World Sailing

Race Officials Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: 6th October 2026

Location: Virtual

Commencement Time: 10.00 UTC

Attendees:

Chair - Ricardo Navarro (RN)	Vice-Chair Elena Papazoglou (EP)	Vice President - Cory Sertl
Aileen Loo (AL) – IMSC Chair	Andrus Poksi (AP) - IJSC Chair	Anne Malledant (AM) – RMSC Chair
Chris Lindsay (CL) - IUSC Chair	Bence Böröcz (BB) - RRC Representative	David Brookes (DB)
Dimitris Dimou (DD) – EC Representative	Christophe Gaumont (CG)	Francisco Jauregui (FJ)
Ewa Jodlowska (EJ)	Giorgio Davanzo (GD)	Lynne Beal (LB)
Miguel Amaral (MA)	Sandy Grosvenor (SG)	Timo Haß (TH)
World Sailing - Megan Griggs	World Sailing - Tim Hancock	

Agenda Items

1. Opening of the Meeting

a. Chair, Ricardo Navarro welcomed all committee members to the meeting.

b. Apologies received from VP Tomasz Chamera, and committee members Alan Baser, Abdur Rehman Arshad and Liang Zhou.

c. The Committee noted the declarations made in the Conflicts of Interest register with no further matters arising.

d. Cory Sertyl Vice President, addressed the Committee thanking for availability and appreciation for the committee's work and looked forward to seeing members at the Annual Conference. CS thanked the Executive Office for its work since the previous meeting.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

a. The minutes of the previous Race Officials Committee meeting held on 14th May 2026 were approved.

Timo Hass noted that clarification remained outstanding regarding the legal and constitutional status of the Conflict of Interest Working Group, including decision-making

authority and any review or appeal process.

ACTION - World Sailing Executive Office to seek clarification from the Legal Department on the approval authority and review or appeal process for conflict of interest decisions before the Annual Conference.

3. Events

a. Digital Officiating

i) A report on Digital Officiating Systems.

Tim Hancock reported progress on start and finish line technology, confiming solutions for dinghy classes were more developed than those for board classes, where speed, accuracy, placement and waterproofing remained challenges. Further trials were planned with several systems in the next month, and integration with the event management and tracking systems continued.

An update was also provided on the development of drone umpiring. The need to develop both appropriate shore-based technology and a wider pool of officials experienced in digital umpiring was recognised.

Giorgio Davanzo raised the need for officials to receive clear technical information on the capabilities, limitations and behaviour of digital systems used at events. It was noted that technical specifications were being developed, while event-level policy decisions would also be required regarding what information should be displayed or relied upon.

Ricardo Navarro thanked Tim for the update and asked for a further report to be given to the committee at the Annual Conference meeting following the reviews being held in the next month.

ii) Digital Officiating Roles and Appointment Requirements.

The Committee considered whether digital officiating roles should count towards qualification and reappointment requirements as listed in the Race Officials Roles, Qualifications and Competencies document. It was agreed that each Sub-Committee should consider the relevance of digital officiating experience to its discipline and report back at the Annual Conference.

b. Race Management Policies

Anne Malledant reported that the Match Racing Policies had been updated and is ready for discussion at the Annual Conference. Work on the Team Racing Policies remains ongoing awaiting decisions on the formats to be implemented.

Anne confirmed fleet racing policies for LA28 remained under development pending decisions on technology and Games requirements.

Ricardo Navarro summarised that a separate Fleet Racing Policy document is being developed for the LA28 Olympic Sailing Competition to address the unique operational and technology requirements of the Games. The draft will be developed in consultation with the Executive Office and technical stakeholders before being submitted to the Race Management Sub-Committee and subsequently the Race Officials Committee for review.

4. <u>Education and Development</u>

a. Application Process for 2027 Clinics and Seminars

Megan Griggs reported that the September application process had generated applications across judging, race management, measurement and umpiring seminars and clinics. The applications would be shared with Sub-Committee Chairs for review ahead of the Annual Conference, with remaining geographical or discipline gaps to be identified.

Sub-Committee were also asked to consider online or hybrid development opportunities for MNAs where instructor travel is currently limited. The possibility of seeking additional budget was noted should further suitable education opportunities be identified.

ACTION - World Sailing Executive Office to circulate the 2027 education applications to Sub-Committee Chairs for review and discussion at the Annual Conference.

b. Race Officials Development Working Group report on the pilot Race Officials Development Program.

Elena Papazoglou reported that the Development Working Group had reviewed the Executive Office report on the 2026 pilot programme, identified 15 areas for consideration and developed an action plan. EP confirmed a proposal would be finalised and shared for review by the committee at the Annual Conference.

Timo Hass (TH) raised the need for clearer selection criteria, particularly regarding the intended development level of participants and geographical representation.

ACTION - Race Officials Development Working Group to finalise and circulate its proposal before the Annual Conference.

c. Sub-Committee Instructors

The Committee approved Peter van Muyden (CAN) and Pinar Coskuner Genc (TUR) as

Race Management instructors.

5. Working Group Updates

a. Conflict of Interest

Timo Hass (TH) confirmed that the revised Conflict of Interest Guidelines remained a draft. Changes included clarification that an official should be presumed not to have a conflict unless demonstrated otherwise, separate treatment of top-level and other international events, and a rapid response panel for urgent decisions subject to review by the full Working Group.

Members raised significant concerns regarding the application of the draft to measurers and persons involved with international classes. Discussion focused on whether class involvement should itself indicate a conflict, the distinction between an interest and a conflict.

Ricardo Navarro concluded that further work was required to refine the draft before the Annual Conference and encouragement was given for all members to submit written comments to ensure opportunity to be considered within the draft. RN highlighted the importance of collaboration with key stakeholders and requested this updated draft be shared again with the International Classes Committee for input.

ACTION - World Sailing Executive Office to seek clarification on the approval authority of this document, to understand if Board or Council approval is required identifying Race Officials Committee will vote on the document at the Annual Conference meeting.

b. Rule 42

Bence Böröcz (BB) reported that the Working Group had drafted two proposals concerning Rule 42 and a proposed amendment to the Rule 42 Interpretations. The proposals were close to submission, while discussion of further topics would continue.

6. Regulation 17

a. Andrus Poksi presented a proposal to extend the application of World Sailing regulation 17 to national or other officials serving on International Juries and in comparable international event roles. Members supported the principle of appropriate accountability but raised questions regarding World Sailing jurisdiction, the scope of roles covered and whether any obligation should apply only for the duration of the event rather than for four years.

The Committee also discussed the requirement for racing experience and the absence of a consistent procedure for verifying it. The Chair asked the relevant Sub-Committee to refine both proposals and bring proposed amendments back to the Annual Conference. It was noted that the RQC would be discussed at the Annual Conference, followed by a final approval period, with publication intended in early January.

ACTION - World Sailing Executive Office to seek legal advice on the proposed extension of Regulation 17 to persons who are not appointed World Sailing Race Officials.

ACTION - International Judges Sub-Committee to refine the Regulation 17 and RQC proposals, taking account of the discussion, and submit proposed amendments for consideration at the Annual Conference.

7. Any Other Business

Lynne Beal raised concerns regarding the accuracy and usability of the public list of World Sailing Race Officials. Megan Griggs advised that development of a future Race Officials database was under discussion and that further information would be provided at the Annual Conference. In the meantime, members were asked to report individual corrections to the Executive Office.

A request was also made for the future system to include a gender filter to support searches when forming committees and appointment groups.