World Sailing Board Minutes

The World Sailing Board met in person in London on Monday 18 May to Wednesday 21 May 2026

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<u>**Present**</u>

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

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<u>**In Attendance each day:**</u>

1. David Graham – Chief Executive Officer
2. Antonio Cozzolino – General Counsel
3. Scott Dougal – Director of Communications & Digital
4. Raksha Patel – Director of Finance & Business Operations
5. Lisa Anderson – Director of Executive Office

<u>**World Sailing staff in attendance:**</u>

Koray Ezer (Monday)
Hannah Stodel (Monday)
Michael Downing (Wednesday)
Jaime Navarro (Wednesday)
Tim Hancock (Wednesday)
Ferran Muniesa Triay (Wednesday)

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1. Opening of the Meeting

a) <u>Presidents Opening Remarks</u>

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

b) <u>Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest.</u>

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

c) <u>Minutes of the 31 March 2026 Board Meeting</u>

The Minutes were approved as amended.

d) <u>Matters Arising</u>

Appear below under Any Other Business.

e) <u>Decisions by email</u>

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

a. Finance matters tabled at the last Board Meeting, being the Terms of Reference and Work Plan of the Audit Sub-Committee;
b. Approval of a new member of the Audit Sub-Committee;
c. Various Categorisation Proposals tabled at the last Board Meeting;
d. Extension of the EAWG process with respect to appointment of Race Officials in 2026; and
e. Team Racing World Championships Evaluation Panel

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2. Executive Office a) Management Report The Board had reviewed the Management Report provided by the Executive Office in advance of the Meeting. b) Fortaleza World Sailing Championships 2027 The CEO provided an update to the Board on his meeting with CBVela, the Brazilian National Olympic Committee, the Brazilian Sports Ministry and a Brazilian broadcaster. The World Sailing Championship due to be held in Fortaleza in January 2027 was discussed and the Board resolved to provide direction to the Executive Office.	
3. Sustainability a) The Board had received the World Sailing carbon data for 2025 for their information, which they noted.	
4. Broadcast & Digital a) The Board received a verbal update for their information on the Broadcast RFP for the World Sailing Championships 2027, which they noted.	
5. Participation and Development a) Para World Championships Titles The Board had received a Supporting Paper from the Executive Office on the proposal to award various World Championships titles at the World Sailing Inclusion Championships 2026 due to be held in Portimao in October 2027 in accordance with the stated disciplines and provisions of Policy K1, which had previously been approved by the Para World Sailing Committee. The Board voted in favour of the proposal, electing to award the recommended World Championships titles for 2026, 2027 and 2028. b) Sailing Hubs The Board had received a Supporting Paper on Regional Training Hubs and Equipment Partnerships, and the Executive Office provided a presentation to the Board on the same for their information. The Board was supportive of the initiative, which directly supports development as set out in the World Sailing Strategy 2025-2029.	
6. Legal & Governance a) Neutrality Policy further update This was approved by the Board to incorporate the IOC Guidance on the same. b) Shanghai Fareast Contract ratification This was approved by the Board.	

c) Neutrality Applications update (Standing item)
There were no pending applications.

d) Eligibility Cases – Nationality change (Standing item)
There were no eligibility cases.

e) Case List update (Standing item)
An update was given on the active and pending cases.

f) Safety (Standing Item)
There were no safety items.

g) Proposals allocated to the Board (Standing item):

- **CO-2026-002 - announcement of date & location of Annual Conference two years ahead -** this was rejected by the Board to constitute a formal World Sailing policy, with best endeavours to be provided instead;
- **CO-2026-004** – **add Wingfoil to the list of Youth Events** - this was rejected by the Board as a matter being reviewed by the Youth Events Committee;
- **CO-2026-005** – this had been previously withdrawn;
- **CO-2026-006** – **add a procedure for class rules interpretations** - this was approved by the Board with respect to a Procedure for Class Rules Interpretations recommended by the Equipment Rules Sub-Committee;
- **CO-2026-007** - **amend Policy K1 to remove the fixed number of Para titles per year** -this was approved by the Board, to amend Policy K1 to remove the fixed number of titles per year as recommended by the Para World Sailing Committee.

7. Committees, Sub-Committees and Commissions

a) Athletes Committee – an election process is to be commenced to replace a Committee Member who has stepped down;

b) Governance Committee – the Workplan 2026 was approved by the Board;

c) Growth of Sailing Committee – the Board reviewed the Workplan 2026, to be provided to Council at its next meeting on 9 June 2026;

d) To note any Committees' agenda items (if required) - none

8. Finance

a) Finance report to 30 April 2026 – the Board received information, which they noted.

b) Review of MNA Debtors – the Board discussed and approved the members under review. The board noted requests received from some MNAs for their Category review. It was agreed the Executive Office will send this information to the Governance Committee for review.

c) 2025 statutory accounts and Letters of Support for World Sailing Limited – the Board discussed and approved the same.

9. Any other business

a) Board meetings for World Sailing (UK) Limited – this was discussed and approved;

b) The investment strategy for WS Investment Trust Funds – this was discussed and the Board agreed a medium to low risk balanced portfolio investment strategy for the funds;

c) The World Sailing Risk Appetite document – this was discussed and approved;

d) The amendment of the Terms of Reference of the Culture and Arts Commission – this was discussed and approved;

e) Matters pertaining to various Committees, including the Growth of Sailing, Regional Games, Specialist Sailing and the eSailing Commission were discussed;

f) Olympic Appointments – it was agreed that a smaller group of Vice-President Liaisons and Executive Office staff would provide a submission to the Board;

g) 2028 Annual Conference bids – The Board directed management to revert to the bidder to obtain a financial Guarantee from supporting authorities for the sanction fee, the deadline for receiving the Guarantee being 30 June 2026, more than five weeks being thought as sufficient time. The Executive Office is to organise a site visit before giving a new recommendation to the Board. If the Board approves the venue, the Executive Office is to move to negotiate and sign a long form agreement to be executed by both parties. Should the financial Guarantee not be received in time, World Sailing would start a new process and re-open bids for the 2028 Annual Conference.

h) Update on the World Sailing Board priorities:

- Achieving new sustainable revenue streams
- Digital Infrastructure
- Teamwork across and within World Sailing
- Inclusion of Sailing in the Paralympics
- The Olympic Vision Project

The Board received an update from the Executive Office on each of the five World Sailing Board priorities. The Olympic Vision Project is split into (i) Format, (ii) Reliability & Scheduling, (iii) Competition Management, (iv) Pre-Games Promotion (with a presentation from Red Torch), (v) Distribution and (vi) Broadcast Presentation, and a detailed update was provided on each part. The Board was supportive of the progress made on each priority, and all parts of the Olympic Vision Project. It is intended that the World Sailing Council will be provided with a summary update at their next meeting on 9 June 2026;

i) Regulation 11 update – the Board received an update from the Chairs of the Events Committee and the Equipment Committee on the progress of the Regulation 11 process and Working Group. It was noted that the Chairs of those Committees are hosting a Townhall on this matter on 2 June for the World Sailing Council, and a summary of which will also be provided to the World Sailing Council meeting on 9 June 2026.

j) Protection of the Female Category – it was noted that a Board Member would be attending the IOC Workshop on the IOC's new policy in June 2026, which applies to the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games and the Olympic Qualifier events. The Executive Office had previously sent the IOC Guidance and Q&A document on the Protection of the Female Category to MNAs to allow them to submit questions in advance of the IOC Workshop for consideration;

k) World Sailing Special Events – the Board was supportive of reviewing Special Events to investigate the introduction of a new category to encourage the development of smaller or more diverse Special Events without diluting the current Special Events offering;

l) Annual Conference 2026 – the Board directed that all Committees/Sub-Committees/Commissions should plan to finalise their 2027 Workplans during the Annual Conference 2026 in Qingdao so they should be ready for presentation to the Board for review at the last Board Meeting of 2026, then go to Council early for approval; and

m) Mid-Year Meeting 2027 **–** the Board discussed investigating if the World Sailing Mid-Year Board Meeting in 2027 should be held at a sailing event, potentially the World Sailing Championships 2027 in Gdynia.

There being no further items the President closed the meeting.

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