

The World Sailing Board met virtually on Tuesday 18 August 2026 between 10:00 and 13:15 UTC.

Present 1. Quanhai Li, President 2. Daniel Belcher, Vice President 3. Tomasz Chamera, Vice President 4. Cory Sertl, Vice President 5. Sophia Papamichalopoulos, Vice President 6. Josep M. Pla, Vice President 7. Corinne Migraine, Vice President 8. Dave Hughes, Vice President 9. Beatriz Gonzalez Luna, Vice President	In Attendance 1. David Graham, Chief Executive Officer 2. Antonio Cozzolino, General Counsel 3. Lisa Anderson, Director of the Executive Office 4. Jaime Navarro, Director of Technical - attended part of the meeting 5. Katrina Ham, Offshore & Safety Manager – attended part of the meeting
1. Opening of the Meeting (a) The President welcomed those present and noted that the Board Meeting was to address the items that had been deferred in the interests of time from the Board Meeting held the previous week. (b) Vice-Presidents Migraine and Pla declared conflicts of interest in relation to the Offshore Double-Handed World Championship bid. (c) Minutes of the 11 August 2026 Board Meeting will be approved with these Minutes. (d) No Matters Arising were raised other than the items scheduled on the Agenda. (e) There were no decisions by email since the previous Board Meeting.	
2. Legal & Governance (a) The Board considered a proposal to repeal Policy A5 and replace it with a standalone, time-limited policy (proposed Policy A10) on the reintegration of Russian athletes, following the IOC recommendations of 7 July. The Board agreed to bring the matter forward for information at the September Council meeting to engage all stakeholders which would then be for decision at the Council Meeting at the World Sailing Annual Conference in November 2026, subject to confirmation of the qualification-entry timeline. The Board noted the Policy's key features: effect from adoption, a sunset date of 1 September 2028, and additional return-to-competition anti-doping requirements. (b) Eligibility cases – nationality change (standing item): The Board voted to refer the interpretation of the World Sailing Eligibility Code to the Governance Committee and to ask it to recommend amendments. (c) The Board considered the proposed clarifications to the World Sailing Safeguarding Policy. Following discussion of the responsibility placed on the World Sailing Safeguarding Officer in appointing the pool and various panels, the Board agreed to defer the changes and asked the General Counsel to rework the proposal with the relevant Vice-President Liaisons and return it at a future meeting.	

- (d) The Board noted an information update on the IOC framework for Protection of the Female Category, which introduces SRY-gene screening for the LA 2028 Games. The appointed Working Group would assess the minimum-risk implementation options, cost, legal exposure and communication, and would prepare education and guidance for member national authorities.
- (e) The Board noted an update provided on the Nominations Panel and that a vacancy on the Panel, due to a resignation of a member, remained to be filled. A Vice-President made a request for the Board to see the initial long list of applicants.
- (f) The Board agreed by a show of hands to refer a matter to the Ombudsperson.
- (g) The Board was informed that there was no case-list update, and the safety standing item and the discussion on the gifts register were deferred to the next meeting.
- (h) The Board noted a member proposal concerning how constitutional changes are made outside the World Sailing Annual Conference under Article 16.2B. The matter would be referred to the Governance Committee for its opinion before further Board consideration and proceeding to the General Assembly.
- (i) The Board noted an offer of complimentary governance and legal training from World Sailing's external legal adviser, and members were invited to notify the General Counsel of the topics on which they would value a session so that remote training could be arranged.

3. Events

- (a) The Board approved an amendment to the eSailing Commission's Terms of Reference to provide for up to ten members, excluding the Vice-President Liaison as previously referenced. The Board approved the appointment of five members at this point in time and delegated the selection of those candidates to the two Vice-President Liaisons and the Commission Chair, with a wider recruitment process to follow to improve geographical spread and gender balance for the remaining four positions.

4. Technical

- (a) The Board noted an update on the Olympic event review under Regulation 11.5. The Board had been asked to provide high-level strategic guidance on the review, which they directed to the IOC criteria of increasing global appeal, reducing cost and complexity, and providing universality with respect to athlete participation. Suitability for low wind conditions and the growth of the sport for smaller nations and for women were also referenced. The Vice-President Liaisons would prepare that guidance for the Chair of the Events Committee.
- (b) The Board noted an information update on the re-evaluation of retained Olympic equipment under Regulation 11.7, undertaken to preserve access to the Olympic equipment market. The procedures would be drafted for the Board's approval at the World Sailing Annual Conference in November, with tenders and evaluations to follow early in 2027. The Board was invited to contribute to the draft tender process.
- (c) The Board approved an additional World Championship for the ILCA 6 (Masters) under Regulation 12.3 on the recommendation of the Equipment and Classes Committees.

5. Offshore

- (a) The Board approved the award of the Offshore Double-Handed World Championship in 2027-2029 to the Evaluation Panel's preferred bidder, with the two Vice-Presidents having abstained.

- (b) The Board approved the award to the IMOCA Class of the right to use a series format for its World Championship for one year under the conditions set out in the supporting paper.

7. Finance

- (a) No finance matters were tabled at this meeting. They would be dealt with by email circulation.

8. Any Other Business

- (a) The Board noted that a proposed new Vice-Chair of the Sustainability Commission would be brought to the next Board Meeting for approval.
- (b) The Board noted the previous recommendation on holding separate meetings for the United Kingdom company directors, which would be implemented.
- (c) The Board approved a proposal to add the LA28 Technical Delegates to the Events Appointment Working Group and the World Sailing Championships.
- (d) The Board noted that meetings of Committees/Sub-Committees/Commissions should be determined by the Chair and the relevant Vice-Presidents.

There being no further items, the President closed the meeting.

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