

Events Committee

The Events Committee met online, in two parts:

Part 1 at 1008 UTC on 21 August 2026, and Part 2 at 1205 UTC on 26 August 2026

Part 1 – 21 August 2026

Members Present:

Wolfgang Mayrhofer (AUT) Chair	Aiko Saito (JPN) Vice-Chair	Walter Boddener (BRA)
Shevaun Bruland (AUS)	Saskia Clark (GBR)	Tayfun Erey (TUR)
Anna Holmdahl White (SWE)	Ed Russo (FRA)	Piotr Oleksiak (POL)
Ben Remocker (CAN) Olympic Classes SC representative	Molly Vandemoer (USA)	Geoff Wooley (NZL)

In attendance:

Daniel Belcher (AUS) Vice President	Cory Sertl (USA) Vice President	Glen Stanaway Equipment Committee Chair
Laura Marimon Giovannetti Reg. 11.5 Working Group Leader	David Graham CEO	Michael Downing Olympic Manager
Ferran Muniesa Events Director	Corinne McKenzie Events Consultant	Matt Wheaton Competitions Manager
Jaime Navarro Director of Technical and Offshore		

Apologies:

Lisa Darmanin (AUS)	Tian Wang (CHN)	
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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. The Chair confirmed that a quorum was present.
- 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 no additional declarations were raised.
- e. The Committee noted the minutes of the Events Committee meetings on 5 May 2026 and 24 May 2026 (available at <https://www.sailing.org/inside-world-sailing/organisation/governance/commissions-committees-edi/committee-minutes-archive/>). No corrections or requests for change had been received.
- f. There were no matters arising from the minutes not covered elsewhere.

2. Update from the Board

- a. The Vice Presidents responsible for liaison with the Events Committee advised that, in the interest of time, a Board update would be given in part 2 of the meeting, beyond the Board's response to the Committee's request regarding the Regulation 11.5 Working Group report, to be presented under item 4. No further questions were raised by members.

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- b. The Committee noted the minutes of the Board meetings since their last Events Committee meeting (available at <https://www.sailing.org/inside-world-sailing/rules-regulations/board-meeting-minutes/>).

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

The Vice-Chair reported attendance at the Sailing Grand Slam regatta in Los Angeles (470 and ILCA fleets) and the 470 World Championships in Enoshima, noting increased participation compared with the previous year and positive engagement from athletes and race officials with the new formats.

The Chair reported that recent engagement had centred on Regulation 11.5 matters, alongside continuing work on bringing forward format planning for the 2032 cycle and ongoing work on continental quota and qualification questions, with further updates to follow in Part 2 of the meeting.

4. Events Decision Reg. 11.5

- a. The Chair outlined the process required under Regulation 11.5: for each event under review, the Committee must recommend to retain the event and/or evolve or select new equipment, or introduce a new event and equipment, with any recommendation proceeding via Council to the General Assembly for decision. The Chair set out the approach agreed with the Chair of the Equipment Committee: a joint Events and Equipment Committee Working Group; a stepwise process moving from the Working Group report to a final joint committee report; a funnelling approach narrowing the Working Group's ranked recommendations for Council's consideration; the two committees' formal independence, exercised while remaining open to the views of the Board, Council and external expertise; and multiple stakeholder feedback loops during development of the final report.

The Leader of the Regulation 11.5 Working Group presented the Working Group's report, developed over approximately 17 working group meetings since January 2026. The report set out five ranked recommendations for the events under review, including options for new kite and foiling monohull equipment for men and women, and retention of the mixed dinghy and mixed multihull, assessed against a comparative ranking of the ten-event slate incorporating both objective data and Working Group judgement. The assessment incorporated the IOC's Fit for the Future criteria, received in mid-July 2026, and drew on input from the Events and Equipment Committee, World Sailing staff and media/broadcast expertise. It was noted that the mixed multihull's retention across all recommendations was accompanied by proposed changes to its format and equipment supply model, and that further work remained on longer-term planning beyond Brisbane 2032.

The CEO presented the Board's feedback on the Working Group report, in three parts: first, that recommendations be supported by data that is as objective and measurable as possible, noting the IOC's Fit for the Future assessment weights global appeal and broadcast value at 60%, cost and complexity at 20%, and universality at 20%; second, a request for the Committee's perspective on how the prioritised slates advance participation by small nations and by women, including whether events position women as helms or crews and how equipment performs in light winds; and third, that World Sailing staff would continue due diligence on the proposed mixed team tournament event, addressing the governance of funds supporting smaller nations, the mechanics of quota cascading, and a clear

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articulation of the event format to ensure fair representation of both small and large nations. The Board reiterated the strategic significance of the decision and confirmed its willingness to allow the Committee further time to complete its assessment.

The Committee discussed the Working Group report and the Board's feedback at length. Points raised included: the importance of consistency and of resolving outstanding questions before matters proceed to the IOC; the balance between dinghy and board events and pathways for younger sailors; the risk of exposing the Games to unfavourable conditions across the slate, particularly in light winds; the degree of visual and competitive overlap between some proposed events and the existing slate, for example the foiling monohull and wing relative to the ILCA and kite classes; and pathway and universality data already observed for the iQFoil class. Members also raised the need for further data on the cost of campaigning for proposed new events and equipment, and on the reliability and maturity of associated equipment, as well as the importance of youth appeal and of appropriate athlete weight ranges to support participation by women and lighter sailors. The Chair of the Equipment Committee confirmed that cost escalation, equipment durability and athlete weight range would remain priority criteria in the Equipment Committee's parallel evaluation, along with a preference for supplied one-design equipment where achievable, and that a design contest between manufacturers would not be pursued. It was confirmed that the mixed multihull, while retained in all five recommendations, is proposed for a change in format and equipment supply model, to be addressed further in the joint report; the Equipment Committee would consider the associated equipment questions at its following meeting.

The Committee raised no objection to the proposed action plan and indicative timeline: an update to be sent to Council on 26 August 2026 ahead of presentation at the Council meeting on 9 September 2026; continued task-area and stakeholder consultation work through September; a first draft of the final joint Events and Equipment Committee report in early October 2026; and a final joint report to Council in late October/early November 2026, ahead of General Assembly consideration at the Annual Conference. Members with relevant expertise were invited to contact the Chair to contribute to specific task areas. The Committee recorded its thanks to the Leader of the Working Group and its members, and to the Chair of the Equipment Committee, for their work.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1140 UTC, to reconvene for Part 2 on 26 August 2026.

Part 2 – 26 August 2026

Members Present:

Wolfgang Mayrhofer (AUT) Chair	Aiko Saito (JPN) Vice-Chair	Walter Boddener (BRA)
Shevaun Bruland (AUS)	Saskia Clark (GBR)	Tayfun Erey (TUR)
Anna Holmdahl White (SWE)	Ed Russo (FRA)	Ben Remocker (CAN) Olympic Classes SC representative
Molly Vandemoer (USA)	Tian Wang (CHN)	Geoff Wooley (NZL)

In attendance:

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Daniel Belcher (AUS) Vice President	Cory Sertl (USA) Vice President	Michael Downing Olympic Manager
Ferran Muniesa Events Director	Matt Wheaton Competitions Manager	Tim Hancock Project Manager

Apologies:

Lisa Darmanin (AUS)	Piotr Oleksiak (POL)	
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Opening of Part 2

- a. The Chair welcomed committee members and observers back for the second part of the meeting.
- b. The Chair noted an apology received from Lisa Darmanin and Piotr Oleksiak.
- c. The Chair confirmed that a quorum was present.
- d. The Committee noted that Anna Holmdahl White had updated her Conflicts of Interest register, having taken on a new role within the Swedish Sailing Federation (the SWE MNA).

2. Update from the Board (continued from Part 1)

The Vice Presidents responsible for liaison with the Events Committee gave the further Board update deferred from Part 1. Members were reminded to register for the Annual Conference in China (16-21 November 2026). The Board's ongoing work responding to the IOC's evolving position on the neutrality status of Russian and Belarusian athletes was noted, with a further update expected around the Council meeting on 9 September 2026. Other updates included the successful running of the Team Racing World Championship (2v2 keelboat format) in Stockholm; progress on the reinstatement of Para sailing within the Paralympic programme and the upcoming Para Sailing Inclusion World Championships in Portugal, which had attracted 42 countries; and the announcement of the leadership of the Los Angeles 2028 Games race officials team. The Committee's thanks were recorded for the teamwork shown across the Events and Equipment Committees and World Sailing staff in progressing the Olympic vision project. No questions were raised by members.

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

The Chair reported that work continued on the update report to Council arising from the Part 1 discussion, which would be circulated shortly after the meeting incorporating minor edits and feedback received from the Board. No further updates were provided by the Vice-Chair.

6. World Sailing Championships

- a. The Events Director gave an update on the 2027 World Sailing Championships in Fortaleza, Brazil, reporting a recent visit to the venue with the local organising team and noting strong commitment and progress from the host. The second round of entries was due to open in September, with an updated schedule to follow around the same time. In discussion, it was reported that a decision on electronic starting technology for the event is expected by the end of September, following further testing, with World Sailing requiring full integration with results and tracking systems from any provider before a system is selected; classes will be consulted before a final decision is made.

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- b. The Events Director gave an update on the 2027 World Sailing Championships in Gdynia, Poland, reporting on the test event held in July, which included the 470 Junior and Para European Championships. Strong commitment from the host city and national sailing association was noted, along with valuable learnings on venue logistics, fan zones and sport presentation. GPS-based technology used for the event experienced some reliability issues, attributed to regional interference linked to the conflict between Russia and Ukraine; this is being factored into planning, including contingency arrangements, for the 2027 Championships. Registration and the Notice of Race were expected to be released in September.

7. Olympic Sailing Competition – Los Angeles 2028

- a. The Olympic Manager gave an update on the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games, noting that the LA28 organising committee's workforce has scaled up significantly, with key functional areas including meteorology and venue design now staffed. A Sport Manager (Meredith Brody) and Venue Lead (Alastair Fox) have been formally appointed, bringing strong sailing and Olympic experience to the organising committee. At a macro level, the published schedule and venue locations remain unchanged, with remaining work focused on detailed refinements, such as the exact launch location at Belmont Shore. The test event remains planned for the last week of August/first days of September 2027, subject to LA28 securing an outstanding permit; the Notice of Race will follow once dates are confirmed. LA28 continues to seek to minimise the scope of test events across all sports, and Sailing remains the only sport still planning to hold one; the number of entries per country for the test event is expected to again be limited to one per country per event, consistent with prior Games.
- b. The Olympic Manager gave an update on implementation of the Council-approved format recommendations, reporting that approximately half of the recommendations are now implemented. Work continues on athlete and equipment gender and nationality identification, in consultation with the athletes' community, with associated changes expected to uniforms and uniform registration processes. Technology for start/finish and scoring systems is progressing well for boat events; progress for board events is less mature and requires further development of umpiring communication tools to athletes, to support the objective that finish order determines results order. No questions were raised.
- c. The Vice-Chair and the Olympic Manager updated the Committee on the qualification system for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Sailing Competition. The Working Group is progressing three matters: clarification of the continental quota reallocation sequence (Recommendation 1); the role of developing nations in the reallocation process; and the approach to continents lacking confirmed qualifier hosts. The Committee received and discussed Recommendation 1 (full text see below), which provides that, before a continental slot is reallocated, all athletes at the relevant continental qualifier are offered the opportunity to accept it, working down the results list, before any reallocation to the Last Chance Regatta or developing nation provisions. The Committee approved Recommendation 1 unanimously, for submission to Council with a view to approval ahead of the Asian Games qualifying event next month. The remaining two matters remain under Working Group discussion and are targeted for resolution ahead of the Committee's next meeting. In discussion, members raised the tight timeline for finalising all

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qualification events, given the equipment purchase and logistics lead times required by teams, with a target of having recommendations to the Board ahead of its next meeting; the need for plain-English public communication of the qualification system alongside the formal documentation, to reduce confusion among team leaders and athletes; and a request that World Sailing consider whether bid requirements for continental qualifiers and World Sailing Championships could be eased to widen the pool of potential hosts.

Recommendation 1

The Events Committee recommends that the Council:

Approve a new Step 1 in Section F.1.2 (Continental Qualification Events) of the LA28 Qualification System reallocation table, such that an unconfirmed or declined continental quota place is first reallocated to the next-highest-ranked eligible NOC in the same event at the same Continental Qualification Event, not already qualified (respecting the maximum quota per gender and per NOC), before any existing step is applied.

- d. The Project Manager and the Olympic Classes SC representative updated the Committee on the development of Digital Officiating Systems. Testing has continued across classes including the 49er/49erFX, ILCA 6/7 and 470, with generally positive feedback on start/finish line systems and faster race starts, though some resilience challenges were noted, including at the Gdynia test event where GPS reliability was affected by regional interference. Further testing is planned at the Formula Kite European Championships in Turkey (September) and a Halo system trial in Lanzarote (early October). Automated integration of results into results systems is progressing well. Development of drone umpiring and athlete communication tools (including protest buttons and penalty signal lights) remains at an early stage, with technical challenges around waterproofing, range and two-way communication still to be resolved. Observed changes in athletes' starting behaviour as a result of the new start technology were discussed; the Format Working Group will consider, at its meeting on 3 September 2026, whether a short delay in relaying over-the-line calls to sailors could further support more conservative starting behaviour.
- e. The Olympic Manager, on behalf of the Leader of the Format Working Group, updated the Committee on formats for the Qualification Regattas for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Sailing Competition. The Working Group is scheduled to meet on 3 September 2026 to progress three topics: finalising open questions on Games formats and target times; formats for qualifier events, which have greater flexibility on race numbers and fleet sizes than the Games schedule given the longer regatta windows available at Fortaleza and Gdynia; and beginning early-stage work on a format review for the 2032 Games, to avoid the time pressure experienced late in the current cycle.

On Olympic Classes regattas formats, the Olympic Classes SC representative noted the importance of weighing broadcast optimisation alongside consistency across the sport when considering these questions, and advised that a discussion paper would be circulated ahead of the 3 September meeting.

8. World Sailing Calendar

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- a. The Committee received an update on the World Sailing Calendar. It was reported that the 2027 Senior European Championships would proceed in May 2027, as already negotiated ahead of the calendar policy taking effect. A scheduling conflict between the 2027 Sailing Grand Slam OCR events and other championships remains under discussion, with a further update expected following the team leaders' meeting the following week. A continuing conflict between the ILCA 6 Senior World Championships and the Last Chance Regatta in early 2028 remains unresolved; World Sailing is in dialogue with the class to mitigate the risk of athletes being forced to choose between the two events. In discussion, members raised concerns about the cumulative impact of continental qualifiers, World Sailing Championships and other major regattas on the availability of dates for Olympic class championships. It was agreed that a meeting with the classes and the Calendar and Rankings Working Group would be convened in the coming weeks to plan future dates further in advance and reduce the risk of similar conflicts.

9. Proposals Assigned to the Events Committee

- a. None.
- b. None.

10. AOB

- a. None raised.

The Chair thanked members, staff and observers for their contributions across both parts of the meeting. The meeting was closed at 1310 UTC.