

### The Events Committee met at the Suntec Singapore Convention & Exhibition Centre, Singapore on Thursday 7 November 2024 at 0930 SGT.

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#### Present:

John Derbyshire (GBR) Chair	Daniel Belcher (AUS)
Aiko Saito (JPN)	Guillaume Chiellino (FRA)
Ben Remocker (CAN)	Marco Predieri (ITA)
Piotr Oleksiak (POL)	David Hughes (USA) Athletes' Commission
Markus Schwendtner (GER) Olympic Classes	

#### In attendance:

Jim Morris (Director of Events)	Sarah Kenny (AUS) Vice President WS Board
Matt Wheaton (Competitions Manager)	Cory Sertl (USA) Vice President WS Board
David Graham (Chief Executive Officer)	Corinne McKenzie (Events Consultant)
Jaime Navarro (Director, Technical and Offshore)	Alexandra Rickham (Director of Sustainability)
Charles Glover (Youth Events Sub Committee)	Michael Rollich (Match Racing Sub Committee)

#### Apologies:

Sofia Tedin (ARG) Vice Chair	Walter Boddener (BRA)
Ke Su (CHN)	Anna Holmdahl White (SWE)
Graham Biehl (AUS)	Eliane Fierro (MEX)
Gelly Skartlatou (GRE)	Michael Downing (Olympic Manager)

## 1. Opening of the Meeting

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed the Events Committee (EC), Board Members and observers to the meeting and was pleased to introduce the new Director of Events, Jim Morris.

A special mention was given to Aiko Saito having received the 'Beppe Croce' award, for her outstanding service to the sport, most recently over the Tokyo 2020 and Paris 2024 quadrennials.

It was pointed out that this was a unique term for the committee as there had been two Olympic Games within three years with a significant amount of change to the events and equipment since the Games in 2021.

There followed a review of all the competitions that had taken place over this term and in summary the chair commended the quality of sailing at the 2024 Olympic Games noting the Peruvian and Singaporean medals in the Men's Dinghy and Men's Kite respectively.

It was noted that the phrase 'change or be changed' still resonates within World Sailing (WS) and there was further work for this committee to do.

The Chair thanked the members and the working parties for all their work, support and commitment over the last term.

- 1.2 The Committee noted the declared Conflicts of Interest.

## **2. Minutes**

- 2.1 The Committee approved the meetings of Monday 13 May 2024 (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 There were no Matters Arising from the Minutes not covered elsewhere.

## **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.

Vice President Sarah Kenny welcomed the committee to Singapore and thanked all for their input towards a successful Olympic Games in Marseille, offering further thanks to all stakeholders and volunteers involved.

Gratitude was expressed to the FFV and the Paris 2024 OCOG for successfully planning and delivering both the Last Chance Regatta and Olympic Sailing Competition.

It was noted that the venue spectator area in Marseille within the venue was wonderful and should be carried forwards to future events wherever practicable.

A comprehensive post-Games survey took place and is currently being reconciled, early indications show key areas to address are venue, sport presentation and technology.

Thanks were given to those involved in the Youth World Championships and Offshore Double Handed World Championships, noting excellent international representation.

The 'Olympic Vision' adopted in 2023 was a valuable source of reference and will continue to guide the sport through to LA2028 and Brisbane 2032. The Board also recommend the new five-year overarching strategy 'ready for the future' to guide the Events Committee in the future.

## **4. World Sailing Championships**

- 4.1 The Director of Events gave a progress report on the 2026 World Sailing Championships in Valencia, noting that the Valencia organising committee is very capable with a great venue and facilities to host competition. Contract negotiations continue but are halted temporarily whilst the Yacht Club co-ordinate relief efforts following the recent disastrous floods within the city. It was desired that the contract would be agreed before the end of the year with further details around a Test Event to follow.
- 4.2 Piotr Oleksiak reported on the 2027 World Sailing Championships in Gdynia presenting the venue and competition plans which appear positive for the sport and the Nation of Poland. Training opportunities will be made available from 2025 in conjunction with the 470 Worlds and Gdynia Sailing Days.
- 4.3 The EC received an update on the progress of identifying and selecting Invited Events for the World Sailing Championships. It was noted that the intention is to test new events in line with the Olympic Vision. The WS Board will appoint a working party to gather proposals, evaluate them and make recommendations on the preferred Invited Events. Bids close in February 2025 and it was noted that Team Racing, Match Racing and Double handed Offshore Racing are all interested and are encouraged to bid.
- 4.4 The EC received an update from the Quota and Qualification WP on the World Sailing Championships Qualification system.

The Chair of the Q&Q WP presented a report that had been circulated to members.

The WP recommended to the EC that Council approve a twostep approach to the quota allocation of the World Sailing Championships, with the ambition to have a similar quota to previous championships.

- 1) Initially, approving a minimum quota allocation for each event
- 2) Delegate to the Event Committee Chair, Q&Q Chair, and World Sailing Office the authority to review the quota together with the Local Organising Committee to determine if the quota can or should be increased based on:
  - a) The Race management and resources required for the invited events
  - b) Demand from sailors,
  - c) Supplied equipment availability

The intended quota places were presented along with the intention to increase quota where possible. In a new approach aimed to fast track the entry process, MNAs will be initially offered two entry spots rather than one. In addition, WS will ask MNAs for their intended quotas to give foresight of the final desired outcomes. The Athletes commission commend this plan.

**The report proposed recommendations for a Quota and Qualification system for the WS Championship regattas in 2026 and 2027 which was approved by Events Committee.**

## 5. Olympic Games

### 5.1 Paris 2024 Olympic Sailing Competition

The WS Chief Executive Officer, David Graham expressed thanks to all of those involved, noting how incredibly useful the Test Event was, the addition of Formula Kite and iQFOiL was positive for the sport and that the venue was excellent and offered a blueprint for future competition.

Whilst reviewing feedback from the post-games survey, there are many positives however still room for development with race management, broadcast and sports presentation all receiving much feedback.

It was made clear that WS and the Olympic Classes must work together and draw from shared experiences to tackle the complications within the sport.

- 5.2 The WS CEO had recently conducted a site visit with Michael Downing and reported that whilst much was still to be established, the Venue will be within the Olympic 'bubble', potentially sharing with other sports within the Belmont Pier region however this was still to be finalised. A good relationship had been formed with the OCOG having met several times now with all sides keen to work closely and learn from past successes, such as the Test Event which has verbally been agreed to.

- 5.3 The EC received a review from the Format Working Party of the formats used during the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

The members of the WP were thanked for their constructive, critical review of the 2024 Olympic Sailing Competition. A comprehensive paper from the WP had been circulated to members and highlights were presented to the EC, of which there were 7 recommendations, noting the following:

- There is scope for improved visual presentation in particular distinguishing the gender of athletes within board events and the addition of branding of nation tri-codes on the equipment for these events.
- The Windsurfing Marathon race caught the attention of the media but at a cost to the athletes and wider competition schedule. Recommendation 6 of the WP paper was amended so that, if the Marathon could take place without closing the Field of Play to other events, the format may have a place in future Olympic Games.
- Reducing from three to a maximum of two Olympic formats, merging the board formats was proposed with the aim of clear, consistent sport presentation.
- The Opening Series to be reduced to minimise the potential points leading into Medal Series.

The Athletes' Commission stressed that athletes competing at the Games do not want a volatile or unpredictable regatta and wish for the maximum possible number of races and racing days as possible.

- 5.4 The committee received a report from the Format Working Party on proposals for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games.

Piotr Oleksiak presented the Format WP report with several proposals and recommendations for LA28. The foundation of the recommendations were based on the World Sailing Olympic Vision, as well as key insights and experiences gained from the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

The Chair and thanked the working party for their hard work and continued efforts to improve the sport at the Olympic Games.

**The report contained 7 recommendations for Los Angeles 2028 that were all approved by Events Committee.**

- 5.5 The Committee received a report from the Quotas and Qualification Working Party on the development of the Los Angeles 2028 Qualification System.

One of the key considerations for the LA28 qualification pathway links closely to the work of the Calendar WP, identifying the complexities of moving equipment between continents around a busy schedule, which is expected to peak in July 2027. Principles of the paper which had been circulated to EC members were presented with several positives observed from the previous quadrennial such as the Last Chance Regatta and the success of the PanAmerican Games and its influence in the Americas. The Asian continental qualifier also received praise from those involved. At this time, not all dates were known and work will continue with a view to finalising the LA 2028 Q & Q system by mid-year 2025.

## 6. World Sailing Event Calendar

- 6.1 The Committee received a report from the Calendar Working Party in addition to a paper already circulated with an update on the Olympic calendar until Brisbane 2032.

The Calendar Working Party has been focused on optimising the Olympic regatta schedule through the transition from a quadrennial centred in Europe to upcoming cycles with in the USA and Australia. The importance of the calendar remains critical to the overall success of the Olympic sailing circuit.

Key topics for consideration included the World Cup concept, the impact of Test Events on qualification, and the congested July 2027 calendar which is predicted to feature the Gdynia World Sailing Championships, LA28 Test Event, PanAm Games, and World Championships for two person Olympic classes. Challenges have arisen from splitting the World Sailing Championships and the assignment of two person classes to the later championship poses logistical challenges due to shipping requirements and tight timelines, which may affect qualification logistics. It was suggested adjusting the class assignments for the next quadrennial or implementing a two-event qualifying system for double-handed classes may alleviate these issues.

With reference to July 2027, Aiko Saito, who also sits in the Event Appointment Working Party expressed their concern to EC members regarding the logistics and costs of 2027. The Athlete's commission member re-iterated this concern.

## 7. Rankings

- 7.1 The WS Competitions Manager presented a staff report on the Olympic Class Rankings that had been shared with the members of the EC.

As with previous reports, the feet rankings continue to be well maintained and operating in a steady state. The Rankings methodology which was approved by WS Council in 2017 remains unadopted by WS due to funding and will now fall to a new committee to decide if it remains relevant and if it should be pursued.

As previously reported, there are several IT projects which could be developed to greatly improve the service to all stakeholders, with the overall aim of creating a more credible World Ranking.

## 8. Regulation 23

- 8.1 The Committee received a report from the Regulation 23 Working Party. The members discussed the paper offering mixed feedback regarding the principal of placing 40% of the slate under review, some strongly favouring and against the principal.

It was noted that the IOC may yet reduce quota or medals which will significantly affect the review process. The Chair suggested reviewing the contents within the Policy register and also a joint working party with the Events and/or Equipment Committee and WS Board to continue this work.

**The Regulation 23 report was approved by Events Committee, noting two abstentions from Markus Schwendtner and Ben Remocker.**

## 9. Youth Events Sub-committee

- 9.1 The Chair of the Youth Events Sub-committee reported highlights from Lake Garda which hosted the 2024 Youth Sailing World Championships, giving thanks to the FIV who delivered an excellent edition which proved that the event could be successfully held over multiple venues. The event did not go without its challenges, delivery delays for supplied equipment, venue constraints, support boat short-falls which will all be considered for future editions. Thanks were expressed to all involved and for mutual partnership with fair competition and outstanding organisation.

The next edition of the Youth Sailing World Championships will be held in December 2025 in Vilamoura, Portugal and the Notice of Race is expected to be published soon after the contract finalised.

Beyond 2025, a WP has had much internal discussion into future event strategy with the aim of addressing current short-fallings. WS has opened for expressions of interest and the bid process hopes to be evaluated with a decision due in February 2025.

**The committee agreed that future bids should be encouraged for multi-year hosting agreements, with the aim of stabilising costs, planning, resources and enabling greater participation.**

- 9.2 Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games

The Committee noted limited progress to date and WS have not yet received any wind or tide data as previously requested. The IOC will be advising WS on final athlete quota in December which will prompt a proposal from the YESC on suitable equipment to be used, noting that a recommendation to Council was approved for the use of a windsurf Board which is non-foiling.

## 10. Match Racing Sub-committee

- 10.1 The Chair of the MRSC opened with his thanks to the EC for the support shown over previous years. Highlights of the report featured the many and varied regattas that had taken place in the last 12 months and a preview of events to come in 2025 and 2026.

The MRSC made the following three recommendations:

### Recommendation 1

- The Match Racing Sub Committee recommends that World Sailing Board of Directors dedicate resources to make sure that all necessary data is available for easy access for skippers, teams and event organisers by implementing a search function in the ranking
- The Match Racing Sub Committee requests to be consulted by World Sailing IT and possible contractor when the ranking calculation and search function is put into practice to make sure that all aspects of a working ranking is considered



## Recommendation 2

- The Match Racing Sub Committee recommends that World Sailing Board of Directors dedicate resources to reintroduce a Match Racing portal where all information concerning match racing can be stored for easy access.
- This is particularly important for new event organisers looking for information on how to set up and organize match racing events, the information for which is currently in multiple areas of the World Sailing website.

## Recommendation 3

- The Match Racing Sub Committee recommends to set-up agreed practices and process together with World Sailing Communication and Media team and event organisers to secure smooth transition of media provided at the World Sailing Youth and Women Match Racing World Championships for distribution in World Sailing channels.

### **The three recommendations within the MRSC report were approved by Events Committee.**

In addition to the above recommendations, the EC unanimously noted and endorsed the expert view of the Match Racing Sub Committee and supported the following submissions:

010-24. Proposal to amend Rules C2.12, C5.7, C7.4(c), C9.2 and D2.6(c) Housekeeping of terminology in Appendices C and D

021-24. Proposal to add to Match Racing Call Book by incorporating question and answer given in Rapid Response Match Racing Call 2021.001.

022-24 Proposal to add to the Match Racing Call Book an interpretation originating Rapid Response Match Racing Call 2020.001.

023-24 Proposal to amend Match Race Call G2 by incorporating question and answer given in Rapid Response Match Racing Call 2020.002.

## 11. Team Racing Sub-committee

- 11.1 The Chair of the Team Racing Sub-committee reported on team racing activities since the last meeting and an update on plans for 2025 and 2026 Team Racing World Championships. The Committee developed a Standardised Hosting Agreement which has now been adopted by WS and is in place for the 2025 Worlds in NYYC as well as Match Racing events.

The EC endorsed the plans of the Team Racing Sub-committee to integrate Team Racing into the Youth Sailing World Championships and bid as a potential format at the World Sailing Championships. As with Match Racing, there were also urgent calls for integrating the Rankings to the WS website and a complimentary microsite to host activities and resources.

Micheal O'Conner offered thanks towards the Events Committee for their support over the years.

## 12. Additional Submissions

There were no submissions where the Events Committee is the reporting committee.

## 13. Any Other Business

### 13.1 Sustainability

Alexandra Rickham presented Event specific priorities that were of relevance to the members and observers within targets of Agenda 2030 notably: reducing the number of competition vessels, lowering carbon emissions, improving bio-security and marine mammal guidance.

Regarding future events:

- It was highlighted that events need to be future proofed for climate related issues such as flooding, heat, and erosion.

- A clear reduction in support vessels (coach boats) was noted from 600 in Santander 2014 SWC to 330 in the Hague 2023 SWC. Safety remains a priority, but there is potential to further reduce numbers. The support vessel quota system for WS future events is still to be defined.
- Introduction of Sustainability Charter for WS Special Events and Classic Regattas that is to be implemented, noting in particular that supplied equipment has almost 3x less carbon impact than athlete's own boats.
- Regarding race official appointment gender balance, currently around 70:30 reach across all events. Need to consider more options and pathways to increase numbers of female race officials. This is also a problem at the Olympic sailing competition, again 70:30 and no change from Tokyo 2020 to Paris 224. Race Officials Committee and WS Office will be putting forward plans to tackle this.
- The audience was invited to register for upcoming Sustainability Sessions which will be held online.

### 13.2 Closing

The Chairman expressed his thanks to WS Staff, Committee members and VP Sarah Kenny for their involvement in the EC highlighting some of the incredible work undertaken in the past 4 years. The passion, enthusiasm, skills and knowledge within the group is remarkable.

The meeting closed at 16:15.