# Para World Sailing Committee Minutes

**The PWSC met virtually at 1100 UTC on 29th October 2026**

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. World Sailing Updates
3. IPC Bid Update
4. Classification Sub Committee
5. WSIC IDP
6. WSIC 2026 Report
7. Blind Sailing International Update
8. Gdynia WSC 2027
9. AOB
10. Thank you and Next meeting

**Members Present:**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Kay Rawbone (Chair) | Emma Hallén (Vice Chair) | Yuki Hagiwara |
| Elliot Levy | Paul Adrien Cullivier | Henriette Smith |
| Betsy Alison | Helen McKenzie | |

**Invited Presenters:**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Dan Jaspers | Adrian Stoggall | Lucy Hodges |

**Staff Present:**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Hannah Stodel | Leo af Rosenborg | Koray Ezer |
| Daniel Nash | Ferran Muneisa | Scott Dougal |
| David Graham | Alberto Carrero | |

**Board Present:**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | | |

**Agenda Items**

1. **Opening of the Meeting**
   a. **Housekeeping (HS):**



sport / nature / technology

Hannah welcomed Committee members and observers to the October meeting and thanked everyone for joining from across multiple time zones, particularly those joining during the night or early morning.
Hannah outlined the meeting housekeeping arrangements. Attendee microphones would remain muted unless activated by the moderators, and attendees wishing to contribute were asked to use the hand-raise function. Observers were encouraged to use the Q&A and chat functions for questions and comments and reminded to ensure these remained respectful spaces. Hannah confirmed that the meeting was being recorded by World Sailing and asked attendees not to make their own recordings. Extensive meeting notes would continue to be published following each meeting. Questions not addressed during the meeting could be directed to Hannah following the meeting.

b. **Chair's Opening Remarks (KR):**

Opened the meeting and reflected on record participation at the World Sailing Inclusion Championships (WSIC). She emphasised participation, lowering barriers, support for emerging nations, advocacy, the grassroots-to-elite pathway and a sustainable future calendar and equipment strategy.

c. **Apologies for Absence:**

Cory Sertl VP
Daniel Belcher VP
Sophia Papapmichodopolodus VP
Jazz Turner GBR

d. **Minutes of September Meeting:**

Confirmed as read and accepted.

e. **Matters Arising:**

No Matters were arising

**2. <u>World Sailing Updates</u>**

a. **Office updates (HS):**

Hannah reported a busy period across Para Inclusive Sailing. IDP development was moving towards a clearer foundation, coaching and performance pathway, with Dan supporting further programme development. The Office was exploring placing selected IDP learning modules on the World Sailing Academy to increase legacy and access. Hannah recognised Helen and the international classifiers for substantial work on the revised classification rules and testing at WSIC. Reaffirmed the Paralympic reinstatement campaign as a major priority, alongside development work and the forthcoming IPC engagement.

Hannah confirmed preparations for Gdynia 2027 and the importance of Para events being integrated with the wider World Sailing Championships. WSIC lessons would inform delivery, supported by the Committee's working group.

She also flagged the Annual Conference and Development Forum as further engagement opportunities.

b. **Board updates (SP):**

No Board Member present.

**3. <u>IPC Bid update (SD)</u>**

a. **To update the PWSC on the status of the IPC bid**

Scott explained that the IPC bid group meets fortnightly, bringing together Committee, Executive and Board representatives and an engagement adviser.

WSIC communications, supported by America's Cup funding, provided strong evidence of the sport's reach; one Instagram item had approximately 600,000 views.

Scott explained the decision sequence: the IOC Brisbane programme process precedes public IPC programme confirmation. World Sailing understood that the IPC was aiming for a provisional decision by the end of 2026, subject to IOC decisions.
Berlin IPC membership meetings and further IPC Board engagement were important near-term opportunities.
Scott then outlined planned representation in Berlin by David, Hannah and the World Sailing President, while noting competing commitments around Youth Olymipc Games in Dakar and the Annual Conference.

b. To Receive an update on the IPC First Vice President; Dr Leila Marques visit to WSIC.

David thanked the Committee and Office for the change in Para sailing's position over the current Committee term. Reported that IPC First Vice-President Dr Leila Marques visited WSIC, met sailors and classifiers, and observed racing and the range of equipment and formats.
David noted that Leila saw high-level competition involving athletes with significant impairments and the breadth of 40 represented countries. Helen's team explained the new IPC classification requirements and World Sailing's testing work, including close agreement between classifiers assessing the same athlete.
He described conversations with IPC leadership and Board contacts and emphasised progress on classification, safeguarding, anti-doping, competition integrity, integration within World Sailing and participation. A short visual event report and film were being finalised for IPC Board members ahead of Berlin.

Kay thanked David, Scott, Hannah and the wider delivery team; encouraged Committee members to engage their own National Paralympic Committees and demonstrate the value of Para Inclusive Sailing.

**4. <u>Classification Sub Committee (HM)</u>**

**a. To receive an update from the Chair of the Classification Sub Committee.**

Helen thanked colleagues for recognising the work of the classification team. Reported Hong Kong meetings relating to intellectual impairment research, adaptive sport education and Paralympics Hong Kong; a literature review had been submitted for publication, research ethics approval had been granted, and the sailing e-Delphi survey had been circulated.

She reported the classification master list was being updated and requested that MNAs and athletes check for errors. Globocol and the legacy system were operating in parallel. Pre-submission of medical diagnostic forms and consent information had made classification at WSIC more efficient.

Helen described 37 athletes classified at WSIC, including 32 Para sailors and five cognitive/intellectual impairment sailors as stated in the meeting. On-water observation and testing informed refinements to the proposed rules. Sport-specific functional tests covering sheeting, cleating and tiller handling had been filmed and reviewed with athlete feedback.

**b. To receive an update on the Globocol Database**

Leo thanked the Globocol Database Working Group. Reported that over half of WSIC classifications used the pilot database workflow. Next steps were recoding the tool to reflect revised rules and sport-specific functional tests, followed by international classifier testing towards the end of November.

He noted that the MNA application workflow piloted for WSIC was intended to be extended to all MNAs after the Annual Conference, with guidance and communications to support adoption.

**c. To consider the paper prepared to be submitted to the World Sailing Council and VOTE**

Scott presented the Council paper proposing provisional Para Sailing Classification Rules and delegation of authority for subsequent amendments to the World Sailing Board. He explained that this would enable implementation in 2027 and permit evidence-led updates without repeated Council referrals.

Helen's suggested amendments were matters of wording and clarity, not substance, and those would be incorporated.

The council was asked to approve the paper for submission.

Hannah confirmed quorum, opened the electronic Nemo vote and supported members experiencing access problems.

Following completion, announced that the motion to submit the paper to Council passed with all votes in favour. She undertook to circulate the voting results PDF with the minutes.

In Favour 7 (8) votes

Against 0 Votes

Abstentions 0

Betsy Alison's vote was unable to be counted on Nemo – but was acknowledged in favour.

Result: The paper is approved to be presented to the World Sailing Council at the November meeting.

**5. WSIC IDP**

Kay congratulated the coaching team on improvements and asked that Stoggs' race management teaching material be shared for use by clubs and development programmes.

Hannah Introduced Dan as lead IDP coach.

Dan thanked fellow coaches Simon, Grant, Logan and Guillaume and the many volunteers, hosts and support personnel. He reported an IDP net promoter score of 100, matching the highest recorded programme result.

The programme supported multiple fleets and impairment groups, including ILCA, Hansa, Challenger, RS Venture Connect, VI RS21 and seated wing.

Dan identified operational improvements: a reusable mobile classroom pack; shorter, more focused classroom sessions to reduce fatigue; coaching team arrival earlier for equipment checks; reliable coach-boat allocation; clear boat and equipment information; participant name/country identification; and accessible physical schedules for sailors without reliable internet or phones.

Dan Noted the need for more consistent wing equipment, including seating, straps and related adaptations, and for approaches that work in light winds. He highlighted the value of the Antigua-to-WSIC pathway, including Trinidad and Tobago and individual athlete progression.

Dan explained the developing foundation, coaching and performance levels, the importance of retention and feedback, possible links with other World Sailing

development pathways, potential Special Olympics collaboration and early thinking on offshore opportunities.
Henriette asked presenters to describe slide content verbally for visually impaired participants; encouraged pathways allowing athletes to pursue dinghy sailing alongside wing or offshore sailing. Described preliminary conversations with a Norwegian adaptive equipment company on seated wing adaptations, and thanked coaches for flexible, inclusive opportunities to explore coaching.
Dan acknowledged Henriette's feedback and said he would share it with the coaching team.

**6. WSIC 2026 – HS/ AS**

Hannah shared the WSIC film and thanked Tom and the Communications team. She said a revised version would be circulated to IPC stakeholders and made available to sailors and teams for their own channels.

Hannah reflected on growth from Oman to Portimão and 40 participating countries, with expanded events and equipment options. She thanked the 2.4mR and Challenger communities for substantial charter logistics, and highlighted ILCA for intellectual/cognitive impairment, VI RS21 and seated wing.

Stoggs reported the complexity of delivering eight events across four racecourses, with differing formats and constant balancing of schedules, equipment and personnel. He thanked race officials, volunteers and Vela Solidária, and emphasised that charter and equipment allocation were major lessons for future championships.
He welcomed the integration of race management teaching into IDP and encouraged sailors to understand Notices of Race and Sailing Instructions.
For Gdynia he stressed the need to translate Portimão lessons into an event shared with the wider World Sailing Championships, including accessible practical support and close coordination with the host.

Hannah reinforced the importance of host and volunteer contributions, the development, anti-doping and classification work and the IPC visit. She confirmed that WSIC IDP and the earlier Australian programme both achieved an NPS of 100. Post-event feedback and reconciliation were continuing.

Kay indicated she had further points to raise by email due to time pressure.

**7. Blind Sailing International Update**

Lucy thanked World Sailing, coaches, RS Sailing and volunteers for the VI programme at WSIC. She highlighted training and support for Trinidad and Tobago, Japan and France, and reported interest from further nations in joining Blind Sailing International.

Lucy emphasised retaining an inclusive route with sighted crew while growing VI competition; emerging nations had expressed concern about losing access if the format changed abruptly.

Lucy proposed an Emerging Nations online call to identify support required for Gdynia and further online sessions. Described a buddy system connecting developing nations with experienced sailors, which had worked well at WSIC.

Lucy then later added that BSI was beginning discussions about standardised audible mark and boat equipment to support VI racing and match racing. This work was at an early stage.

Kay thanked Lucy and the BSI team for their contribution.

**8. Gdynia WSC 2027**

Hannah reported that the Notice of Race and MNA qualification process had been published, although a website display issue was being addressed. Invited review and feedback.

Ferran said the final equipment and event discussions with organisers had taken time. Invited questions

Henriette asked about inclusive entry, Para medal eligibility and MNA selection where boats might include non-disabled and classified sailors.

Hannah explained that the event would operate in an inclusive format, with the Para classification requirements applying to Para medals. MNA

entry allocations and team selection would be managed by the respective MNAs under the qualification process.

Henriette asked how sailors facing difficulties with MNA recognition or support could enter.

Stoggs and Hannah acknowledged the different national governance arrangements for Para sailing. Asked athletes to contact the Para Office, which could help connect them with the MNA or, where relevant, the National Paralympic Committee.

Sarah queried why wing appeared on a venue map but not the published class list.

Hannah explained that wing and II event details were still being confirmed with hosts, particularly equipment and scheduling, and that the Notice of Race would be updated when arrangements were finalised. She expected further clarity on II scheduling shortly.

**9. AOB**

Kay asked when the WSIC Technical Delegate report would be available.

Hannah said it would first be reviewed by Koray and Fiona, then shared with the Committee, anticipated within approximately a week

Kay raised the need for a future strategic discussion on how frequently to stage a major inclusion championship, noting scale, affordability and the impact of intervals shorter than twelve months.

Betsy asked about publicity for the Gdynia Notice of Race and qualification process and requested that rankings be included on the Annual Conference meeting agenda.

Hannah confirmed that Daniel had drafted the Gdynia announcement and that a link had been shared in the chat. Agreed to include rankings on the conference agenda.

**10. Next Meeting**

a. To schedule the next meeting and to review the Annual Conference arrangements.

Hannah confirmed that the next Committee meeting would be held in person at the World Sailing Annual Conference. Asked members to

confirm attendance via the Committee WhatsApp group, register promptly and arrange accommodation.
She highlighted the Development Forum and Para Inclusive Sailing sessions, including possible requests for Committee members to contribute.

Koray thanked the Committee and said he was working with Hannah to become familiar with the programme; looked forward to meeting members at conference.

Hannah Invited contributions to the Para newsletter led by Daniel and reminded members about the Sailors Forum on Facebook. Said the WSIC impact report would be available at conference and IDP participants would receive the compiled learning resources.
Kay and Stoggs asked members to suggest useful education topics and resources that could be shared more widely.
Kay thanked attendees and closed the meeting.

ACTION ITEMS – PWSC

1. Discuss future WSIC frequency and affordability

Office / PWSC · Requested

2. Review classification master list and report inaccuracies

PWSC / MNAs · Requested

3. Review Gdynia Notice of Race and provide feedback

PWSC members · Requested

4. Confirm Annual Conference attendance and registration

PWSC members · Requested

5. Engage national Paralympic stakeholders

PWSC members · Encouraged

6. Submit newsletter content and educational resource requests

PWSC members · Encouraged

ACTION ITEMS – WS Executive

1. Circulate Nemo voting results and progress Council submission

Hannah / Office · Agreed

2. Finalise classification Council paper wording

Scott / Helen / Office · Follow-up

3. Complete Globocol updates, testing and MNA rollout preparation

Office / Globocol Working Group · Planned

4. Distribute WSIC film and IPC impact material

Office / Communications · Planned

5. Share IDP race management session and teaching resources

Office / Dan / Stoggs · Agreed

6. Review IDP delivery arrangements

Office / IDP coaches · Recommendation

Session duration, classroom resources, preparation, equipment, coach boats and accessibility

7. Apply WSIC operational lessons to Gdynia 2027

Office / Events · Follow-up

8. Support Emerging Nations VI engagement and buddying

Office / Blind Sailing International · Planned

9. Confirm II and wing event arrangements and update Gdynia NoR

Office / Events · Planned

10. Clarify MNA entry, Para eligibility and entry support

Office · Follow-up

11. Review and circulate appropriate WSIC Technical Delegate report

Hannah / Office · Planned

12. Add Para sailing rankings to Annual Conference PWSC agenda

Hannah / Office · Agreed

13. Discuss future WSIC frequency and affordability

Office / PWSC · Requested

14. Distribute impact report, newsletter and learning resources

Office / Daniel · Ongoing