World Sailing Board Minutes

The World Sailing Board met virtually on Tuesday 31 March 2026 between 10:00 – 12:30 UTC

Present	**In Attendance**
1. Quanhai Li - President 2. Daniel Belcher – Vice President 3. Tomasz Chamera – Vice President 4. Beatriz Gonzalez Luna – Vice President 5. Dave Hughes – Vice President 6. Corinne Migraine – Vice President 7. Sophia Papamichalopoulos – Vice President 8. Josep M. Pla – Vice President 9. Cory Sertl – Vice President	1. David Graham – Chief Executive Officer 2. Antonio Cozzolino – General Counsel 3. Michael Downing – Olympic Games 4. Scott Dougal – Director of Communications & Digital 5. Raksha Patel – Director of Finance & Business Operations 6. Jaime Navarro – Director of Technical & Offshore 7. Lisa Anderson – Director of Executive Office

1. Opening of the Meeting

a) Presidents Opening Remarks

The President welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided his opening remarks.

b) Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest.

There were no apologies for absence. Vice President Tomasz Chamera declared his continued interest in the World Championships in Gdynia, Poland.

c) Minutes of the 27 January 2026 Board Meeting

The Minutes had been approved on email in advance of the meeting.

d) Matters Arising

Appear below under Any Other Business.

e) Decisions by email

The following items had previously been circulated by email and approved by the Board:

i. Regulation 11.5 Working Group Members
ii. Classification Sub-Committee Members
iii. MNA Debt Relief
iv. Policy J5, derived from Appendix M
v. Fortaleza World Sailing Championships date change
vi. Neutrality Applications

2. Executive Office

a) 2027 Annual Conference Venue

The Board reviewed the evaluation document prepared by the Executive Office with respect to two strong bids. The Board voted to select the Annual Conference venue for 2027, subject to contract. The 2028 and 2029 Annual Conferences were discussed.

b) Commercial and Sponsorship update

The CEO provided an update to the Board on commercial and sponsorship strategy, with more information to be provided to the Board at the Mid-Year Meeting.

3. Events

a) Gdynia 2027 World Sailing Championships date update

The Board had received a Supporting Paper on the proposed date change to avoid a clash with the America's Cup schedule. The proposal was supported by stakeholders, including the host in Gdynia. The Board voted in favour of the date change.

b) 2030/31 World Sailing Championships Evaluation Panel

The Board had received a Supporting Paper on the composition of the Evaluation Panel. The Board discussed some proposed amendments to the Evaluation Panel, which was then adopted by the Board on a vote.

c) Race officials – Appointments

i) Event Appointments Working Group (EAWG)

The Board had received a Supporting Paper on the EWAG. This proposed the extension of the interim appointment solution for the short-term, with the World Sailing office to prepare a permanent regulatory update later in the year, whilst also reviewing digital infrastructure. The Board voted in favour of submitting the proposal to Council for its approval in due course.

ii) World Sailing Championships/Los Angeles 2028

The Board were provided with a verbal update for their information on the progression of appointments for the World Sailing Championships in 2027 and Los Angeles in 2028.

d) Olympic Vision Project

The Board had received a written paper on the progress and implementation of the Olympic Vision Project for their information. Athlete and coach feedback was discussed, and it was noted that a more detailed presentation would be provided to the Board at the Mid-Year Meeting after the testing at the first two Grand Slam events of the year was completed.

e) World Sailing Championships "Invited Events" update

The Board received a verbal update for their information on the planning for the Wingfoil Invited Event at the Gdynia Test Event in July this year, being Formula Wing to ensure neutrality with respect to equipment manufacturers. The adoption of a neutral and agnostic approach to testing Wingfoil as a concept, where multiple manufacturers are permitted, was unanimously supported by the Board.

4. Technical & Offshore

a) Offshore Double Handed WC Bid Process - timeline update

The Board had received a Supporting Paper on the proposal to extend the bid deadlines by a short period to accommodate the submission of additional bids. The proposal was verbally supported by the Vice-President Liaisons of the Offshore and Oceanic Committee. The Board voted to approve the proposal.

b) Regulation 11.5 Working Group progress update

The Board received a verbal update from the World Sailing office on the Regulation 11.5 consultation, noting the closing date for Proposals is 31 March 2026. The validated Proposals will be made publicly available on the World Sailing website. The Regulation 11.5 Working Group will review the Proposals, and a further update will be provided to the Board at the Mid-Year Meeting.

5. Legal & Governance

a) Investigations Panel update

The Board received a verbal update from the General Counsel for their information.

b) Neutrality Applications – to be circulated for approval on email.

c) Eligibility Cases – Nationality change (Standing item)

i. USA to ISV 1 – this was supported by both MNAs. The Board voted to approve.
ii. USA to ISV 2 – this was deferred, pending support from the ISV.
iii. CZE to ITA – this was supported by both MNAs. The Board voted to approve.

d) Case List Update (Standing item) – no matters

e) Safety (Standing Item) – no matters

f) Safeguarding Policy update memo

The Board had been provided with a Safeguarding Policy update memo. The General Counsel and the Safeguarding Officer outlined a requirement for Member National Authorities to have a Safeguarding Policy in place by 2027 and to permit World Sailing to enforce this, where necessary. The Board discussed the proposed amendments and voted to approve the amendment of the Safeguarding Policy in principle, with further refinement to take place by email circulation.

g) Neutrality Policy update memo
The Board had been provided with a Neutrality Policy update memo. The Board voted to approve amendments to the Neutrality Policy in line with IOC recommendations, clarifying youth eligibility and processing times, with the intention to seek Council approval and adopt future incremental updates.

h) EGM and Written Resolution memo
The Board had been provided with a memo resulting from consultation between the General Counsel, the Governance Committee, and the Board liaisons. The Board voted to support the proposal in principle and include it in the Portal as a proposal from the Board to be decided by the General Assembly in November, for ample comments and consultation with stakeholders.

i) Independent Bodies Terms of Reference update/Rules of Procedure memo
The Board had been provided with a memo. The General Counsel presented updates to the Terms of Reference for Independent Bodies and Rules of Procedure for the Disciplinary Tribunal, which were discussed. The Board voted to approve the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure, incorporating the non-substantive feedback provided.

j) Proposals allocated to the Board (Standing item):
The Board agreed to review the Proposals listed on the agenda concerning Categorisation by email circulation.

6. Committees, Sub-Committees and Commissions that report to the Board
The Board deferred the outstanding Workplans for 2026 to the Mid-Year Meeting.

7. Finance
The Board agreed to review the Finance matters listed on the agenda by email circulation.

8. Any other business
a) Sailing Hubs
It was agreed that the contract regarding the donation of the Optimist boats should be approved as soon as possible.

There being no further items the President closed the meeting.
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