

World Sailing Board Minutes



World Sailing Board Minutes

The World Sailing Board met online on Tuesday, 11 August 2026 between 10.00 and 12:45 UTC.

<i>Present</i> 1. Quanhai Li – President 2. Daniel Belcher – Vice President 3. Cory Sertl – Vice President 4. Tomasz Chamera – Vice President 5. Dave Hughes – Vice President 6. Corinne Migraine – Vice President 7. Josep M. Pla – Vice President 8. Sophia Papamichalopoulos – Vice President 9. Beatriz Gonzalez Luna – Vice President	<i>In Attendance</i> 1. David Graham – Chief Executive Officer 2. Raksha Patel – Director of Finance and Business Operations 3. Antonio Cozzolino – General Counsel 4. Lisa Anderson – Director of the Executive Office 5. Ferran Muniesa – Director of Events 6. Jaime Navarro – Director of Technical 7. Koray Ezer – Contractor
1. Opening of the Meeting (a) <u>Presidents Opening Remarks</u> The President opened the meeting and provided his opening remarks. (b) <u>Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest</u> There were no apologies for absence. Vice Presidents Pla and Migraine each declared a conflict of interest in relation to agenda item 6(a). Vice President Chamera restated his standing declared conflict of interest concerning World Sailing Championships in Gdynia. (c) <u>Minutes of the Mid-Year Meeting in May 2026</u> The minutes of the previous Board Meeting had been approved on email in advance of the meeting and had been provided in the Board Pack. The Board noted that Board Meeting Minutes would now be produced with the assistance of an automated tool, with a draft being circulated to the Board Members for approval within a day of each meeting. (d) <u>Matters Arising</u> The Board noted the following amendments to the agenda: item 3(b) (Equipment Partnership) was changed from an information item to a decision item; and the Advertising Code update, the Safeguarding Policy update and the Nationality change eligibility cases (other than the USA to US Virgin Islands case) would be approved by email circulation given the length of the agenda, unless a discussion was needed. An update on UK Board meetings, and a discussion on the promotion of a Para sailing event in India was added to the agenda in Any Other Business.	

(e) Decisions by email

The Board noted the following decisions approved by e-mail circulation since the last meeting:

- i. approval of the Uzbekistan Sailing Federation as a pending Member National Authority;
- ii. approval of the Palau Sailing Association as a pending Member National Authority;
- iii. the International Olympic Committee policy on the Protection of the Female Category Working Group;
- iv. two sets of neutrality applications (with a small number of votes still open at the time of the meeting);
- v. the venue for the 2028 Annual Conference;
- vi. the World Sailing Culture and Arts Commission membership appointments;
- vii. the appointments of race officials for the Youth Olympic Games;
- viii. the appointments of technical delegates for the LA 2028 Olympic Games;
- ix. the recommendation of the venue as host of the 2027 Youth and Women's Match Racing Championships.

On votes by email circulation, the Executive Office would clarify the closing deadlines for votes and Board Members would be informed once e-mail votes are closed.

2. Executive Office

The Board noted the Executive Office's written management report circulated in the Board Pack. The Board was also provided with a verbal update, including the International Olympic Committee's programme review ahead of Brisbane 2032 (including the evaluation framework) and recruitment for the Head of Sustainability and Director of Sport roles.

a) Annual Conference 2026/2027/2028 venues update

The Board received an update on the preparations for the Annual Conferences for 2026-2028, in respect of which planning remained on track. A slot in the schedule for Continental Associations to meet with delegates from their members was requested. Committees that report to the Board are to be given the opportunity to do so in person, not only in writing, during the Annual Conference. The Board noted that nominations for the World Sailing Awards would open this week.

b) Commercial and Sponsorship update

The Board was informed on ongoing discussions with prospective commercial partners in various sectors, including a prospective academic partner.

3. Participation and Development

(a) International Training and Performance Centres Programme

Further to a supporting paper in the Board Pack and a presentation on the International Training and Performance Centres Programme, the Board agreed the following:

- i. To approve a pilot phase;
- ii. To use the pilot centre to fully define the scope and success criteria of the Programme ahead of any wider regional expression-of-interest process; and
- iii. The programme name should be revisited.

(b) Equipment Partnerships update

Further to a supporting paper in the Board Pack and a presentation on the framework for Equipment Partnerships, the Board approved the Programme as per the supporting paper.

(c) World Sailing Academy Master Plan

The Board had reviewed a supporting paper in the Board Pack for their information.

4. Events

a) LA28 Olympic Games – Race Official Chief Appointments

The Board approved the following appointments:

- i. International Jury Chair – Ana Sanchez (ESP)
- ii. Chief Umpire – Chris Lindsay (IRL)
- iii. Principal Race Officer – Corinne Aubert (FRA)
- iv. Chair of the Technical Committee (Port of LA) - Dimitris Dimou (GRE)
- v. Chief of the Technical Committee (Belmont Shore) – Bas Edmonds (GBR)

The need to improve gender balance and geographical representation in the full slate of Race Officials was noted.

b) Fortaleza and Gdynia venue updates

The Director of Events reported on progress with the 2027 World Sailing Championships in Fortaleza and Gdynia with respect to competition delivery, venue arrangements, ceremonies and customs logistics.

c) eSailing Commission – Terms of Reference and Members

This matter will be discussed at the next Board Meeting.

d) World Sailing Culture and Arts Commission

The Board noted that the Culture and Arts Commission had held its inaugural meeting, introducing its ten appointed members and their terms of reference, with its first substantive meeting (to address funding and sponsorship) scheduled for early October.

5. Technical

(a) Class applications

The Board approved the recommendation of the Waszp Class application, subject to a pending Advertising Code amendment. The application will be put to the General Assembly at the November World Sailing Annual Conference.

(b) Class status under review

For the information of the Board, the Director of Technical reported that the Equipment Committee had placed six classes under review for non-compliance with

regulatory requirements, with the Executive Office to work with the classes to seek to rectify the issues. On the recommendation of the Executive Office two of the classes, the Hansa 2.3 and Hansa Liberty, would be granted an exception from the review for this year in view of the Para-classification process.

(c) In-House Certification fees proposal

The Director of Technical presented the proposal set out in the Supporting Paper in the Board Pack, to increase the fee charged per sticker under the in-house certification scheme (including an annual increase and a new application fee for new lofts), following an assessment showing an annual shortfall. The Board approved the fee increases as proposed in the supporting paper.

(d) Olympic Events review, Regulation 11.5

The Director of Technical updated the Board on the Regulation 11.5 Working Group report. This will be discussed at the next Board Meeting.

(e) Olympic Equipment re-evaluations, Regulation 11.7

This matter will be discussed at the next Board Meeting.

(f) ILCA World Championship request

This matter will be discussed at the next Board Meeting.

6. Offshore

This matter will be discussed at the next Board Meeting.

7. Legal & Governance

The CEO proposed that as specified in advance of the Board Meeting and unless a decision was needed, some matters would be put to a vote by email circulation this week rather than discussed at the next Board Meeting.

8. Finance

This matter will be discussed at the next Board Meeting.

7. Any Other Business

The items in the agenda and Matters Arising will be discussed at the next Board Meeting.

In view of the length of the agenda and outstanding matters, the Board agreed that an additional Board Meeting would be scheduled on Tuesday of the following week, with an agenda and meeting request to be circulated to all Board Members.

The President closed the Board Meeting.

END