WS Classes Status Review Update

1. Introduction

1.1 At its Mid-Year Meeting on 6 May 2026, the Equipment Committee conducted a review of World Sailing Class Associations in accordance with Regulation 15 and Policy D6.

1.2 In August 2026, the Board endorsed the Equipment Committee's recommendation that the identified Classes be placed under review and asked the Executive Office to provide them with a further opportunity to resolve the identified non-compliances.

1.3 Following further correspondence with the Classes and consideration of the evidence received, the recommendations set out below are proposed for submission to the Board through an email vote ahead of the 2026 Annual Conference. This paper is provided to the Equipment Committee for information.

2. Proposed recommendations to the Board

2.1 That the Board retain the World Sailing Class Association status of IKA KiteFoil Open Class.

2.2 That Formula 16 and Viper 640 remain under review, with all outstanding requirements to be resolved by 1 July 2027.

2.3 That the Board recommend to the General Assembly that the status of Melges 32 as a World Sailing Class Association be withdrawn in accordance with Policy D6.1.3.

2.4 That the Executive Office reassess the compliance of Formula 16 and Viper 640 after 1 July 2027 and refer any unresolved matters to the Equipment Committee and the Board before the 2027 General Assembly.

2.5 No recommendation is presented in relation to Hansa 2.3 and Hansa Liberty. The Board deferred its decision concerning these Classes in August 2026 and no further assessment has been undertaken.

3. Reasons for the proposed recommendations

3.1 The Executive Office notified the Classes under review and invited them to submit further evidence of compliance. The proposed recommendations are based on the information received and the Executive Office's assessment as at 23 October 2026.

3.2 **IKA KiteFoil Open Class.** The Class demonstrated the required global distribution and paid the 2025 royalties. The 2025 World Championship report remains outstanding and will be followed up separately under Policy D3.1.1(f).

3.3 **Formula 16.** The Class has not demonstrated the required global distribution, with four MNAs meeting the applicable threshold rather than the required five. It also does not currently have a World Sailing recognised class International Measurer. Both matters must be resolved by 1 July 2027.

3.4 **Viper 640.** The Class demonstrated the required global distribution and has engaged constructively with the review. The appointment of a World Sailing recognised class International Measurer and the regularisation of the Class Rules, outstanding plaques and fees, and Class and builder agreements remain to be completed by 1 July 2027.

3.5 **Melges 32.** The Class did not respond or provide any further evidence. The annual report, appointment of a World Sailing recognised class International Measurer, update of the Class Agreement and annual subscription remain outstanding. It is therefore proposed that the Board recommend to the General Assembly that the Class's status be withdrawn.

4. Background

4.1 World Sailing Class Associations must be regularly reviewed at least once every three years under Policy D6.1.1.

4.2 Under Policy D6.1.3, if a Class fails to meet the applicable criteria, the Equipment Committee may recommend that the Class be reviewed by the Board. The Board may then recommend to the General Assembly that its status as a World Sailing Class Association be withdrawn.

4.3 If the Board agrees to recommend the withdrawal of Melges 32's status, the Class must be notified and is entitled to attend and speak at the General Assembly meeting in accordance with Policy D6.1.4.

5. Issues

(a) Strategy/Objective Implications

The proposed recommendations align with World Sailing's Governance objective to maintain the integrity of its regulations.

(b) Financial Implications

If the General Assembly approves the proposed withdrawal of Melges 32's status, World Sailing will no longer receive future income from the Class's annual subscription or any associated plaque fees. No other immediate financial implications arise from the proposed recommendations.

(c) Consultation

The original review was conducted by the Equipment Committee, with input from the Chair of the WS Classes Committee. The proposed continued reviews of Formula 16 and Viper 640, including the deadline of 1 July 2027, were discussed with and supported by the Chair of the Equipment Committee and the Chair of the task group that conducted the review.

(d) Risk Register Implications

None.

(e) Legal, Governance and Compliance

The review process is governed by Regulation 15 and Policy D6. If the Board agrees to recommend the withdrawal of Melges 32's status, the Class must be notified and will be entitled to attend and speak at the General Assembly in accordance with Policy D6.1.4. Formula 16 and Viper 640 will be reassessed after 1 July 2027, and any unresolved matters will be referred through the process established under Policy D6.

(f) Responsibility

Director of Technical and Offshore, supported by the Classes Manager.