparency and allow classifiers to review athlete documentation in advance.

Leo explained that the system would provide MNAs with a centralised platform containing all classified athletes and would reduce administrative burden through integrated communication systems. Leo confirmed that guidance materials for athletes, administrators and classifiers were also being developed and that wider release to all MNAs was targeted for late June. Leo noted that WSIC would serve as a major operational testing

environment for the system. Kay thanked Leo for his work and acknowledged the scale of the project.

5. WSIC 2026

Hannah then updated the committee on the ITO appointments for WSIC 2026. Hannah explained that 19 appointments had now been made following discussions with the Event Appointments Working Group. Hannah noted that efforts had been made to ensure broad international representation and increase female leadership representation where possible. Hannah acknowledged however that there was currently no female course representative appointed for this edition and stated that this was an area World Sailing wished to improve in future editions.

Hannah confirmed key appointments including Stoggs as Principal Race Officer, Max, David and Mohamed as Course Representatives, Lynn as Jury Chair, Manuel as Chief Umpire and Sarah leading the classification team. Hannah also confirmed that Helen would attend WSIC to focus specifically on classification testing and research activity.

Kay thanked Hannah for ensuring Helen's attendance.

Kay then asked questions regarding the ITO appointment process and how regional proximity and cost considerations were managed. Hannah explained that hosts were involved in recommendations and that appointments were managed through the Event Appointments Working Group alongside World Sailing's Race Officials Manager. Hannah noted that development pathways, diversity, future Olympic and Paralympic potential and rotation of appointments were all considered as part of the process.

6. Event Updates

The committee then moved into event updates. Hannah confirmed that the World Abilitysport Youth Games sailing event in Turkey had been cancelled due to insufficient entries. Hannah explained that only six sailors from three countries had entered when a minimum threshold of eight sailors was required.

Kay asked whether funding had been the primary issue. Hannah responded that World Sailing funding support had been available but that the larger issue appeared to be a lack of youth sailors within existing MNA pathways. Elliot commented that the situation highlighted the need for better data and athlete tracking systems. Leo added that approximately 80 eligible youth athletes had been identified within the database but that only around 20 had recent active competition records. Leo noted that many disabled athletes entered sport later in life and that this remained a structural challenge for Para sailing.

Betsy commented that Paralympic reinstatement and the development of wingfoiling could help attract younger athletes into the sport. Henriette raised concerns around the programme's reliance on Paralympic inclusion as a driver for funding and participation, warning that the sport needed sustainable growth models regardless of the outcome of the bid. Kay agreed that inclusion at club level remained critical for long-term development.

Hannah then updated the committee on the Eurasian Cup in India. Hannah confirmed that preparations with Royal Mysore Yacht Club were progressing strongly and that the event schedule had been adjusted slightly to accommodate the Inclusive Development Programme running beforehand. Hannah explained that race management clinics and classification testing would also take place during the event. Hannah praised the support from the Indian Federation and confirmed that Stoggs had been appointed as Principal Race Officer.

Kay then provided a brief update on Timor Leste, noting that Rodney was leading activity in the region and that enquiries had also been received from Pakistan regarding the development of Para sailing. Hannah confirmed that the revised event dates had already been updated on the website.

7. Rankings Grading System



Betsy then presented a discussion paper on the current rankings grading system. Betsy explained that the existing grading structure had largely been inherited from IFDS and did not adequately consider geographic realities outside Europe. Betsy highlighted the significant travel burdens faced by sailors in countries such as the United States, Australia and island nations in Southeast Asia and proposed exploring systems similar to match racing where travel distance could contribute to event grading calculations.

Kay agreed that geographic disparity was a significant issue. Henriette strongly supported Betsy's proposal and compared domestic travel distances in the United States to international travel across Europe. Hannah confirmed that Betsy's paper and supporting match racing material would be circulated following the meeting for further discussion.

8. IDP-F Antigua June 2026

Dan then delivered the update on the Antigua IDP-F programme. Dan explained that recent planning meetings in London had been highly productive and that accommodation, logistics and programme structures were progressing well. Dan highlighted the involvement of Logan within the coaching team and praised the value of having a younger inclusive sailor contributing directly to programme design and delivery. Dan also noted the integration of more practical coaching content and digital technologies including discussions around VR training tools.

Hannah confirmed that nine countries were now represented within the programme, including Barbados, Bolivia, Chile, Grenada, the British Virgin Islands, Jamaica, St Kitts and Nevis, Trinidad and Tobago and St Vincent. Fiona noted concern that Antigua itself did not currently have a participating sailor despite hosting the programme. Dan also confirmed that the RS Venture Connect Class would award its first Caribbean Continental Championship during the Antigua regatta in order to strengthen regional participation and visibility.

9. PWSC Working Groups



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Hannah then updated the committee on the progress of the PWSC working groups. Hannah explained that Board feedback had been positive and that final approvals were expected shortly. Hannah confirmed that working group leads would soon receive contact lists and that initial meetings would be facilitated by herself and Leo. Hannah noted particularly strong interest in the Vision Impairment, Promotion and Growth, WSIC and Emerging Nations working groups.

10. Any Other Business

Under Any Other Business, Kay asked Paul for an update from France. Paul reported that the French Hansa National Championship had recently concluded with 71 boats participating.

11. Next Meetings

The committee then discussed the introduction of a third rotating meeting time slot to better support members from Oceania. Hannah proposed an evening European slot between 6pm and 8pm European time. Following discussion and a show of hands, the proposal received sufficient support and was approved. The committee subsequently agreed that the June meeting would take place on 18 June using the new evening slot and that the July meeting would return to the standard European morning slot on 23 July.

In closing remarks, Kay thanked the committee for a productive and positive meeting and updated the committee on upcoming discussions with World Abilitysport leadership in Hong Kong as well as the upcoming SailGP event in Hong Kong in 2027.

Hannah thanked the committee, observers and World Sailing staff team for their attendance and support. Hannah confirmed that meeting notes and minutes would be published as soon as possible and encouraged everyone to sign up to the upcoming Para Inclusive newsletter edition.

The Committee Scheduled the next meeting as Follows:

18th June 2000 BST (1900 UTC)



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23rd July 1100 BST (1000 UTC)

Action Points

Actions – Executive Office

Action	Lead	Timeline
Circulate final PWSC meeting notes and recording to members and observers	Hannah / Leo	ASAP
Publish and circulate Betsy's Rankings Grading discussion paper and supporting match racing references	Hannah	Post meeting
Continue classification rule alignment discussions with IPC and await formal feedback	Helen / Hannah / Classification WG	July 2026
Continue rollout and pilot testing of the Globocol classification platform with selected MNA administrators	Leo	Ongoing



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Finalise guidance materials and onboarding documentation for the classification database	Leo	June 2026
Continue preparations for WSIC 2026 including Sailing Instructions, accommodation guidance and support package information	Hannah / WS Office	Ongoing
Continue early entry promotion for WSIC ahead of end of May deadline	WS Office / PWSC	Immediate
Continue operational planning for Antigua IDP-F programme	Hannah / Dan / Logan	Ongoing
Continue preparations for Eurasian Cup India including clinics and classification testing	Hannah / Stoggs	Ongoing
Progress PWSC Working Group approvals and	Hannah / Leo	ASAP



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distribute membership lists		
Schedule initial Working Group meetings following Board approval	Hannah / Leo	June 2026
Investigate future youth athlete tracking and pathway development opportunities following Turkey cancellation discussion	WS Office / PWSC	Ongoing
Publish updated PWSC meeting schedule including new Oceania-friendly time slot	Hannah / Leo	ASAP
Release next Para Inclusive newsletter edition	Hannah / WS Comms	Upcoming week

PWSC Member Actions

Action	Lead	Timeline
Encourage MNAs to complete early WSIC	All PWSC Members	Immediate



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entries before end of May reduced fee deadline		
Promote observer engagement and attendance at future PWSC meetings	All PWSC Members	Ongoing
Support athlete identification and youth sailor pathway development within MNAs	All PWSC Members	Ongoing
Review Betsy's Rankings Grading paper and provide feedback/comments	PWSC Members	Before next meeting
Support and engage with newly approved PWSC Working Groups	PWSC Members	Following approvals
Promote WSIC 2026 within national federations, classes and regional sailing communities	All PWSC Members	Ongoing