

Equipment Committee Minutes



World Sailing Equipment Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: August 21th 2026

Location: Virtually via MS Teams

Time: From 12:00 to 14:00 UTC

1. **Opening of the Meeting**
2. **Proposals**
3. **Annual Work Plan**
4. **Other Items of business**

Committee Members Present:

Glen Stanaway Chairman (AUS)
Matteo Plazzi Vice-Chairman (ITA)
Cedric Fraboulet (FRA)
Diana Kissane (IRL)
Ganapathy Kelapanda Chengappa (IND)
Haluk Suntay (TUR)
Laura Marimon Giovannetti (SWE)
Niall McLeod (GBR)
Peter Vink (NED)
Roman Hagara (AUT)
William Abbott (CAN)
Alfred Pelinka (AUT) – PSC Rep
Andreas Kosmatopoulos (GRE) – WSCC Rep
Dimitris Dimou (GRE) – ERSC Chair
James Dadd (GBR) – SRSC Chair
Kimberly Lim Min (SGP) – AC Rep
Sandy Grosvenor (USA) – RRC Rep

In Attendance:

Corinne Migraine (WS Vice-President)
Dave Hughes (WS Vice-President)
Jaime Navarro (WS Technical and Offshore Director)
Francesco Gulizzi (WS Technical Manager)
Obi Groombarke (WS Technical Specialist)
Pilar Lopez (WS Classes Manager)

Apologies Received:

Aileen Loo (SGP)
Denise Caffari (GBR) – OOC Rep
Jo Aleh (NZL)
Szymon Wierzbicki (POL)

1. **Opening of the Meeting**
 - a. **Chair's Opening Remarks**

The Chair, Glen Stanaway, welcomed members and observers to the meeting and noted that the agenda and supporting papers were publicly available online.

It was confirmed that a quorum was present in accordance with the Committee's Terms of Reference.

The Chair welcomed Dave Hughes, World Sailing Vice President and primary liaison to the Committee, and Corinne Migraine, secondary Vice President from the Board of Directors, and thanked them for attending. The Chair also thanked observers for joining the meeting and acknowledged Jaime Navarro and the World Sailing staff for their support in preparing for the meeting.

It was noted that no matters were expected to be subject to a decision or vote at this meeting, but that the discussions would help establish the basis for matters to be considered at the 2026 Annual Conference.

The Chair noted that the agenda items were aligned with the Committee's Annual Work Plan and emphasised the importance of continuing to deliver against the agreed work programme. He thanked the task teams and working groups for their significant volunteer contributions during the year and encouraged all Committee members to actively participate in the discussions.

b. Apologies for Absence

The following apologies for absence were noted:

- Aileen Loo (SGP)
- Denise Caffari (GBR) – OOC Rep
- Jo Aleh (NZL)
- Szymon Wierzbicki (POL)

No further apologies were reported.

c. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

The Chair noted that Dimitris Dimou and Peter Vink had declared interests relevant to agenda item 2A, Regulation 11.5 – Events under review.

Other members were invited to declare any new conflicts of interest not already identified through their Committee appointments.

No additional conflicts were declared.

d. Minutes of last Equipment Committee meeting

The Chair invited Committee members to raise any comments or amendments concerning the minutes of the the Equipment Committee 2026 Mid-Year Meeting.

No comments or amendments were raised.

2. Proposals

a. Regulation 11.5 Events under review

The Chair introduced agenda item 2A concerning the four Olympic Events under review. He noted that the report had been circulated to the Committee in advance and that an informal joint meeting of the Equipment and Events Committees had subsequently been held.

Dave Hughes, World Sailing Vice President, acknowledged the significant work undertaken by the Committee and the Working Group. He commended the process and noted that the issues being considered were complex and would have a significant impact on the future direction of the sport. He emphasised that the forthcoming decisions should be approached with appropriate care and consideration.

The Chair noted that the Regulation 11.5 process involved several stages: the joint working group, the Equipment and Events Committees, Council and, ultimately, the General Assembly. He emphasised that the Committees retained flexibility in developing their recommendations, whereas Council and the General Assembly would subsequently be able to vote only on the recommendations put forward through the respective stages.

The Chair also noted that the timing of the General Assembly was fixed, while the timing of the Council consideration provided some flexibility. The Committee therefore retained sufficient time to consider the matter further and finalise its recommendation.

The Chair stressed the importance of ensuring that the Committee's recommendations were evidence-based and sufficiently robust to withstand scrutiny in the longer term, including consideration of the International Olympic Committee's Fit for the Future framework, broadcasting requirements, athlete considerations, equipment costs and the future development of the sport.

Working Group Update

Laura Marimon Giovannetti provided an update on the work of the Regulation 11.5 joint working group, which had met weekly since January 2026 and included members of both the Equipment and Events Committees.

She explained that the working group had assessed existing and potential new events against a number of criteria and recognised that each recommendation had both strengths and weaknesses. The assessment considered the future outlook of the sport, stakeholder submissions, the North Star criteria developed during the process, and the International Olympic Committee's Fit for the Future framework.

The working group had developed five possible recommendations. These included options involving the retention or replacement of existing events and the introduction of new events, including men's and women's wing foil, men's and women's foiling monohulls, and potential team-based events.

It was noted that the working group had not established a definitive ranking of all options and that some proposals represented a greater departure from the current Olympic programme than others. The importance of clearly defining the equipment requirements associated with each potential event was emphasised.

Niall McLeod added that the Equipment Committee should focus particularly on the equipment implications of both retained events, where equipment changes or supplied equipment may be appropriate, and any proposed new events.

Discussion of Event Recommendations

The Chair presented the results of the informal poll previously conducted among the Equipment and Events Committees. The poll was non-binding and was intended to provide an indication of members' preferences.

The highest-ranked option was to retain the mixed dinghy and mixed multihull events and replace the men's and women's kite events with men's and women's wing foil.

The second-ranked option was to retain the mixed dinghy and mixed multihull events and replace the men's and women's kite events with men's and women's foiling monohull.

A further option involved replacing the mixed dinghy and kite events, retaining the mixed multihull, introducing men's and women's wing foil, and introducing a team racing event.

The Chair reminded the Committee that decisions concerning the events themselves were principally a matter for the Events Committee, while the Equipment Committee's primary responsibility was to consider the equipment implications.

Universality and Team Events

Andreas Kosmatopoulos raised concerns regarding the proposed event recommendations, particularly the repeated inclusion of the mixed multihull. He also questioned the feasibility and universality of the proposed team racing and mixed team tournament concepts. Concerns were raised regarding the number of nations that would be able to form complete teams, the potential impact on smaller nations, athlete quotas, and the possibility that the events could disproportionately benefit stronger sailing nations.

The assumption that certain events would provide stronger pathways to professional sailing was also questioned, noting that athletes from a wide range of Olympic classes contribute to professional sailing circuits.

Laura Marimon Giovannetti acknowledged the concerns and explained that the Working Group had considered universality throughout its discussions. She noted that existing Olympic events, particularly the ILCA and IQFoil, already contribute strongly to universality and that the assessment of the events under review therefore also needed to consider the overall balance of the Olympic programme and the IOC's Fit for the Future criteria.

She explained that the proposed mixed team tournament could potentially create opportunities for smaller nations through financial and organisational support, although she acknowledged that the detailed financial and qualification arrangements were outside the working group's remit and would require further due diligence.

The discussion also considered the potential broadcasting and audience benefits of larger team events and keelboat sailing, as well as the importance of balancing these considerations against athlete and Member National Association costs.

Glen Stanaway noted that the concerns raised were primarily matters for the Events Committee and that representatives of the Events Committee were present as observers. He encouraged further dialogue between the relevant parties should additional information be required.

Wing Foil Event Format

Sandy Grosvenor asked for clarification regarding the proposed expression elements of the wing foil format, including jumping and other manoeuvres, and questioned how extensively these formats had been tested.

Laura Marimon Giovannetti explained that expression elements had been considered for both broadcasting and athlete-weight considerations. She noted that aspects of the format had been tested at the Gdynia test event and through the Red Bull Foiling Academy.

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Jaime Navarro confirmed that the expression elements under consideration had been limited to performing “360” manoeuvres and jumping obstacles as part of a race format, with no judged expression elements.

It was noted that further work would be required to assess the equipment implications of any expressive elements and that the Equipment Committee would need to consider these aspects carefully if the wing foil proposal progressed.

Equipment Criteria

The Chair presented draft equipment criteria for the potential men's and women's wing foil, foiling monohull, mixed team racing and mixed team tournament events.

The Chair highlighted a number of issues requiring further consideration, including:

- appropriate athlete weight parameters;
- whether the equipment should be strictly one-design or allow alternative concepts;
- durability and robustness;
- appropriate wind range;
- the feasibility of supplied equipment;
- equipment launch and handling requirements;
- controlling equipment development and associated costs.

Jaime Navarro explained that the criteria approved alongside the event recommendations would provide the high-level framework for the Equipment Committee's equipment selection process in the following year. More detailed requirements would subsequently be developed through the tender process.

He noted that the current approach intentionally left certain technical choices open, allowing different equipment concepts to be considered during the tender and evaluation process. He referred to the previous iQFOiL equipment selection process as an example of how broad criteria could subsequently be developed into a detailed tender and testing process.

The Chair invited Committee members to review the draft criteria and submit any proposed additions, amendments or deletions by 28 August.

Kimberly Lim indicated that the matter would also be taken back to the Athletes Committee for feedback, with input to be provided by 28 August.

Equipment Cost Controls

Laura Marimon Giovannetti asked whether a mechanism for controlling equipment costs could be included in the criteria.

Jaime Navarro explained that work was already being undertaken on mechanisms for addressing the cost of Olympic equipment. While World Sailing could not directly control an open market, the tender process could potentially include mechanisms for controlling or limiting price increases, including provisions relating to inflation, market conditions, royalties and other factors contributing to the overall equipment price.

Further work on this issue would be brought forward as appropriate.

Mixed Multihull – Nacra 17

The Committee then considered the equipment implications of retaining the mixed multihull event using the Nacra 17.

It was noted that retention of the event under the proposed recommendations was subject to important conditions concerning both the event format and equipment supply. In particular, the format would need to become more suitable for broadcasting, while the equipment approach should seek to reduce costs and limit the equipment development, particularly in relation to foils.

Laura Marimon Giovannetti reported that the working group considered the current Nacra 17 equipment to have reached a substantially improved level of stability, durability and repeatability following several campaigns.

The working group considered that supplying the complete Nacra 17 would be difficult because of the complexity of the boat and the extent to which sailors customise controls and settings. However, supplying foils, and potentially masts, at the Olympic Games was considered potentially achievable.

Niall McLeod agreed that the quality and consistency of the foils had improved significantly but noted that further work was required to establish whether they had reached a sufficient level for supplied equipment at the Games. He suggested that the objective should be to reach a level of consistency that would allow athletes to receive a single matched set, rather than requiring multiple sets from which athletes could select.

The Chair reported that he had received informal input from the Nacra 17 class representative, concerning a possible centralised pool of sets of foils. Under such an approach, equipment could be managed centrally and rotated between teams at major events, with equipment progressively assessed and unsuitable equipment removed from the pool.

The Chair noted that it was also indicated that the existing approach to masts appeared sufficiently stable, based on purchasing patterns, and that the primary focus should therefore be on the foils.

The Committee was advised that further consideration of this proposal would take place during the following week.

The Chair emphasised that the proposed retention of the Nacra 17 should not be interpreted as retention of the event and equipment without change. The event format would need to address broadcasting requirements and the equipment approach would need to explore ways of reducing costs, particularly those associated with foil development.

Actions agreed:

- All Equipment Committee members to review the proposed equipment criteria and submit additions, amendments or deletions by 28 August.
- Equipment Committee Chair, WS Staff and Working Group Equipment Committee Representatives to consolidate feedback and prepare revised equipment criteria for Committee consideration.
- Equipment Committee to subsequently vote on the revised criteria, either electronically or at a further meeting, depending on the complexity of the outstanding issues.

- Working group and World Sailing Staff to continue investigating mechanisms for controlling or managing Olympic equipment costs.
- Working group and World Sailing Staff to further examine the feasibility of supplied Nacra 17 foils, masts and/or other equipment and the potential for a centralised equipment pool.

3. Annual Work Plan

a. Ongoing Business Task Team update

Pilar López Fernández provided an update on the ongoing classes review work on behalf of Dimitris Dimou, who was unable to speak during the meeting.

The classes currently under review are Formula 16, Hansa 2.3, Hansa Liberty, Kite Foil Open, Viper 640, Melges 32. The review is considering compliance with the relevant World Sailing Regulations and Policies, including international participation and distribution requirements.

For Hansa 2.3 and Hansa Liberty, the issue of their unique sailing provision has been discussed at Board level because it is linked to the wider para-sailing context and the IPC programme. The Board has postponed a decision for the time being and has invited the para sailing committee to consider whether separate requirements should be developed for para-sailing classes rather than having these classes assessed against the same requirements that apply to other classes.

For Formula 16, the class has been contacted but has not yet provided the required documentation demonstrating global distribution. The Classes Office will follow up with the class and the relevant MNAs.

For Kite Foil Open, the class has recognised that does not comply with the applicable regulations and is expected to be withdrawn.

No response has been received from the Viper and Melges 32 Classes.

A new class application has also been received from the Switch One Design Class. The applicant still needs to provide supporting documentation, including the required letters from MNAs or evidence of global distribution.

The Office is also analysing World Championship results across the Classes and the Task Team has asked for volunteers from the Equipment Committee to assist with this analysis. The objective is to consolidate participation data and verify compliance with the relevant Regulations and Policies, including World Championship participation requirements and permitted championship titles.

Several wider issues were highlighted for consideration:

- World Sailing should clarify how classes that serve a unique aspect of sailing should be defined and treated, so that the review process can be applied consistently and fairly.
- The existing class recognition and review criteria are established in the Regulations and Policies, but the task team is considering whether the scoring matrix and weighting of individual criteria remain appropriate for 2027.
- A realistic annual target for the number of classes reviewed should be established so that classes can be reviewed within a reasonable period.

- A clear process is required for dealing with classes that do not comply with the applicable requirements, including identifying the actions to be taken and which body has authority to make the relevant decisions.
- Classes without an international measurer have had this requirement postponed several times. The appropriate actions should be determined by the Equipment Committee as soon as possible.

Alfred Pelinka noted that the para-sailing community welcomed the postponement of the Hansa 2.3 and Hansa Liberty review, given their worldwide reach and potential importance to reinstatement of the relevant IPC programme. He also advised that a framework is being developed for para and inclusive recognised World Sailing classes.

Pilar López Fernández reported that a class application procedure have been prepared and approved by the task team, with final documentation being completed for presentation at the Annual Conference.

b. Equipment Evolution Task Team Update

Kimberly Lim provided an update on the Equipment Evolution Task Team. The review covers equipment used for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic Games that are not currently under review, including the 49er, iQFOiL and ILCA Classes.

The Task Team recently completed a survey seeking views from sailors, MNAs, coaches and youth participants on equipment performance, accessibility, suitability and cost, as well as physical requirements and potential barriers to participation and campaigning. More than 150 responses were received.

In parallel, the Task Team consulted with the three Class Associations to better understand the current equipment landscape, the challenges facing the classes and their priorities.

The survey results had not yet been analysed in detail. The Task Team will now review the findings and compare them with the feedback received from the class associations, including identifying areas of alignment and determining whether further issues or proposals should be explored.

The Class Associations have also developed some preliminary proposals, although these remain at an early stage. It is expected that a number of proposals will be sufficiently developed for consideration at the Annual Conference in November.

Glen Stanaway clarified that the purpose of the work is to identify potential adjustments to equipment, address existing problems and consider opportunities to improve the equipment used at the relevant events.

The Task Team is expected to provide a consolidated conclusion from the survey and Class Consultations at the Annual Conference, including an assessment of whether any proposed equipment changes are supported by the athlete and coach feedback.

c. Equipment Re-evaluations Task Team Update

Haluk Suntay provided an update on the Equipment Re-evaluation Task Team and its work to develop a procedure under Regulation 11.7 for the Olympic equipment selection and re-evaluation process.

Although the current document has been prepared with Brisbane 2032 in mind, it is intended to provide a framework that can also be used for future Olympic cycles.

The Task Group identified a number of key principles to be reflected in the procedure, including:

- Ensuring that Olympic equipment remains affordable and accessible to sailors from all nations.
- Avoiding monopolies and ensuring compliance with the applicable competition/antitrust principles.
- Giving preference to equipment manufacturers that provide transparent technical data, allowing sailors to better understand and work with their equipment.
- Including safeguards to ensure that equipment is not replaced simply because it is no longer new or fashionable.

Jaime Navarro clarified the relationship between the event review and the equipment re-evaluation processes. For events retained from Paris through to Brisbane, a re-evaluation of the existing Olympic equipment is required. This is an important component of World Sailing's antitrust policy and provides an opportunity for access to the Olympic equipment market, while also reducing the risk of monopolies and encouraging manufacturers to remain competitive.

It was further noted that the re-evaluation process provides an opportunity for World Sailing to establish clear priorities and requirements for the selection of Olympic equipment partners. The criteria may address the respective roles and responsibilities of rights holders, classes and manufacturers, as well as equipment quality, manufacturer licensing, pricing and affordability.

In relation to commercial and pricing criteria, potential requirements include disclosure by bidders of historical and proposed pricing, key cost drivers, ex-factory prices, wholesale prices and recommended retail prices. These would provide reference points for monitoring price developments and ensuring compliance with agreed requirements.

Jaime Navarro also clarified that placing equipment under review does not necessarily mean that new equipment will be selected or that equipment trials will automatically be required. The process may initially involve a document-based assessment, following which the Equipment Committee could shortlist suitable candidates. Where the Committee considers that the evidence is sufficient to make a recommendation, further testing or trials may not be necessary.

The intention is to have the procedures approved by the end of 2026 so that the tender processes can commence in January 2027.

Glen Stanaway requested that the Executive Office and Task Group develop the detailed procedures referred to in the report and present them at the Annual Conference.

The Committee also noted that two matters arising from the Equipment Committee's work will ultimately require Board approval: the relevant equipment criteria under Regulation 11.5 for any new events and the equipment re-evaluation procedures under Regulation 11.7.

It was agreed that the objective should be to have these matters substantially developed and ratified at the Annual Conference, allowing them to be submitted promptly to the Board for consideration. Early development and approval were considered important to maximise the time available to the Equipment

Committee to undertake its work during 2027 and complete the overall process by the Annual Conference in November 2027.

d. Equipment Related Governance Task Team Update

Glen Stanaway provided an update on the equipment-related governance work and noted that members had been provided with the relevant report in advance.

The first phase of the equipment-related governance review has been completed and the resulting proposals have been submitted through the Portal. The proposals are now awaiting consideration at a Council meeting and, subject to approval, will proceed through the relevant governance process. The first phase included proposals addressing changes to equipment-related policies and regulations.

The second phase will address further proposals of a similar nature. Glen advised that draft proposals will be circulated to the Equipment Committee sufficiently in advance of the Annual Conference to allow them to be discussed, refined and finalised before being recommended to Council.

It was noted that the intention is to avoid overlap between the two phases and to ensure that Council has dealt with the first tranche of proposals before the second tranche is submitted.

As part of the development process, the Chairs of other relevant committees, including the Governance Committee, Class Committee/World Sailing Class Committee and Youth Events Committee, will be consulted where proposals relate to matters within their respective areas of responsibility.

Glen Stanaway emphasised the importance of ensuring that World Sailing's policies and regulations provide an effective and workable framework for decision-making and progression of matters. While Regulation 11 has operated effectively, other areas of the governance framework have, through practical application, revealed gaps or provisions that do not work as intended. The current review is therefore intended to address these issues and ensure that the organisation's governance framework is clear, coherent and fit for purpose.

No questions were raised regarding the report circulated linked to this agenda item.

4. Other Items of Business

Kimberly Lim raised concerns regarding events requiring larger teams, noting that these can present significant challenges for smaller nations in terms of athlete availability, commitment and funding. She suggested that, if greater representation and inclusivity across nations are objectives, greater consideration could be given to single-handed and double-handed events. She also noted that the cost of keelboat events and the difficulty for smaller nations in assembling sufficient sailors could create an additional barrier to participation, unless appropriate support mechanisms are provided.

Glen Stanaway referred to discussions with Paul McKenzie, SSL representative, and shared an example concerning Myanmar's participation in an SSL keelboat event. He noted that, according to the example provided, Myanmar was able to field a 10-person SSL keelboat team despite having no sailors competing at the Southeast Asian Games. Following two weeks of training with SSL coaches and an experienced skipper, the team achieved a bronze medal. It was noted the example as an illustration of the potential for the SSL format to facilitate participation by smaller sailing nations.

Andreas Kosmatopoulos commented that, while supportive of the SSL concept and its potential benefits, consideration should also be given to whether such an event could be accommodated within the Games

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programme and the implications this might have. He further observed that, when considering Olympic events, there is value in providing opportunities for younger athletes and new faces to participate.

Glen Stanway thanked the Equipment Committee Members, the Office and the observers and closed the meeting.