

The Events Committee met at the Hotel NH Malaga, Malaga, Spain on Thursday 16 November 2023 from 0930-1700 CET.

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Present:

John Derbyshire (GBR) Chair

David Abercrombie (NZL)

Aiko Saito (JPN)

Ben Remocker (CAN)

Piotr Oleksiak (POL)

Marco Predieri (ITA)

Anna Holmdahl White (SWE)

Guillaume Chiellino (FRA)

Daniel Belcher (AUS)

Markus Schwendtner (GER) Olympic Classes

David Hughes (USA) Athletes' Commission

Apologies:

Sofia Tedin (ARG) EC Vice Chair

Walter Boddener (BRA)

Graham Biehl (USA)

Ke Su (CHI)

In attendance:

Sarah Kenny (AUS) WS Vice President

Alastair Fox (Director of Events)

Cory Sertl (USA) WS Vice President

Michael Downing (Olympic Manager)

1. Opening of the Meeting

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed the Events Committee, Board members and observers to the meeting and gave a short update, noting that there were now 253 days out from the Opening Ceremony of Paris 2024 and 1544 days until the LA 2028 Opening Ceremony.

The Chair thanked the Committee and the Working Parties for all their hard work in 2023. While looking back at 2023 there were two major Olympic class events delivered during the European summer - the Olympic Test Event in Marseilles, France and the Sailing World Championships in The Hague, Netherlands which gave the opportunity to assess the new Events and formats and seek improvements as lessons were learned.

The Chair reminded the Committee that we continue to look at ways to improve format and sport presentation to align with the IOC objectives and vision, and looked forward to the output from the Board of the "Olympic Vision" to map the long term Olympic strategy.

- 1.2 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest.
The Committee noted the declared Conflicts of Interest.

2. Minutes

- 2.1 The Committee approved the meetings of Tuesday 2 May 2023 (circulated and approved after the meeting). The minutes can be downloaded at <https://www.sailing.org/inside-world-sailing/organisation/governance/conferences/past-conferences/previous-conference-papers/>

- 2.2 Matters Arising from the Minutes not covered elsewhere.
There were none.

3. Update from the Board

- 3.1 The Committee noted the Board minutes from their meetings since last the Events Committee meeting.
- 3.2 The Committee received an update from the Events Committee Vice President Sarah Kenny. Further details can be found in 8.1.

4. Paris 2024 Olympic Games

- 4.1 The Committee received a report on the plans for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games from the Director of Events and Olympic Manager, including a report on the 2023 Test Event.
- 4.2 The Committee received a report from the Quotas and Qualification Working Party on the implementation of the Qualification System for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. WP Chair, Daniel Belcher reminded NOC's that the first round of official acceptance of places is due March 2024 to enable the reallocation of quota to the Last Chance Regatta and that all official qualification information can be found online at this address: <https://paris2024.sailing.org/qualification-2/qualification-system/>
- 4.3 The Committee received a paper and report from the Format Working Party on the implementation of the formats for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. This paper contained a number of recommendations that were approved by Events Committee. Specifically, the Committee noted the issues in the iQFOiL Medal Series and the need to find a solution urgently. The Chairman reminded that work needs to continue with format and sport presentation as soon as possible if changes were to be made for the 2028 Olympic Games.

5. The Hague 2023 Sailing World Championships

- 5.1 The Committee received a final report and presentation on the Sailing World Championships in The Hague from the Director of Events and The Hague Organising Committee. It was noted that given the number of different Events, sailors, racing boats and support vessels added significantly to the complexity of organising the Championships and keeping it in as compact an area as possible. The hosts had developed some unique ways to present the sport to spectators, as well as delivering most of the scheduled races and a valid Olympic qualification process. The Chair thanked the hosts and all the volunteers who helped to make the Championships a success.

6. LA 2028 Olympic Games

- 6.1 The Committee received a report on the plans for the LA 2028 Olympic Games from the Director of Events and Olympic Manager.
- 6.2 It is noted that at this stage it is not guaranteed to have a test event. Some Olympic class world championships will be held in the area in 2026 and 2027 and could be used for testing and training.
- 6.3 LA28 will soon look at venues to decide when and where training opportunities are possible and outline training periods, likely to be between June and September.

7. 2026 Youth Olympic Games

- 7.1 The Committee received a report from the Director of Events on plans for the Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games.
- 7.2 The Committee noted the opinion of YESC and the following recommendations to Council were approved by Events Committee:
- **That the Events Committee approves the 96 athlete quota proposed by the IOC for the 2026 Youth Olympic Games.**
 - **The Events Committee recommends that the 4 Events are:**
 - **Men's Windsurfing**
 - **Women's Windsurfing**
 - **Men's Board**
 - **Women's Board**
 - **The Youth Events Sub-committee will appoint a Working Party to finalise the selection of equipment for the 2026 Youth Olympic Games.**

8. Olympic Vision

- 8.1 The Committee VP led a discussion around the Olympic Vision report. It was noted that the report had been subject to Council discussion earlier in the Annual Conference and also to each of the Committees that had met to date. The document had received general approval although a number of comments to improve the draft had been made and would be considered by the Board with the intention of returning the updated Olympic Vision to the Council for approval.
- 8.2 Further comments were invited for consideration which were noted and the Committee VP thanked the members of the WP that had contributed.

9. Regulation 23

- 9.1 The Committee received a report from the Regulation 23 Working Party which Events Committee noted and supported.
- 9.2 Events Committee made the following recommendation, not based on submission to Council, that:
- Council notes the required infrastructure that would be required in due course, namely:**
- 1) **Creation of an annual "brainstorm forum/event" to long-list new format/event/equipment concepts**
 - 2) **Creation of an annual Sailing World Cup where World Sailing controls the events as well as key race officials and an evaluation panel for new events**
 - 3) **Inclusion of short-listed format/event/equipment combinations in the Sailing World Championships**
 - 4) **Council approves in principle the concept of tested events and equipment only being approved as a new Olympic events/ equipment**
- 9.3 The Committee reviewed Submission 107-23 regarding Regulation 15.6 and submissions for Regulation 23 decisions and made the following recommendation to Council:
Proposed by Piotr Oleksiac; seconded by Markus Schwendtner
Recommendation to Council: Approve
For: 10; Against: 1; Abstain: 0

- 9.4 The Committee reviewed Submission 153-23 regarding Regulation 23 and made the following recommendation to Council:

Proposal to defer from John Derbyshire; seconded by Dan Belcher

Recommendation to Council: Defer

Vote: Unanimous

- 9.5 The Committee reviewed Submission 154-23 regarding Regulation 23 and made the following recommendation to Council.

Proposal to defer by John Derbyshire; seconded by Daniel Belcher

Recommendation to Council: Defer

Vote: Unanimous

10. World Sailing Event Strategy

- 10.1 The Committee received a report from the Calendar Working Party with an update on the plans for the 2026 / 2027 Sailing World Championships.

- 10.2 The Committee reviewed Submission 149-23 regarding Regulation 24 for the Sailing World Championships and made the following recommendation to Council:

Proposed by Guillaume Chiellino; seconded by Markus Schwendtner

Recommendation to Council: Approve with the friendly amendment to change “Sailing World Championships” to “World Sailing Championships”.

Vote: Unanimous

- 10.3 The Committee discussed the Calendar for the LA and Brisbane quads. It was noted that the SWC should be reconsidered carefully, in line with the Olympic vision and events strategy, in order to make it relevant in the event programme and calendar.

11. Rankings

- 11.1 The Committee received a verbal report from the Rankings Working Party.

They noted that the current rankings were up to date and requested that results from 100 and 200 point Regatta be sent by XRR to facilitate inclusion in rankings.

- 11.2 The Committee supported the following recommendation to the Board from the MRSC:

The WP encourages WS to finish and activate the new ranking platform as soon as possible to be ready before the start of the next quadrennial.

12. Youth Events Sub-committee

- 12.1 The Committee received a report from the Chair of the Youth Events Sub-committee (YESC) which outlined the various workstreams that had been taking place by members of the sub-committee throughout the year.

- 12.2 The YESC Chair gave a summary of the strategy discussion that took place during the closed session which was wide ranging and involved Board members and the CEO.

- 12.3 The points addressed will be taken by the CEO & Board to develop the vision and the positioning further.

- 12.4 The Director of Events reported on the 2023/2024 & 2025 YWC:

Preparation in Buzios are being finalised but noted that the race areas are down to 3, following harbour authorities restrictions.

- 12.5 The 2024 YWC in Garda is progressing well with the contract being finalised with the FIV.
The venues are split around the top end of the lake. There are plans for daily social events that will bring everyone together in the same venue. For the first time the accommodation will not be included in the entry fee. Bookings will be monitored by the FIV.
The 2025 Youth Worlds bid document is finished and a decision will be taken in early April 2024.
- 12.6 The Events Committee agreed it would review the strategy document when produced and pass any comments to YESC.

13. Match Racing Sub-Committee

- 13.1 The Committee received a written report from the Chair of MRSC who spoke to the key points and EC endorsed the recommendations as shown in these minutes in 13.7.
- 13.2 The Committee reviewed Submission M02-23 from the Board regarding Regulation 24.5.5 and made the following recommendation to the Council.
Proposed: Markus Schwendtner; Seconded: David Hughes
Recommendation to Council: Approved
Vote: Unanimous
- 13.3 The Committee reviewed Submission 111-23 regarding open, women and youth national championships and made the following recommendation to Council:
Proposed by Ben Remocker; seconded by David Abercrombie
Recommendation to Council: Approve
Vote: Unanimous
- 13.4 Submission 112-23 regarding youth titles for the Match Racing Rankings was withdrawn.
- 13.5 The Committee reviewed submission 113-23 regarding weight limits in open match racing and made the following recommendation to Council:
Proposed by Markus Schwendtner; seconded by Marco Predieri.
Recommendation to Council: Approve
Vote: Unanimous
- 13.6 The Committee noted endorsed the remaining recommendations based on submission contained in the MRSC yellow paper.
- 13.7 The Committee also supported the following recommendation from MRSC to the Board as follows:
- **World Sailing Match Racing portal to be created as an element within the World Sailing web platform. This is to promote and grow match racing by making helpful resources available to the match racing community. To promote the World Sailing Youth, Women, Nations Cup, Blind, Women's WMRT, WMRT events and series and to open up the diversity and inclusion of events and initiatives.**
 - **To develop and make available easy access to data from ranking by introducing a function that filters relevant data from ranking for event organisers, teams and skipper.**

14. Team Racing Sub-committee

- 14.1 The Committee received and noted the report from the Chair of the Team Racing Sub-committee.
- 14.2 The Committee approved the following recommendations from the TRSC:

- TRSC recommends to the Events committee and the Board for approval of the bids to host the 2025 and 2026 edition of the WS Open Team Racing World Championship.
- TRSC strongly recommends that the existing Team Racing Ranking & Grading Platform be adopted by WS and fully implemented and promoted to MNAs so that it can be used towards the qualification and selection of teams to participate in the 2025 and 2026 WS Open Team Racing World Championship.
- Request that the World Sailing Team Racing microsite be re-created as an element within the World Sailing platform. This is to promote the planned World Sailing Open Team Racing World Championships and the diversity and inclusion of events and initiatives

15. Additional Submissions

- 15.1 The Committee reviewed Submission 101-23 regarding Regulation 10 and the timeline for confirming World Championships and made the following recommendation to Council:
Proposed by Piotr Oleksiak; Seconded by Markus Schwendtner
Recommendation to Council: Approve
Vote: Unanimous
- 15.2 The Committee reviewed Submission 102-23 regarding Regulation 10 and Technical Committees at World Championships and made the following recommendation to Council:
Recommendation: No opinion
- 15.3 The Committee reviewed Submission 103-23 regarding Regulation 10 and Technical Committees at World Championships and made the following recommendation to Council:
Recommendation: No opinion
- 15.4 To review Submission 108-23 regarding the appointment of Olympic Race Officials and made the following recommendation to Council:
Proposed by David Abercrombie; seconded by Daniel Belcher
Recommendation to Council: Approve
Vote: Unanimous
- 15.5 The Committee reviewed Submission 109-23 regarding open gender World Championships, noted the opinion of YESC and made the following recommendation to Council:
Recommendation: No opinion as WP report due in May
- 15.6 The Committee reviewed Submission 110-23 regarding protest committees and made the following recommendation to Council:
Recommendation to Council: No opinion
- 15.7 The Committee reviewed Submission 115-23 regarding reapplications for World Sailing Race Officials and made the following recommendation to Council:
Recommendation: No opinion
- 15.8 The Committee reviewed Submission 116-23 regarding International Judges grouping systems and made the following recommendation to Council:
Recommendation: No opinion
- 15.9 The Committee reviewed Submission 117-23 regarding the Terms of Reference for the Olympic Class Sub-committee and made the following recommendation to Council:

Proposed by Markus Schwendtner; seconded by Ben Remocker

Recommendation to Council: Approve

Votes: For: 9; Against: 0; Abstain: 2

- 15.10 The Committee reviewed Submission 155-23 regarding the Term of Reference for the Safety Commission and made the following recommendation to Council:

Proposed by Markus Schwendtner; seconded by Ben Remocker

Recommendation to Council: Approve

Votes: Unanimous

16. Any Other Business

- 16.1 After ascertaining that there were no other items for AOB, the Chair noted that this would be Director of Events, Alastair Fox's last meeting. He gave a short presentation, with embarrassing photos, to celebrate the many years of commitment Alastair had given in service of World Sailing and the sport and wished him every success for the future.

The Chair thanks all the staff and members of the committee for their work and declared the meeting closed at 16.45 hours.