Private & Confidential

World Sailing
Growth of Sailing Meeting Minutes

Meeting Dates: October 8, 2026
Location: Teams Meeting
Commencement Time: 11:00 UTC

Members Present:	
Malav Shroff (IND) – Chair	Irina Perez le Roux (DOM)
Inga Jakobsone (LAT) – Vice Chair	Raynor Haagh (NZL)
John Philp (FIJ)	Mandiaye Diouf (SEN)
Maciej Szafran (POL)	Mengdi Zhang (CHN)
Albassel Ibrahim (EGY)	Emma Hallén (SWE) - Para Sailing
Borka Bachrata (SVK)	John Tierney (OSAF)
Alain Alcindor (SEY)	David Covo (CAN) - PANAM Sailing
VPs & Staff Attendance:	
Beatriz Gonzalez Luna (MEX) – Vice President	Catherine Duncan-Coles – Development Manager
Koray Ezer – Director of Sport	Larisa Zejen – Development Executive
Fiona Kidd – Head of International Development	
Members Absent :	
Abdur Rehman Arshad (PAK) - ASAF	Luis Velasco (ARG)
Stratis Andreadis (GRE)	Jenny Trumble (VIN)
Mohamed Alobeidli (UAE)	Pinar Coskuner Genc (TUR) - EUROSAF
Sigrid Beckhmann (MEX)	Jennifer Hall (CAN) - OOC

Agenda Items

1. **Opening of the Meeting**
   a. *Chair's Opening Remarks*
   The Chair welcomed participants. Fiona Kidd introduced Koray Ezer, the new World Sailing Director of Sport. Koray outlined the Sports Department remit, including sustainability, participation and development (including para sailing), race official education, offshore and safety.
   Beatriz Gonzalez Luna commended the organisation and high standards of the recent Asian Games sailing event and thanked the Asian representatives.
   b. *Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Conflicts of Interest*
   Sophia Papamichalopoulos, Sigrid Beckman, and Pinar Coskuner Genc sent their apologies that they were unable to attend the meeting.
   c. *Approve Minutes of the meetings held on Septmember 8, 2026*
   The Meeting Minutes of 8 September 2026 were approved
   d. *Matters Arising*
   There was no business arising.

e. Decisions by Email

There were no decisions by email.

2. <u>Development Plan</u>

Fiona explained the regional planning process: implementation actions were organised under five pillars, ranked by priority, and supplemented with proposed delivery leads, funding sources, costs and timelines. The consolidated Global Sailing Development Plan remains a working draft, not an approved final plan.

Oceania Working Group: John Tierney outlined the Fiji-based regional academy, initially operating at limited capacity in 2027–28 and aiming for full operation from 2029. Proposed funding requests were 140,000 in each of 2027 and 2028 and 250,000 in each of 2029 and 2030 (currency not explicitly confirmed in the spoken figures). The academy is intended to support all five pillars, complemented by online resources and alignment with Australian and New Zealand systems. JP noted that measurable KPIs still needed adding. The plan anticipates Olympic Solidarity/NOC collaboration and increasing commercial sponsorship.

Asia Working Group: Mengdi Zhang reported that the regional group presented ranked actions across the five pillars, including grassroots access, affordable participation and capacity-building for emerging MNAs. Delivery, funding and timelines require further refinement.

Africa Working Group: Alain Alcindor addressed regional capacity-building and development opportunities, including windsurfing, Youth Olympic Games preparation, coach education and equipment partnerships. Fiona highlighted recent training in Algiers and the value of partnerships with manufacturers and classes.

Europe Working Group: Borka Bachrata presented the priority proposals that focused on MNA governance and administration, leadership support, the MNA Toolkit, peer-to-peer mentoring, access to NOC and other funding, and possible World Sailing Academy resources.

Pan Americas Working Group: David Covo, presented that the group has prioritised organisational capacity and the MNA Toolkit, grassroots/recreational sailing, mentoring, funding and pathways to existing World Sailing support programmes. The plan remains subject to further development.

The committee emphasised realistic budgets, demonstrable outcomes and consistency between regional plans and the consolidated document. Inga proposed attaching the five regional action plans as annexes to the global plan; Fiona indicated this should be feasible, but needs to be confirmed.

It was noted that a Development Plan paper had been circulation to the Executive/Board ahead of their meeting on Oct 12th as information only and not a request for immediate approval.

Action: The Chair requested members to review the circulated draft and provide comments. Fiona indicated feedback was sought by Friday 16 October.
Action: Members were urged to complete regional budgets promptly to meet the World Sailing budget cycle.
Action: Koray to confirm the precise submission budget deadline with Raksha

3. **ENP Definition**

Inga led discussion on the ENP definition and regional concerns about potentially eligible nations omitted from existing lists. She presented one Working Groups work in this area, and highlighted the Pan-American version as an example of a qualitative assessment for the current ENP additional evaluation.

Fiona clarified that the current definition is referenced by the IOC-approved Olympic qualification system and cautioned against changing eligibility during the qualification cycle without proper review.

Catherine Duncan-Cole clarified for the committee the process of how the definition was reviewed and approved by the Regions and Development Committee in Novemebr 2024. Irina Irina Perez le Roux confirmed that it was reviewed by the committee prior to the Conference Committee meeting prior to their approval.

Action: The ENP discussion is to continue after evaluating WS-selected ENP countries and those listed by regional groups.

4. **MNA Toolkit**

Fiona reported that the administrative MNA Toolkit has progressed but requires further editing, regional input and potentially additional time/resources before publication through the World Sailing Academy. Input from regional contributors, including Rayna and Borka, was acknowledged.

Members agreed to use the consistent name “MNA Toolkit”. The Chair requested that the cover identify the Growth of Sailing Committee as the originating committee/contact point. Regional hubs may help distribute and translate content for their MNAs.

Action: Fiona will recirculate the draft for further input.

5. **Annual Conference**

Fiona presented a draft programme covering the Chair’s annual report, growth survey findings, five-pillar/regional execution plans, potential working groups, the 2027 work plan, staff activity reports and sustainability updates.

The Chair requested reinstatement of three previously discussed open-discussion themes, including high performance and offshore.

Members strongly advocated hybrid/remote access for the Growth of Sailing Committee so that MNAs unable to attend in person can participate. Responsibility for authorising and arranging hybrid delivery was unresolved.

Action: Fiona agreed to convey the committee’s request to the relevant decision-makers on the hybrid meeting option and report back to the committee.
Action: The draft agenda will be revised by Fiona in consultation with Malav and Inga and recirculated.

6. **Report from Executive Office**

a. *Report from the Board Representatives.*
Beatriz Gonzalez Luna, was briefly at the meeting, but had to leave due to a meeting conflict. No other Board Representatives were available for this Agenda Items. As a

result, committee members discussed the path for the draft development plan and funding requests to be reviewed by management and the Board ahead of the Annual Conference budget approval process. No new Board decision on the development plan was reported.

b. Report from the Staff

Larisa Zejen reported on the Youth ENP pre-event clinic on 7–10 December 2026, followed by the Youth Worlds on 11–19 December. Twenty-two athletes were selected: 16 ILCA (eight boys/eight girls) and six iQFOiL (three boys/three girls). Preparatory online coaching sessions were underway.

Catherine Duncan-Coles reported on the Senior ENP and that applications had closed on 20 September for the ENP Program taking place at the World Sailing Championships in Forteleza, BRA. Allocations and MNA notifications were being finalised. The programme consists of a training camp on 11–14 January 2027 and competition on 15–23 January, with coaching and specified participation support.

Action: The final selected MNA's and athletes in the Senior ENP Clinic at the World Sailing Championship will be presented to the Committee at the next meeting.

Koray Ezer outlined the Far East equipment agreement and proposed application process. The three-year agreement provides equipment valued at USD 120,000 per year, initially targeting two regions annually. Year one is intended to focus on Optimist boats. Recipient MNAs would be responsible for shipping/logistics, customs and duties. Communications, expressions of interest and eligibility-based applications are to follow; further implementation details remain subject to ongoing review.

7. AOB

There was no other business.

The meeting was concluded at 13:00 UTC

The next meeting is scheduled for **November 5th at 11:00 UTC**.

Actions for the next meeting:

Regional groups are to prepare the following:

(i) their definition and measures of success,
(ii) comments on the draft global growth/development plan and
(iii) proposed 2027 work plans.

ENP definition is also to return for further discussion.

The Chair thanked participants and closed the meeting.