World Sailing
Governance Committee Minutes

Meeting Date: 13 August 2026
Location: Virtual (Microsoft Teams)
Time: 13:00 (BST)

Present
Dr Balazs Hajdu (Chair) (HUN)
Sarah Treseder (Vice-Chair) (GBR)
Dr Anne Jakob (GER)
Ashley Tobin (USA) (joined after introductions)
David Tillett (AUS)
Diana Kissane (IRL) (dropped off at approximately 13:35)
Laura German Lopez (ESP)
Dr Malav Shroff (IND)
Ute Reisinger (AUT)

In Attendance
Josep Pla – Vice President
Cory Sertl – Vice President
Antonio Cozzolino – General Counsel
Anastasia Mikheeva – Paralegal

Apologies
Rodolphe Gautier (SUI).
Fabio Mazzoni (ITA)

1. Opening of the meeting

a. The Chair opened the meeting and explained that the meeting was called to discuss proposed changes to Articles 12, 13 and 14 of the Constitution.

2. Articles 12 and 13: Procedural Split

a. The Committee resolved unanimously to consider Articles 12 and 13 separately from Article 14.
b. The Chair confirmed that he would review the written comments received ahead of the meeting and circulate a redrafted text of Articles 12 and 13 (and Articles 14.1–14.2) for the Committee's consideration.
c. It was noted that, if a majority of the Committee approved the redraft by email, the recommendation would be forwarded to the Board and, thereafter, to the General Assembly, a constitutional change requiring a 75% supermajority.
d. David Tillett flagged a drafting risk that the former Article 12.7 had been moved into Article 14.3, such that the provision could be lost if the proposed changes to Article 14 did not proceed. The Chair acknowledged the point and undertook to review it before circulating the redraft.

3. Article 14: Principle Discussion

a. The Chair proposed a more liberal approach to Article 14, comprising: the suspension of all membership rights (not only voting rights) while payments are in arrears; the full and immediate restoration of rights upon payment, including up to the day before an assembly; a default interest penalty for late payment; and a stricter deadline (for example, 1 September in election years) applying specifically to voting rights.

b. The Vice-Chair emphasised the core principles of transparency, fairness to both paying and non-paying members, and appropriate Board discretion for extraordinary circumstances. She supported distinguishing election rights from other membership rights and noted that the election committee rules and AGM administrative deadlines already created a natural separation.

c. David Tillett considered the current wording clear and transparent, noting that it created a cash-flow incentive to pay before elections and that interest calculations would be burdensome for the Executive Office.

d. Malav Shroff supported suspending all rights until payment, with full restoration on payment, arguing that this created two-way accountability. He raised the broader concern that governance rules built around modest subscriptions risked alienating developing nations, and suggested using the existing developed/emerging country classification to allow differentiated payment deadlines.

e. Ute Reisinger raised concerns that cash payments at venues create serious legal issues within the EU, including anti-money-laundering and border cash-limit rules, and that an interest penalty would be unfair where non-payment is involuntary rather than negligent.

f. The General Counsel reported that MNAs experiencing payment difficulties are, in most cases, delayed owing to the late receipt of funds from governments or National Olympic Committees, and that the Executive Office is now issuing invoices earlier to assist. The Chair noted that this practical fix may also require a footprint in the Articles.

g. The Vice-Chair suggested benchmarking how other international federations handle geopolitically blocked payments, and the General Counsel agreed to make contact with his counterparts at other major federations, including athletics.

4. Article 14: Vote

a. The Committee voted on whether to retain the current wording of Article 14 (Articles 14.3 and 14.4). Eight members were present as Diane Kisanne had left the meeting by the time of the vote.. The votes were recorded as follows:

Member	**Vote**
Ashley Tobin	Yes
David Tillett	Yes
Laura German Lopez	Yes
Dr Malav Shroff	No
Dr Anne Jakob	No
Ute Reisinger	Yes
Sarah Treseder	Yes
Dr Balazs Hajdu	No

b. The result was 5 votes in favour and 3 against. The current wording of Article 14 was accordingly retained and the proposed amendment did not proceed.

5. **Any Other Business**

   a. There was no further business.

6. **Action Items**

   a. The General Counsel to benchmark how other federations handle geopolitically blocked payments, reaching out to contacts at athletics and other major federations, and to report back to the Committee.
   b. The Chair to redraft Articles 12 and 13 (and Articles 14.1–14.2), incorporating the written comments received, and to circulate the redraft for email approval before forwarding to the Board if a majority agrees.
   c. The Chair to review the Article 12.7 / 14.3 drafting risk before circulating the redraft, to ensure the provision is not inadvertently lost.

7. **Date of Next Meeting**

   a. No date was fixed;
   b. The Chair closed the meeting.