



Para World Sailing Committee Minutes

The PWSC met virtually at 1000 UTC on 23rd July 2026

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| 1. Opening of the Meeting | 7. Growth Working Group |
| 2. World Sailing Updates | 8. AIN/ Neutrality Policy |
| 3. IPC Bid Update | 9.IDP Antigua |
| 4. Classification Sub Committee | 10. WSC 2027 |
| 5. WSIC 2026 | 11. AOB |
| 6. VI Working Group | 12.Thank you and Next meeting |

Members Present:

Kay Rawbone (Chair)	Henriette Smith	Paul Adrien Cuvillier
Alfred Pelinka	Jazz Turner	Emma Hallén
Betsy Alison	Irina Perez	Yuki Hagiwara
Gabriel de Baroso	Sarah Ogilvie	Helen McKenzie

Invited Presenters:

Helen McKenzie	Adrian Stoggall	Dan Jaspers
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Staff Present:

Hannah Stodel	Leo af Rosenborg	Daniel Nash
Scott Dougal	Fiona Kidd	Ferran Muniesa
Antonio Cozzolino		

Board Present:

Sophia Papamichalopoulos	Cory Sertl	Daniel Belcher
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Agenda Items

1. Opening of the Meeting

a. Housekeeping (HS):

Hannah welcomed members and observers to the July Para World Sailing Committee meeting.

Members were reminded that microphones would remain muted unless activated by the meeting hosts. Questions were encouraged through the chat and Q&A functions, with members invited to contribute throughout the meeting. Hannah reiterated the importance of maintaining respectful discussion both verbally and within the online chat.

Members were advised that the meeting was being recorded and that formal meeting notes would be published following the meeting.

Attendees were requested not to make their own recordings.

b. Chair's Opening Remarks (KR):

Kay welcomed Committee members and thanked everyone for their continued commitment to Para Inclusive Sailing.

Kay reflected on the considerable progress made over recent months, highlighting the growing momentum across the programme and the successful establishment of the Committee Working Groups. She thanked those volunteering their time to support the various initiatives. Kay encouraged members to continue thinking strategically, actively participate in discussions and ensure Member National Authorities remained engaged with the work of the Committee. She noted that the Committee was operating during an important period for Para Inclusive Sailing, with significant opportunities ahead, and encouraged members to use the meeting to share ideas and contribute openly.

c. Apologies for Absence:

Emma Hallen SWE



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Sophia Papamichalopoulos VO

Daniel Belcher VP

d. **Minutes of June Meeting:**

Confirmed as read and accepted.

e. **Matters Arising:**

No Matters were arising

2. World Sailing Updates

a. **Office updates (HS):**

Hannah provided an overview of current activities within the Para World Sailing team.

The office had experienced an exceptionally busy period, with significant staff travel resulting in limited office time. Hannah had attended the IPC Classification Conference in Germany, whilst Leo had supported the RS Games in Travemünde.

Despite extensive travel, work across the programme continued to progress positively, particularly within the classification workstream. Hannah noted that further detail would be provided under the Classification agenda item.

Preparations continued across several key events including:

- World Sailing Inclusion Championships (Portugal)
- RS Games
- Hansa Europeans
- Eurasian Cup (India)

Hannah explained that these events would also provide valuable opportunities to continue testing and consulting on the new Classification Rules as part of World Sailing's IPC compliance programme.



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Routine operational activity remained high, including ongoing enquiries relating to:

- Sailor IDs
- Rankings
- Event entries
- Equipment
- Training opportunities

Members were reminded that both Hannah and Leo remained available to support Member National Authorities with practical issues, particularly around access to equipment, events and athlete development.

Hannah concluded by noting that the office remained extremely busy but that the programme was entering an exciting period with several major international events approaching.

b. **Board updates (CS):**

Cory provided a brief update from the World Sailing Board.

She commented positively on the momentum currently being seen within Para Inclusive Sailing and recognised the significant amount of work being undertaken by the Committee and staff.

Cory advised that the Board remained supportive of the programme and acknowledged the progress being made across a number of strategic areas, particularly in relation to classification compliance and wider development activities.

She encouraged the Committee to continue maintaining the current momentum as preparations continued towards the World Sailing Inclusion Championships and the broader Paralympic reinstatement strategy.

3. **IPC Bid update (SD)**

a. **To update the PWSC on the status of the IPC bid**



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Scott provided an update regarding World Sailing's ongoing Paralympic reinstatement work.

The Committee heard that significant progress continued to be made following submission of World Sailing's application to the IPC.

Members were reminded that World Sailing was one of only a small number of International Federations already able to provide draft Classification Rules aligned with the 2025 IPC Classification Code.

Scott emphasised that considerable work remained ahead, but noted that the relationship with the IPC continued to be extremely positive.

Hannah reflected on attendance at the IPC Classification Conference, explaining that it had provided an excellent opportunity to work alongside other International Federations, exchange knowledge and demonstrate World Sailing's commitment to compliance.

The Committee recognised that the IPC continued to promote a message of **shared responsibility**, with compliance viewed as a collaborative process between the IPC and International Federations rather than simply an audit exercise.

Members welcomed the positive progress and recognised that maintaining momentum through the remaining compliance activities would be essential over the coming months.

4. Classification Sub Committee (HM)

Helen presented the report from the Classification Sub Committee.

Helen confirmed that the Classification Rules continued to progress well through consultation and testing.

Recent activity had focused on practical implementation during the RS Games, providing valuable opportunities to test procedures, documentation and athlete workflows.



Helen thanked the International Classifiers and volunteers who had supported the testing programme.

The Committee heard that testing had identified several minor improvements which would now be incorporated into the rules and associated guidance before further consultation.

Helen also highlighted the importance of ensuring the system remained sufficiently flexible to appropriately consider athletes with rare health conditions and uncommon presentations, noting that this would continue to be monitored carefully throughout implementation.

Members welcomed the progress being made and recognised the considerable work undertaken by the Classification Sub Committee.

b. IPC Classification Conference

Hannah provided a report from the IPC Classification Conference held in Germany that she attended with Vice Chair of the Sub Committee; Sarah Ross.

The conference brought together International Federations progressing implementation of the new IPC Classification Code.

Key themes included:

- Shared responsibility between the IPC and IFs.
- Consistency of implementation.
- Education and workforce development.
- Governance.
- Long-term compliance planning.

Hannah described the conference as extremely positive and valuable, providing opportunities to exchange experiences with other International Federations while demonstrating the progress World Sailing had already made.

The Committee noted that World Sailing's progress was recognised positively throughout the conference, particularly the work already undertaken on the new Classification Rules.



The conference also reinforced that implementation remained an ongoing journey, with collaboration between sports expected to continue beyond initial compliance.

c. Globocol Database

Leo presented an update on development of the new Classification Database.

The Committee heard that:

- Stage 1 and Stage 2 athlete application processes were now operational.
- Feedback received from Member National Authorities had already resulted in improvements to the software.
- Fifteen Member National Authorities had now established accounts.
- Athlete registrations were beginning to progress through the new system.

Leo thanked all Member National Authorities who had actively tested the platform and submitted feedback.

Leo reflected on the practical testing undertaken during the RS Games, where the database had been used alongside live classification.

This had demonstrated significant future potential to:

- streamline classification administration;
- reduce workload for volunteer classifiers;
- improve event reporting;
- integrate with race management systems.

One example currently being explored would allow classifiers to generate participant lists directly from the database following completion of evaluations, removing significant manual administration.

Leo noted that further work would be required with Organising Authorities to ensure future Notices of Race incorporated the new classification processes appropriately.

A further progress report would be presented following additional testing at:

- Hansa Europeans;
- Eurasian Cup (India);



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- World Sailing Inclusion Championships.

The Committee welcomed the update and recognised the database as an important part of World Sailing's long-term classification strategy.

5. WSIC (AS/ HS)

Adrian provided an update on preparations for the second World Sailing Inclusion Championships in Portimão.

Entry numbers continued to develop positively, with interest significantly exceeding previous editions. Approximately **33 nations** were either entered or intending to participate, with the ambition of reaching **40 Member National Authorities**.

Members were encouraged to continue promoting the event and to direct any nations requiring assistance with entries or logistics to the World Sailing office.

Adrian advised that planning remained heavily focused on delivery of the supplied equipment programme, particularly the RS Venture Connect fleet.

Current planning assumptions were that supplied boats would be used wherever possible, with privately-owned boats only being considered where athletes required specific adaptive equipment that could not reasonably be replicated within the supplied fleet.

Work continued with:

- the Organising Authority;
- equipment suppliers;
- class associations;
- boat owners;

to secure sufficient equipment from across Europe.

Adrian stressed the importance of Member National Authorities submitting supplied equipment requests as soon as possible to allow transport logistics to be finalised.



Further information on charter fees and supplied equipment would be published shortly.

The Committee welcomed the continued growth of the Championships and recognised the increasing logistical complexity associated with delivering a larger, more diverse international event.

6. Vision Impairment WG (BA)

Betsy provided an update following the inaugural meeting of the Visual Impairment Working Group, noting that the first session had primarily focused on introductions, establishing relationships within the group and agreeing the initial priorities for the coming months. The formal meeting notes were still being finalised and would be circulated to the Committee once complete.

The Committee heard that the first major area of work had been the review of the latest draft Blind Match Racing Rules. Betsy explained that these had been circulated to the Working Group for consultation, with comments requested by 24 July to allow all feedback to be consolidated into a single document before progressing the work further.

Lucy also provided the Working Group with an update on the reorganisation and renewed activity of Blind Sailing International (BSI).

Betsy highlighted the importance of developing a close relationship between World Sailing and BSI, recognising the organisation as an important conduit between athletes and World Sailing. Members discussed opportunities to work collaboratively on shared priorities, including athlete resources, guidance for organisers, assistants and Member National Authorities, and ensuring that resources were easily accessible for both fleet and match racing disciplines.

As the Blind Match Racing Rules remained the immediate priority, wider discussions had intentionally been kept broad, with further detailed work planned during future meetings.



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Hannah confirmed that a programme of online webinars would take place during the following week. Invitations had already been distributed to Member National Authorities, published on the Sailors' Forum and added to the Para Inclusive governance calendar on the World Sailing website. Members were encouraged to promote the sessions within their national programmes. Hannah also thanked Lucy for leading the webinar on progressing VI sailors from grassroots participation through to performance sailing. Leo shared the registration links in the meeting chat.

Committee noted:

- Progress of the VI Working Group.
- Ongoing consultation on the Blind Match Racing Rules.
- The renewed collaboration with Blind Sailing International.
- Upcoming VI webinar programme.

7. Growth WG – (KR)

Kay presented a report from the inaugural Growth Working Group meeting, describing it as highly constructive and bringing together a broad range of expertise from across the Para Inclusive Sailing community. The Working Group agreed that growth should not simply be measured by athlete participation numbers but should encompass the development of coaches, volunteers, officials, sailing clubs, leaders and wider sailing communities.

Members recognised that there was no single global solution to increasing participation. Instead, regional approaches would be required, acknowledging differences in culture, infrastructure, economics and opportunities between countries and continents. Kay reflected that the challenges faced in Asia differed considerably from those experienced in Europe and that development strategies needed to reflect these regional differences.

A significant part of the discussion focused on the role of local sailing clubs. Kay stressed that every yacht club, regardless of size, should aspire



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to provide opportunities for sailors with disabilities, not only to increase participation but also to improve understanding and acceptance within local sailing communities.

The importance of storytelling also featured prominently throughout the discussion. Members agreed that sharing athlete stories and positive examples of inclusion remained one of the strongest tools available to change perceptions, inspire participation and encourage volunteers and supporters to become involved.

The Working Group reviewed current growth indicators, including increases in participation, classification activity and international engagement. Members discussed the need to develop broader measures of success beyond simply counting entries at international events.

Looking ahead, the Working Group agreed its immediate priorities would include:

- Reviewing the existing Member National Authority survey data.
- Strengthening relationships with Member National Authorities.
- Building closer links with National Paralympic Committees.
- Continuing development of the Emerging Nations Framework.
- Identifying regional barriers and opportunities.
- Sharing successful national programmes and case studies.
- Supporting promotion of the World Sailing Inclusion Championships through local networks.

Kay concluded by thanking members of the Working Group for their enthusiasm and specifically recognised Dan for his valuable contribution during the inaugural meeting.

Committee noted:

- Growth should be measured across participation, people, education and community development.
- Regional approaches remain essential.
- Storytelling and communications are key drivers of participation.
- Continued collaboration with MNAs and NPCs will underpin future growth.

8. AIN Athletes/ Neutrality Policy

Antonio attended the Committee for the first time and presented an overview of the current World Sailing Neutrality Policy relating to Russian and Belarusian athletes.

Antonio explained that the policy had evolved considerably over the previous twelve months. Originally, Russian and Belarusian athletes were able to apply for Authorised Neutral Individual (AIN) status, provided they met the IOC neutrality criteria through an established screening and application process.

Following updated IOC recommendations issued in December 2025, World Sailing had amended its policy to reflect changes affecting youth athletes while maintaining alignment with IOC guidance. Antonio emphasised that World Sailing continued to follow IOC and IPC recommendations closely and that any future changes would similarly reflect international policy developments.

The Committee also considered correspondence received from a Ukrainian athlete requesting discussion of the policy. Members recognised the sensitivity of the issue and reaffirmed that World Sailing remained committed to implementing its approved policy consistently while respecting the views expressed by athletes from all affected nations.

Antonio invited questions from Committee members and reiterated that the Legal Department remained available to provide guidance should any policy questions arise.

Committee noted:

- Current World Sailing Neutrality Policy.
- Recent amendments following updated IOC recommendations.
- Continued alignment with IOC and IPC guidance.
- Receipt of correspondence from a Ukrainian athlete

9. IDP Antigua – (DJ/ HS)



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Dan and Hannah presented a report on the Inclusive Development Programme hosted by the National Sailing Academy in Antigua during June 2026.

The Committee heard that the programme had been highly successful, bringing together athletes, coaches and officials from across the Caribbean region while supporting the continued development of Para Inclusive Sailing within emerging nations.

Key outcomes included:

- Strong athlete and coach engagement throughout the programme.
- High levels of participant satisfaction, with an exceptionally positive Net Promoter Score.
- Increased interest from participating nations in attending future World Sailing Inclusion Championships.
- Strengthened regional relationships and collaboration between Caribbean Member National Authorities.

Members recognised Antigua's growing role as a regional development hub and welcomed discussions regarding future Caribbean development opportunities.

The Committee congratulated the organising team, National Sailing Academy and volunteers for delivering a successful programme under challenging operational conditions.

Committee noted:

- Positive outcomes from the Antigua IDP.
- Strong athlete and coach engagement.
- Continued growth of Caribbean participation.
- Potential future role of Antigua as a regional development hub.

10. WSC 2027

Ferran provided an update on preparations for the 2027 World Sailing Championships.

The Committee received an overview of current planning relating to:



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- Notice of Race development.
- Athlete quotas.
- Equipment provision.
- Venue accessibility.
- Operational planning.

Ferran confirmed that accessibility remained a key consideration within the planning process and advised that discussions with the Organising Authority continued regarding accessible pontoons, hoists and athlete facilities. He acknowledged that lessons learned from recent events would be incorporated wherever possible.

Henriette highlighted concerns regarding accessibility challenges experienced at previous championships, noting that issues often arose despite organisers believing facilities met accessibility requirements. She encouraged continued monitoring to ensure practical accessibility matched expectations on arrival.

Kay thanked Henriette for raising the issue and recognised that some challenges, particularly within historic towns, could not always be eliminated. However, the Committee agreed that accessibility should continue to be prioritised wherever improvements could reasonably be made.

Ferran confirmed that accessibility remained a key planning priority and assured members that World Sailing staff and the Organising Authority would continue working closely together throughout preparations.

Committee noted:

- Progress towards the 2027 Championships.
- Accessibility planning remains a priority.
- Lessons learned from recent events will be incorporated into future planning.

11. AOB



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Sarah raised a question regarding the Emerging Nations Working Group, explaining that consideration had been given to pausing the group's work until greater clarity was available regarding Paralympic reinstatement. Kay suggested discussing the matter offline with Hannah before making any recommendation.

Hannah agreed, noting that the Working Group itself should also be consulted before any decision was taken. She thanked Sarah for her continued work leading the initiative.

Scott's earlier comments regarding communications were reiterated. Hannah reminded members that World Sailing's newsletters relied heavily on contributions from the community and encouraged everyone to submit stories, photographs and examples of good practice from around the world to improve representation across the sport.

12. Thank you and next meeting

Kay thanked all Committee members, observers and World Sailing staff for their continued commitment and contribution throughout what had been a particularly full agenda.

Hannah confirmed that the next Committee meetings would be scheduled for:

- **20 August 2026 – 13:00 UTC**
- **24 September 2026 – 19:00 UTC**

The meeting closed with thanks to all attendees.



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Ref	Action	Lead
WS-01	Continue implementation of the IPC Classification Compliance Action Plan, ensuring delivery remains aligned with the agreed milestones towards compliance.	World Sailing Office
WS-02	Continue refinement and testing of the new Classification Rules through upcoming events, including the Eurasian Cup, Hansa Europeans and the World Sailing Inclusion Championships, incorporating feedback into future drafts.	Classification Team
WS-03	Continue development of the Globocol Classification Database following testing at RS Games, including refinement of athlete workflows, event management processes and integration with organisers.	Leo / Classification Team
WS-04	Finalise and publish charter equipment information, supplied equipment procedures and logistical guidance for the World Sailing Inclusion Championships.	World Sailing Office
WS-05	Continue supporting Member National Authorities with World Sailing Inclusion Championships entries, equipment access and Emerging Nations funding opportunities ahead of the 31 August entry deadline.	Hannah / Leo
WS-06	Deliver the scheduled Visual Impairment webinar series and continue development of educational resources for athletes, guides, coaches and organisers.	Hannah / Lucy



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WS-07	Continue collaboration with Blind Sailing International to develop resources and support the implementation of Blind Match Racing.	VI Working Group / Office
WS-08	Continue accessibility planning with the organisers of the 2027 World Sailing Championships, ensuring lessons learned from recent events are incorporated into venue planning and operations.	World Sailing Office
WS-09	Maintain regular communication with the Legal Department regarding implementation of the World Sailing Neutrality Policy and monitor any future IOC/IPC guidance.	Legal / Executive
WS-10	Continue promoting community stories, athlete profiles and development activities through World Sailing communications to support participation and awareness.	Communications Team

ACTION ITEMS – PWSC

Ref	Action	Lead
PWSC-01	Members to continue promoting the World Sailing Inclusion Championships within their Member National Authorities and regional networks to maximise participation.	All Members
PWSC-02	Members to encourage timely event entries and supplied equipment requests to assist operational planning.	All Members
PWSC-03	Review and provide feedback on the draft Blind Match Racing Rules before the consultation deadline.	VI Working Group



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PWSC-04	Support promotion of the upcoming Visual Impairment webinar programme through national and regional communication channels.	All Members
PWSC-05	Growth Working Group to continue developing regional growth strategies recognising differing challenges and opportunities across continents.	Growth Working Group
PWSC-06	Growth Working Group to review Member National Authority survey data and identify opportunities for increased participation and engagement.	Growth Working Group
PWSC-07	Continue strengthening relationships with National Paralympic Committees to support athlete pathways and long-term Paralympic objectives.	Growth Working Group
PWSC-08	Members to continue identifying and sharing positive stories, athlete profiles and examples of good practice to support communications and promotion of Para Inclusive Sailing.	All Members
PWSC-09	Continue monitoring accessibility at international events and provide feedback to World Sailing to support continuous improvement.	All Members
PWSC-10	Discuss the future direction and scope of the Emerging Nations Working Group before the next Committee meeting, including consultation with the Working Group members.	Kay / Hannah / Sarah