World Sailing Board Minutes

The World Sailing Board met virtually on Monday 12 October 2026 between 10:00 and 13.00 UTC.

Present	**In Attendance**
1. Quanhai Li, President	1. David Graham, Chief Executive Officer
2. Beatriz Gonzalez Luna, Vice President	2. Antonio Cozzolino, General Counsel
3. Daniel Belcher, Vice President	3. Ferran Muniesa, Director of Events
4. Tomasz Chamera, Vice President	4. Raksha Patel, Director of Finance and Operations
5. Dave Hughes, Vice-President	5. Lisa Anderson, Director of the Executive Office
6. Corinne Migraine, Vice President	6. Koray Ezer, Director of Sport
7. Sophia Papamichalopoulos, Vice President	7. Jaime Navarro, Director of Technical
8. Josep Pla, Vice President	8. Katrina Ham, Offshore and Safety Manager
9. Cory Sertl, Vice President	

1. Opening of the Meeting

(a) President's opening remarks:
The President opened the meeting and provided his opening remarks.

(b) Apologies for absence and declarations of interest:
There were no apologies for absence. No additional conflicts of interest were declared.

(c) Minutes of the previous Board Meeting:
The Board noted that the minutes of the August 2026 Board meetings had previously been approved and made available on the World Sailing website.

(d) Matters arising: It was agreed that some items would be dealt with by email circulation. The allocation of European Games quota places was added under Events and the reports of the independent bodies were added under Any Other Business.

(e) Decisions by email: The Board noted that the following items had been approved by email since the last meeting:

i. the minutes of the Board meetings of 11 and 18 August 2026;
ii. Council proposals CO-2026-11,12,13,14,15 and 20;
iii. the recommendation for the 2027-2028 Open Team Racing World Championships;
iv. race official appointments for the World Sailing Championships in 2027
v. the update to the Advertising Code;
vi. a nationality change for a race official;
vii. CO-2026-16; and
viii. batches of neutrality applications

The vote on the appointment of the Sustainability Commission Vice-Chair remained opened and would be recirculated.

2. Executive Office

(a) Annual Conference update:
The Board noted the preparations for the Annual Conference, with delegate registration due to

close. Events and equipment under review through the Regulation 11 process had been offered time at the Annual Conference to make presentations. An updated schedule of meetings was available on the World Sailing website, which would be circulated to the Board.

(b) Commercial and sponsorship:
The Board noted that discussions were progressing with prospective commercial partners.

(c) World Sailing Inclusion World Championships:
The Board noted the report of the CEO that the Inclusion World Championships in Portimão had been well received by sailors and would leave a legacy para-inclusive sailing school in Portugal. A senior representative of the IPC had visited the event, met sailors and classifiers, and reviewed the World Sailing classification code. The President and the CEO would attend the upcoming IPC annual meeting in Berlin.

(d) IOC Meetings:
The Board noted that the President and the CEO had recently attended IOC meetings in Lausanne where it was confirmed that sports would be assessed against objective Fit for the Future measures, looking both at past performance and at forecasts, for Brisbane32 and beyond.

(e) Youth events:
The Board noted that preparations for the Youth Sailing World Championships in Vilamoura in December were on track and that the IOC President would visit the sailing competition at the Youth Olympic Games in Senegal.

3. **Participation and Development**

(a) The Board noted the paper on the Growth of Sailing Committee's Development Plan, which was provided by the Director of Sport for information. The regional working group inputs would be consolidated into a single World Sailing development plan for Board review in December following the Annual Conference. Communications from the Chair of the Committee was discussed by the Board.

4. Events

(a) World Sailing Championships:
The Board noted the update from the Director of Events. The Sailing World Championships in Fortaleza had received 466 entries from 74 Member National Authorities plus neutral athletes. The Notice of Race for Gdynia was due to be published shortly.

(b) Competition format:
The format for the large-event Olympic Qualifiers was discussed, principally with respect to the 18 points compression and adjustments to target times and fleet sizes.

(c) LA 2028 qualification and European Games:
The Board noted that the Evaluation Panel would make its recommendations on the Last Chance Regatta and on the various Continental Qualifiers to the Board for decision after consultation with the relevant Vice-Presidents. The importance of securing the inclusion of sailing in the programme of the next European Games was noted.

(d) LA 2028 test event:
The Board noted that LA28 had confirmed the sailing test event would proceed. The priority was to test the full programme of 330 athletes across 10 disciplines, the transfer between venues and the broadcast technology and this could be combined with an Olympic classes regatta. A Notice of Race was expected within four to five weeks.

(e) Regulation 11.5: Olympic events and equipment review:
Following circulation of the Events Committee and the Equipment Committee report, the Board was advised that the joint Committees were meeting the following day to discuss recommendations to be made to Council and that an additional Council Meeting had been scheduled for 28 October to provide an update on the Regulation 11.5 process. The Board members expressed concern that the data-based assessment on the events under Regulation 11.5 review which had been requested by the Board in August had not been completed. The Board agreed that the Vice-Presidents responsible for Events and Equipment Committees and the CEO would engage collaboratively so that an evidence-based assessment of the events under review was undertaken compared to the IOC Fit for the Future criteria, alongside further IOC consultation.

5. Technical

(a) Information on the RS Aero 6/7 separate class applications would be circulated on email.

6. Offshore

(a) Event Safety Management System:
The Board agreed to encourage the Chair of the Safety Commission to work with its members to condense the draft safety management guidance into a concise and practical risk-assessment and best-practice document for organising authorities, which would require reduced oversight from the Executive Office.

(b) Oceanic and Offshore Code information:
The Board noted that the submitter had agreed to defer Board consideration of the proposals on technology in offshore sailing (CO-2026-17,18 and 19) pending a wider stakeholder survey to be conducted by the Executive Office.

7. Legal & Governance

(a) 2027 World Anti-Doping Code:
The Board noted that the 2027 World Anti-Doping Code update (WADA approved) must be adopted without amendment and would be approved by the Board by email circulation.

(b) Neutrality policy update:
The Board voted unanimously to approve the amended neutrality policy. This would be provided to Council for their approval. The CEO and General Counsel would convene a smaller group to consider the position of international classes and a MNA that had refused entry to athletes from certain countries.

(c) Announcement of Annual Conference venues:
The Board agreed to approve the amended policy by email circulation after deleting paragraph 4.1 from the draft. It was noted that the choice of an Annual Conference venue was a Board decision.

(d) Eligibility cases, nationality change (standing item):
No nationality change cases were considered at the meeting. One case would be circulated to the Board for review by email.

(e) Safety (Standing Item)
No cases were considered at the meeting

(f) Gifts and Hospitality Register:
The Board noted that the Gifts and Hospitality Register (required under Anti-Bribery and Anti-Corruption Policy) must be completed for any gifts or hospitality above £250, which also

requires prior written approval. Board training would be provided on this by an external legal adviser at the Annual Conference.

(g) Proposals allocated to the Board:
The Board considered the following proposals:

(i) *Proposals CO-2026-17 to 19 establishment of Oceanic and Offshore Code*: see item 6(b).

(ii) *Proposal GA 2026-002 constitutional amendments outside the Annual General Meeting*: the Board agreed to vote by circulation once the outstanding Governance Committee feedback had been circulated. It was noted that the proposal mirrored the Annual General Meeting process and complemented the Board's proposal on written resolutions and extraordinary general meetings. The proposal will go to the General Assembly in November.

(iii) *Non-substantive tidy-up of the Constitution*: to be approved by email circulation.

(iv) *Youth Events Committee proposal amending Policy E4* on Youth World Championships events and equipment: to be approved by circulation, as amended following Governance Committee feedback noting the comments on the prescribed dates.

8. Finance

(a) Management accounts:
The Board noted the eight-month management accounts. A revised forecast would be presented in November, and that results were ahead of budget.

9. Any Other Business

(a) The World Sailing Awards:
The Board noted that the President would write to the Board on nominations for the Beppe Croce Trophy and the President's Award.

(b) Sustainability staffing:
The Board noted that the appointment of a new Head of Sustainability was at contract stage.

(c) Independent bodies:
The Board agreed in principle to request regular reports from the independent bodies, including a report to be provided before the Annual Conference. A proposed reporting request would be circulated by email for approval.

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

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