

The Events Committee met online, at 1100 UTC on 5 May 2026

Members Present:

Wolfgang Mayrhofer (AUT) Chair	Aiko Saito (JPN) Vice-Chair	Shevaun Bruland (AUS)
Saskia Clark (GBR)	Lisa Darmanin (AUS) Athletes' Committee representative	Tayfun Erey (TUR)
Nuno Gomes (ANG)	Anna Holmdahl White (SWE)	Ferran Muniesa (ESP)
Piotr Oleksiak (POL)	Ben Remocker (CAN) Olympic Classes SC representative	Ed Russo (FRA)
Molly Vandemoer (USA)	Tian Wang (CHN)	Geoff Wooley (NZL)

In attendance:

Daniel Belcher (AUS) Vice President	Cory Sertl (USA) Vice President	Michael Downing (Interim Director of Events)
Matt Wheaton (Competitions Manager)	Corinne McKenzie (Events Consultant)	Tim Hancock (Project Manager)

Apologies:

Walter Boddener (BRA)	Paula Douat (COL)	
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1. Opening of the Meeting

- a. The Chair of the Events Committee welcomed committee members and observers to the meeting.
- b. A quorum of 15 members was established.
- c. The chair noted apologies received from members prior to the meeting.
- d. The Committee noted the declarations made in the Conflicts of Interest register and the updates reported in the meeting.
- e. The Committee noted the minutes of the meeting on 3 February 2026 (available at <https://www.sailing.org/inside-world-sailing/organisation/governance/commissions-committees-edi/committee-minutes-archive/>).
- f. There were no corrections or matters arising from the minutes not covered elsewhere.

2. Update from the Board

- a. The committee received an update from the Vice Presidents responsible for liaison with the Events Committee. Key points included ongoing Olympic Vision work across format, reliability and scheduling technology, competition management, pre-Games promotion, broadcast planning and collaboration with Olympic classes and media partners. Progress on Para Classification for the Brisbane 2032 was highlighted, with thanks recorded to the volunteers within the Classification Commission. The Board will meet next in-person between 18 and 20 May, with further announcements regarding the November annual conference in China expected within the next month.
- b. The committee noted the minutes of the Board meetings since their last Events Committee meeting.

3. Update from the Events Committee Chair/Co-Chair

- a. The Chair of the Events Committee reported continued engagement with working group leaders on the 2026 work plan, attendance at the Princess Sofia trophy in Palma and productive discussions

with athletes, staff, coaches and colleagues at this regatta. He also noted constructive collaboration with the growth of sailing committee and the equipment committee. The committee noted the continued alignment across the Working Groups and strengthening coordination between committees. The Co-Chair reported similar engagement in Palma, thanked working group members for their support and noted the complexity of the current agenda and the intention to work through issues methodically toward later decisions in the year.

4. World Sailing Championships

- a. The Competitions Manager gave an update on the 2027 World Sailing Championships in Fortaleza. The publication of the Notice of Race has been delayed pending resolution of a non-competition issue between WS and the host. The committee noted this delay as a risk to the planning timelines, with an expectation that it will be issued before the end of May and ensured that teams will be kept updated. It was noted that the competition dates had been updated to 15-23 January 2027 to secure favourable weather conditions. Planning continues with the local delivery team and confidence remains that the event can be held successfully.

It was noted that the use of electronic starting technology will be considered on a class-by-class basis, with further discussions expected later in the year after additional class events and testing. The committee also heard that support team regulations are being discussed with the Team Leader's and Coaches Commission and are expected to remain broadly consistent with previous World Championships including likely coach boat ratios and incentives to encourage resource sharing, where local supply is limited.
- b. The Events Consultant gave an update that progress for the 2027 World Sailing Championships in Gdynia. It was reported that the championship dates have been moved to 22 July – 1 August 2027 to fit the wider calendar of events. Work with the local organising team is progressing well. The 2026 test event remains on track with four racing areas planned which includes Para, although the mixed multihull event has been cancelled. The entry numbers are low across all events but the test event will proceed.
- c. Regarding Invited events, Formula Wing has been added to the Gdynia test event and a wider programme is being developed for wingfoil at both the Fortaleza and Gdynia Championships in 2027. During discussion, the committee noted affordability concerns in relation to invited events. It was clarified that the current exercise is intended to test event concepts and formats rather than approve equipment for long term inclusion, and that any future consideration would need to address affordability and equipment matters separately.

5. Olympic Sailing Competition – Los Angeles 2032

- a. The Interim Director of Events reported that tickets for LA 2028 are now on sale, providing clarity on the competition schedule. Updated venue drawings for Belmont Shore were received, with ongoing coordination required due to integration with other sports; however, the changes are not expected to materially affect athlete operations. Event operating planes and workforce planning are advancing. Formal engagements on the test event have begun, with likely dates in the last week of August and first days of September 2027, subject to final approval. The timing is considered beneficial in light of

the revised Gdynia 2027 WSC schedule and other events in the period. The committee noted overall progress remains on track.

- b. The committee received an update on implementation of the recommendations previously approved by Council. All items are now in progress, with work underway behind the scenes on matters including race information, integration into broadcasts, wider engagement with broadcasters and rights holders and coordination with other committees and stakeholder groups. Some recommendations remain at an implementation stage and not yet visible externally. The committee noted the importance of sustained follow-through on approved changes.

EC Format Recommendations			May 2026 Meeting
Recommendation 1	Visual Clues for male and female athletes	In Progress	Use of different coloured helmets remains an opportunity. Branding discussions with LA28 yet to commence in earnest.
Recommendation 2	Prominent national identifiers	In Progress	The main focus to date on Kites, working with Class and manufacturers. Prototype planned for testing at upcoming IKA Worlds.
Recommendation 3	Development of standardised and audience-friendly terminology	In Progress	Consultation is ongoing - new format terms have been implemented and shared with stakeholders.
Recommendation 4	Race Officials preparation for Olympic Sailing Competition	In Progress	A detailed review of the overall competition delivery project structure is in progress; options are being prepared for the WS Board to consider. A confidential pool of candidate race officials is being populated and observation opportunities are being offered to new candidates across the regattas WS appoints to.
Recommendation 5	Integration of race officials into audio-visual presentation during broadcast	In Progress	Work has progressed with technical partners to included audio and data to reflect race official decisions and reasons; this is now ready for technical specification drafting. Progress on the definition of a standard list of reasons has been limited; reminders are being applied to the relevant RO representatives.
Recommendation 6	Opening series scheduled over no more than three days	Implemented	
Recommendation 7	Competing in a wide range of conditions	In Progress	Further weather analysis is pending the final venue layout. Progress on the development of the RM Policies has been limited since the previous meeting; reminders are being applied to the RMSC.
Recommendation 8	Starting and finishing on time	In Progress	Considerable progress on testing of start line technology has been made with a successful Proof of Concept. Individual start line technology providers are at different levels of maturity and it is expected there will be multiple viable providers. Testing showed variance on the ability to finish to a scheduled time due to a range of race lengths - address in recommendation 16.
Recommendation 9	Not running Windsurfing Marathon Race	Implemented	
Recommendation 10	Maximum Number of Opening Series Races and Target Durations	Implemented	
Recommendation 11	Variable Leg Lengths	In Progress	Directly connected to recommendation 16. Testing is ongoing and being updated in a separate EC agenda item.
Recommendation 12	Course Layout Options and Grandstand Finish Zones	In Progress	Progress on this item has been limited since the previous meeting due to a delayed release to the venue design book; this was released last week and work is scheduled.
Recommendation 13	Number of Formats	Implemented	
Recommendation 14	Dinghy, Skiff and Multihull Format	Implemented	
Recommendation 15	Windsurfing and Kite Format	Implemented	
Recommendation 16	Target Times	In Progress	Testing is ongoing and being updated in a separate EC agenda item.
Recommendation 17a	Testing and test plan	In Progress	Testing is ongoing and being updated in a separate EC agenda item.
Recommendation 17b	Test plan reporting	In Progress	Testing is ongoing and being reported.
Recommendation 17c	Parameter adjustment	Implemented	

- c. The Chair of the Format Working Group updated the committee on testing of formats proposed for LA 2028 Olympic Sailing Competition at recent events. Feedback has been collected from athletes, coaches, organisers and race officials, with overall feedback described as generally positive but with some confusion remaining around scoring mechanics. For boat events, the current testing indicates that medals have continued to be decided in the final race rather than before it. Further observation

will take place at the upcoming 49er World Championships before the working group meets again on 21 May.

The committee discussed athlete reaction, broadcast considerations, and possible alternative scoring approaches, including a multiplier or divisor model to be used at the 49er, 49erFX and Nacra 17 World Championships. It was confirmed that Council has approved the overall finals format, while the Events Committee retains limited authority to adjust the boat scoring numbers within the approved framework.

The Committee agreed that the working group should observe the additional testing and report back. The Committee further noted that any deviation from the approved scoring framework would require strong consensus across the working group, athlete representatives and affected class leadership, and may require further approval from Council.

Board format concerns, including tie-handling and equality between first and second place entering finals, were also noted for further consideration.

The committee also noted discussion with classes regarding discard numbers, particularly differences between kite communities, with further dialogue required to determine what is relevant for the Olympic Games versus wider class events.

- d. The committee received an update on the development of Digital Officiating systems. Work is underway to reduce protest volumes and improve real-time on water decision making through digital officiating. This includes development of technology capability, training of more race officials, and exploration of funding to support deployment and development at class events. The aspiration is to expand capability across classes, with a minimum aim of readiness for board and kites for LA 2028 and broader use by 2032.
- e. The interim Director of Events reported progress in confirming qualification events is behind schedule. PanAm Games, Asian Games and Pacific Games arrangements are advancing for relevant continental qualification roles, but some gaps remain. Multiple strong bids have been received from Africa, while other regions may still need additional candidate events. The evaluation panel and working group are ready to proceed once the remaining details are resolved.

In discussion, concerns were raised about likely calendar pressure in 2027, particularly the proximity of Gdynia 2027 WSC, PanAm Games 2027 and the LA28 sailing test event, with a warning that this could place heavy equipment and logistical demands on athletes and teams. It was also clarified that qualification hierarchy will be applied according to the approved sequence in the qualification system rather than calendar order.

6. Olympic Sailing Competition – Brisbane 2032

- a. The Chair and Co-Chair updated the committee on the joint Events and Equipment Committee Working Group established to review events under regulation 11.5 for Brisbane 2032. The group has met several times and is currently focused on defining the desired shape of the 2032 Olympic sailing programme before moving from event choices to equipment implications. Strategic reference points

include the Olympic Vision, IOC and broadcast requirements, prior Reg. 11.4 Working Group analysis, community proposals and expert knowledge across the sport. Emerging themes under discussion include broadcast attractiveness, campaign cost, universality, pathway clarity, simplicity, cost to organisers, unique event propositions, second-medal opportunities, technology readiness, equipment quality and supply and long-term athlete pathways. A timeline to annual conference decisions was outlined with intensive work continuing over the coming months. b. The committee noted that 29 proposals had been received through the call for submissions, covering themes such as retaining or evolving existing events, second-medal concepts, match racing, wingfoiling, foiling single-handed dinghies, and mixed para/non-para concepts. It was emphasised that proposals will be used as inputs to the working group's analysis rather than treated as a simple vote between proposals. During discussion, members highlighted the importance of long-term ownership and control of Olympic properties, the challenge of defining appropriate athlete weight ranges for future pathways, and mixed views on the value of second-medal opportunities, including concerns about whether they might favour larger nations. The committee noted that this topic will return for further discussion and that the working group is meeting weekly.
7. <u>Other Events Committee Work Areas 2026</u> a. The Leader of Working Group 5 on Regatta Calendar and Ranking reported that the previously approved calendar recommendations are now moving into implementation. While the first half of the current cycle has been crowded, the expectation is that the 2027 calendar will be cleaner apart from already identified conflicts. On rankings, the working group met in Palma and is developing a paper for discussion in August. Work was outlined on a possible global rating model, inspired by systems used in other sports, that would reduce incentives to chase points, better reflect current performance, and potentially include more geographically isolated fleets in a meaningful way. b. A brief update was offered on affordable sailing classes. The current focus is on whether any classes already selected for 2032 could be suitable for supplied-equipment models, and whether a more centralised world-tour approach, including containerised equipment logistics, might help reduce costs. The committee noted that this work remains at an exploratory stage and a paper is expected for discussion at a future meeting.
8. <u>Proposals</u> a. None
9. <u>AOB</u> a. None

The Chair thanked members, staff, observers and those joining from difficult time zones. It was noted that an additional meeting would be scheduled between 21 and 26 May to focus on the finals format issue and receive further updates as required. The meeting was closed at 13.40 UTC