

World Sailing
Growth of Sailing Meeting Minutes

Meeting Dates: July 7, 2026

Location: Teams Meeting

Commencement Time: 11:00 UTC

<u>Members Present:</u>	
Malav Shroff (IND) – Chair	Irina Pérez Leroux (DOM)
Inga Jakobson (LAT) – Vice Chair	Mandiaye Diouf (SEN)
John Philp (FIJ)	Borka Bachrata (SVK)
Maciej Szafran (POL)	Mandiaye Diouf (SEN)
Mohamed Alobeidli (UAE)	Mengdi Zhang (CHN)
David Covo (CAN) - PANAM Sailing	Pinar Coskuner Genc (TUR) - EUROSAF
John Tierney (OSAF)	Jennifer Hall (CAN) - OOC
<u>VPs & Staff Attendance:</u>	
Tomasz Chamera (POL) – Vice President	Fiona Kidd – Head of International Development
Beatriz Gonzalez Luna (MEX) – Vice President	Larisa Zejen – Development Assistant
<u>Members Absent :</u>	
Albassel Ibrahim (EGY)	Luis Velasco (ARG)
Emma Hallén (SWE) - Para Sailing	Jenny Trumble (VIN)
Abdur Rehman Arshad (PAK) - ASAF	Stratis Andreadis (GRE)
Raynor Haagh (NZL)	Alain Alcindor (SEY)
Sigrid Beckhmann (MEX)	

<u>Agenda Items</u>
1. <u>Opening of the Meeting</u> a. <i>Chair's Opening Remarks</i> Malav Shroff, the Chair, welcomed all of the committee members to the meeting. b. <i>Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Conflicts of Interest</i> Apologies were received from Captain Arshad, Stratis Andreadis, Raynor Haagh, Sigrid Beckhmann, Albassel Ibrahim, Alain Alcindor, and Sophia Papamichelopoulos (VP). c. <i>Minutes of the meetings held on May 5th and June 2, 2026</i> The Minutes of meetings held on May 5th and June 2nd were approved as circulated and read. d. <i>Matters Arising</i> There were no matters arising not on the current agenda. e. <i>Decisions by Email</i> There were no decisions by email.
2. <u>Pillar 3 & 4 Execution Plans</u> <i>Implementation plans from each of the Working Groups on Pillar 3 (Sailing Support - Coaches, Race Officials, Event Organizers, Volunteers) & Pillar 4 (Projects, Events Funding & Sailing Ecosystem) were presented.</i>

a) Pan American Pillar 3 & 4 Report

David Covo presented the Pan American WG's conceptual projects to the five pillars. He proposed key actions including expanding coaching & volunteer networks, mentoring programs, updated toolkits in multiple languages, and establishing clearer communications channels to leverage existing regional resources rather than duplicating programmes. David also presented under Pillar 3, a description of coaching and race official clinics, regional events at Continental Games and major qualifiers and inclusion of Para and women's programs. Funding sources were listed as IOC, World Sailing, Panam Sports, Pan Am Sailing, and private sponsors, while costs remain to be estimated and tied to other pillars. He noted there is structural fragility in some MNAs that depend on wealthy families and flagged this as a continuity risk.

Pillar 4 was presented as a sailing ecosystem emphasizing shared equipment and human resources and developing a culture of regional equipment-sharing and resource networks drawing on the IODA ROPE model. The group proposed KPI's to map shared boats and to focus on target classes including Optimist and ILCA, with costs and timelines to be determined.

b) Oceania Academy Proposal

John Philp presented the Oceania academy proposal: a single academy hub in Fiji, combining a physical location and digital delivery with mentoring from Australia and New Zealand, targeting connection of 20 nations, four programs delivered annually and at least ten mentoring programmes. The concept included digital platforms, bulk equipment procurement MOU's with Asia and Africa and use of containerized fleets for regional events.

JP reported that a sponsor pledge of \$260,000 as estimated \$150,000 initial spend, capex around \$2 million and an annual operating budget near \$200,000 with design and legal work through Q3-Q4 2026, funding applications in early 2027, and an official launch in Q3 2027. Governance, legal ownership, and the academy's relationship with the Continental Federation were identified as unresolved priorities.

c) Asia Regional Support Ecosystem

The Asia Working Group presented a three-year rollout to build a regional support ecosystem focused on education, certification, mentoring, and a coaching /resources hub linking elite and grassroots coaches to raise capacity in emerging nations in the region. They emphasized re-using World Sailing Academy content, and establish certification alignment and set concrete 3-year KPI's for officials, coaches, volunteers, coach profiles, and event coverage. They also presented commercial strategies including a sponsorship toolkit, second-hand boat marketplace with logistics, revenue-diversification workshops, funding buckets (Olympic Solidarity, CSR, manufacturers), and a request to finalize cost estimates with the Growth Committee and World Sailing support.

d) Europe – "Sail-Up" Cross Pillar Project

The Europe Working Group proposed a cross-pillar (3 & 4) "Sail Up" project and smaller subprojects to centralize capacity-building for coaches, race officials, organizers and volunteers and to create reusable toolkits and mentoring formats for transfer to other countries and continents. They recommended pursuing Erasmus+ partnerships, IOC support, and in-kind World Sailing contributions, and described a phased preparation and

application timeline, and estimated possible project budgets up to approximately 600,000 Euros with one to three-year delivery options and piloting phases.
3. <u>ENP Definition</u> Malav opened the discussion by asserting that ‘emerging’ should be tied to growth needs rather than GDP or Olympic qualification, and he suggested naming countries that do not require support while classifying the rest as emerging. He emphasised simplicity and the inclusion of countries that need help even if they are high-income or traditionally strong in other respects. Inga reviewed the historical two-parameter approach – GDP and participation threshold across Olympic events and raised concerns that GDP and the current event-count method misrepresent countries that try but fail to qualify for Olympics or whose sailors compete in non-supported classes. There was a discussion regarding the difference between high-performance support rather than base-of-pyramid growth and noted this distinction. There was further discussion regarding the suitability of GDP as an indicator of support for sailing MNAs and suggested to identify better regional measurement tools because funding does not consistently correlate with national GDP’s. The group examined which classes the Emerging Nations Programme actually supports, noting that the ENP helps young sailors and those close to Olympic Qualification and that programs support is concentrated in ILCA and IQFoil classes. Action: Malav proposed that each of the five continental groups list which nations in their region are ‘established’ so the remainder can be treated as ‘emerging’ for ENP and selection purposes. He proposed a practical two-bucket classification – ‘established’ verses ‘emerging’ – where emerging countries are those needing assistance to send sailors to World Sailing Youth Worlds or ENP Programmes. Action: Each Working Group to send to Fiona their lists prior to the next meeting to be summarized.
4. <u>2026 Development Webinar Series</u> Fiona reported due to reduced resources in the office, this item has been deferred to the fall.
5. <u>2026 Development Symposium</u> Fiona reported that the first Development slot on Thursday will be called the ‘Impact Sessions’, and will be based on sailing programmes that are having significant social impact. The second Development Session on Friday, will be dedicated to the work of the Growth of Sailing Committee.
6. <u>Report from Executive Office</u> - Beatriz Gonzalez Luna commented that the committee needs to start work on the Development Plan for approval in November. There was a brief discussion on the equipment contract. Fiona advised that a contract had been signed and that no further update is available. - Due to time constraints this item was not discussed. It will be reported at the next session.

7. **AOB**

Pinar Coskuner Genc, President of Eurosaf, flagged confusion caused by event names that blur continental boundaries in reference to a Para Inclusion Sailing event taking place in India in August called the Eurasian Inclusive Cup. There is a Eurosaf Inclusion Championships taking place in July. Eurosaf has informed the organizer regarding the name and will escalate it further if needed.

The next meeting will take place on **August 10th at 11:00 UTC**.

Meeting concluded at 12:30 UTC.

Items to discuss are:

- Pillar 3 & 4 Pillar Implementation Plans – Africa
- Pillar 5 - MNA Toolkit
- Working groups to prepare regional lists of ‘established’ and ‘emerging’ countries