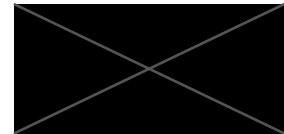


25 April 2026

Tom Ashley

Barrister

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To **World Sailing**

By email to legal@sailing.org

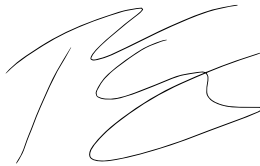
APPLICATION – WORLD SAILING INVESTIGATIONS PANEL

1. I wish to apply for a position on World Sailing's Investigations Panel.
2. I am a barrister licensed to practise in New Zealand. I was admitted to the NZ Bar in 2015. My practice is primarily in civil/commercial litigation, with some specialist advisory and opinion work. My particular areas of expertise are in contract, property, company/corporate and maritime law and economic torts. I also take some regulatory/investigation (defence), and sport law instructions. Alongside my NZ practice I have acted in several commercial/maritime matters in Pacific Islands jurisdictions which apply English common law.
3. Prior to my legal career I was a professional sailor between 2001 and 2011, winning youth and senior World titles and a gold medal at Beijing 2008 in windsurfing. In 2009 I was made Officer of the NZ Order of Merit (ONZM), a national honour conferred for my contribution to sailing. Between 2013 and 2017 I led the Chinese national windsurfing program as head coach. This was a successful time for Chinese athletes who won numerous World Championship and World Cup medals and an Olympic silver medal.
4. Between 2018 and 2022 I was CEO of Canoe Racing New Zealand, NZ's national body for kayaking. Relevantly, the role included developing a complaints/disciplinary policy and overseeing disciplinary procedures. These included a particularly contentious investigation and ultimately the expulsion of an individual who was former Olympic champion kayaker and life member. This individual sought judicial review of the investigation and expulsion; the expulsion was upheld by the NZ High Court.

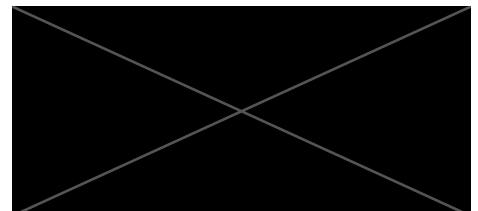


5. I am a life member of Yachting NZ Inc and Takapuna Boating Club and served on Takapuna Boating Club's board of directors between 2015 and 2024.
6. I confirm that I have reviewed the role requirements and that I am prepared to act with the independence and confidentiality required, which are familiar to me in my profession.
7. By way of disclosure, please note that in 2025-2026 I have served in a voluntary capacity on an independent panel reviewing Yachting New Zealand's uptake of recommendations made in a 2025 independent review of its performance program. I will let World Sailing determine whether this disqualifies me under the position criteria. If my application for this role is accepted, and if required, I am prepared to resign from that panel.
8. A schedule of my relevant experience and qualifications is set out overleaf as a schedule, in lieu of a separate CV.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Ashley', with a stylized, cursive script.

Tom Ashley ONZM



SCHEDULE – RELEVANT QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

Education

- Bachelor of Laws (Honours) 2015, University of Auckland
 - Senior Scholar Prize
 - Dean's Academic Excellence Award
- Master of Laws (Distinction, Commercial Law) 2023, University of Auckland

Sailing

- World Youth Champion 2002, 2003
- RS:X World Champion
- Olympic Games
 - Athens 2004, 10th
 - Beijing 2008, gold medal
- Various World Cup medals

Professional

- Admitted to NZ Bar 2015
- Russell McVeagh (NZ law firm) 2015-2016
- Head Coach, Chinese National windsurfing Team 2013-2017
- CEO, Canoe Racing NZ Inc 2018-2022
- Barrister, NZ, 2022-present

