

The Events Committee met online at 0900 UTC on 1 May 2025

1 <u>Opening of the Meeting</u> ... 1	6 <u>Olympic Sailing Competition – BNE 2032</u> ... 4
2 <u>Update from the Board</u> ... 1	7 <u>Various Working Areas</u> ... 5
3 <u>Update from the Events Committee Chair/Co-Chair</u> ... 2	8 <u>Work Plan 2025</u> ... 6
4 <u>World Sailing Championships</u> ... 2	9 <u>Proposal Assigned to the Events Committee</u> ... 6
5 <u>Olympic Sailing Competition – LA28</u> ... 3	10 <u>Any Other Business</u> ... 6

Members Present:

Wolfgang Mayrhofer (AUT) Chair	Aiko Saito (JPN) Vice-Chair	Walter Boddener (BRA)
Shevaun Bruland (AUS)	Saskia Clark (GBR)	Paula Douat (COL)
Tayfun Erey (TUR)	Nuno Gomes (ANG)	Ferran Muniesa (ESP)
Piotr Oleksiak (POL)	Ed Russo (FRA)	Anna Holmdahl White (SWE)
Geoff Wooley (NZL)	Molly O'Bryan Vandemoer (USA)	Tian Wang (CHN)
Markus Schwendtner (GER) Olympic Classes SC Chair		

In attendance:

Daniel Belcher (AUS) Vice President	Cory Sertl (USA) Vice President	Lisa Darmanin (AUS) Athletes' Committee Vice Chair
Jim Morris (Director of Events)	Michael Downing (Olympic Director)	Matt Wheaton (Competitions Manager)

Apologies:

None		
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1. Opening of the Meeting

- a. The Chair welcomed members to their second formal meeting of their term.
- b. A quorum of 15 members was established.
- c. No Apologies were received.
- d. The committee noted the declarations made in the Conflicts of Interest register. As was discussed in the previous meeting, all members were urged to ensure they have made a declaration, even if they have nothing to declare.
- e. The committee noted the minutes of the meeting on 4th March 2025 (circulated and approved after the meeting). The minutes can be downloaded from the [Minutes Archive on sailing.org](#).
- f. There were no Matters Arising from the minutes not covered elsewhere.

2. Update from the Board

- a. The meeting received an update from the two Vice Presidents responsible for liaison with the Events Committee. It was noted that the Board had invested a significant amount of time since November into constitutional topics which was followed by the tragic passing of Board member, Line Markert.

The committee received updates on the Board's focus on Olympic preparations, particularly for LA 2028 and the Youth Olympic Games in Dakar 2026 and noted that WS needs to deliver on areas to improve as addressed by the IOC; with much of this evaluation work falling to the Events Committee. The Board offered thanks to Wolfgang and Aiko for a great start to their tenure.

- b. The committee noted the minutes of the Board meetings since their last Events Committee meeting.

3. Update from the Events Committee Chair/Co-Chair

- a. The Chair of the Events Committee reported that work had tentatively progressed, noting that the official 'Working Groups' are still to be approved. The Chair had taken part in nearly all working group meetings to date and was impressed by the energy and competence of members noting that work is well underway.

The Chair urged members to think outside of the box, unfreezing their current position to enable and embrace how sailing could appear at the Olympic Games and improve World Sailing's standing within and value to the IOC. Knowledge sharing between committees was encouraged as was demonstrated via an informal meeting between the Events and Equipment committee's leadership.

- c. The vice-chair commented on the upcoming calendar and, having just returned from a site visit to the 2026 Asian Games venue in Japan, emphasised the importance of creating engaging events that resonate with audiences.

4. World Sailing Championships

- a. The Director of Events presented a progress report on the 2027 World Sailing Championships confirming that Fortaleza, Brazil had recently been announced as host for the one person events noting a target date for competition of February 2027, with a test event planned in the year prior in about the same time period. It is anticipated that para-inclusion events shall race alongside the Olympic events in Brazil. A binding Heads of Terms agreement has been signed by all parties and the contract is being finalised for review.
- b. The briefing continued with a progress report on the 2027 World Sailing Championships in Gdynia, Poland. A binding Heads of Terms has been signed by all parties and the contract has been shared to the host for review. Gdynia will host the two-person Olympic events and para-

inclusion events. A target date for the regatta is set in June or July in 2027 with a test event to take place the year prior in about the same time period.

Site visits to both venues are scheduled to assist the finalisation of the contract.

- c. The committee received an update on the progress of identifying and selecting 'Invited Events' for the World Sailing Championships. It was noted that an Evaluation Panel was in place and had received 13 bids from interested parties. The Panel's first meeting will take place on 14 May 2025 to begin the review of bids received.

A comment was proposed to the members regarding 'Expression' events as being something 'outside of the box' and should be seriously considered as a change to status quo.

5. Olympic Sailing Competition – LA28

- a. The Events Committee received a report on the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games from the Olympic Director, including an update on the test event being considered for August 2027. As was reported earlier by the Vice President, the IOC published on 9 April 2025 the athlete quota and number of Events that Sailing has been awarded for LA 28, confirming 330 athletes (165 men and 165 women) with 10 Events, thus no change from Paris 2024. Despite the good news, it was however noted that conditions have been attached to this quota and program. The conditions below were shared verbatim by CEO to stakeholders and World Sailing must work to ensure all points are addressed for LA28.
 - Shortening the opening series by removing at least 20 per cent of the races and scheduling the remaining races over three days for all events, while retaining one dedicated medal day per event.
 - Aligning with LA28 and the Olympic Broadcast Service on the optimal distribution of races and competition days across the Games window — including the potential to begin before the Opening Ceremony — to minimise the event footprint and resource requirements.
 - Reducing the target time for dinghy races to enhance the broadcast impact and allow for a more compact competition schedule.
 - Ensuring a joint decision by LA28, World Sailing and OBS on whether more than one contingency day per event is required, based on the specific conditions of the field of play and the overall competition schedule.
 - Further streamline operations and enhance efficiency by reviewing and reducing the number of support boats required, minimising container use, reviewing official training time and venue access, and encouraging equipment sharing.

Dialogue with the LA28 team is excellent and recruitment for open roles is ongoing.

An announcement from LA regarding the competition venue is still pending, with World Sailing expecting the final decision from LA28 in May 2025 with further information on training opportunities and the test event to follow.

- b. The committee received a report on the progress of the LA 28 Qualification System, including quota allocation. It was reported that owing and thanks to no change of the overall athlete quota, there are no major changes planned to the LA qualification system, only small adjustments which aim to increase the overall participation numbers at qualification events. The WG leader requested further input from members and the Olympic Classes before final recommendations would be presented to Events Committee and Council at one of their next meetings.
- c. The committee received a report on the development of Formats for LA 28 from the leader of the working group. Following the IOC's feedback from the Marseille Olympic Sailing Competition which broadly included reviewing the competition format and schedule, the working group have revisited some of their recommendations that were put to the Events Committee in November 2024. The working group clearly acknowledged the IOC directives and will embrace change, even if this might come as a shock to parts of the wider community. The leader affirmed to members that the review is vital ensuring sailing remains relevant and included in the Olympic Games for generations to come. He reassured the committee and wider audience that the WG has a good balance of representatives across the sport to ensure well guided decisions which would be presented in Q3, August of 2025.

The chair thanked Aiko Saito and Piotr Oleksiak for their hard work to develop these key areas.

6. Olympic Sailing Competition – BNE 2032

- a. The Events Committee received a progress report on the Brisbane 2032 Olympic Games, including the latest on the IOC directions for sports in the Olympic Games. The Olympic Director elaborated upon the IOC directions that had been previously discussed within the meeting and noted that the Queensland government will undertake feasibility studies for the proposed venues of Townsville and the Whitsunday Islands with further consideration for the inclusion of Para events for 2032. There is much work to undertake before any firm venue decision is announced.
- b. The committee received a progress report from the working group who is leading the work as required by Regulation 11 to select a minimum of four Olympic events from LA 2028 to be put 'under review' ahead of the Brisbane 2032. The working group is currently developing criteria for evaluation and will consult with stakeholders before finalising recommendations. The group leader emphasised a transparent process to ensure no surprises in the recommendations

presented to the committee. It was noted that representatives from the Equipment and Athlete committee are yet to be received into the working group.

- c. The committee received an update on a proposal to use supplied equipment for additional events at Brisbane 2032. The leader of the working group stated progress to date and cited the references that would be guiding the work, also noting the relevance to the review of Events as per Regulation 11. Work in this area will continue ahead of providing formal recommendations. The Chair thanked Shevaun Bruland and Saskia Clark for their hard work in their respective groups.

7. Various Working Areas

- a. The Events Committee received a progress report of the development of a calendar strategy. The committee heard an overview of the various factors being looked at, noting the complexity and variety of considerations that will be taken forward. Work was reported as ongoing in this area, building on the work this committee did in previous terms, with the aim to define a comprehensive four-year plan, offering athletes a pathway to prepare for the racing seasons well in advance. The proposed calendar will have regatta 'slots' to provide structure and create certainty for classes and teams.
- b. The report continued regarding ongoing efforts to relaunch a World Cup Series, noting alignment with the Olympic Vision and broad alignment among stakeholders at this point. Further development is required on format, schedule and timeline with a wider focus on athlete attraction and financial stability. The report stressed the need for strong audience engagement and low-cost participation for sailors. The importance of securing commercial sponsorship to fund media coverage for the regattas was discussed.

It was requested that a representative from the Athletes Committee be nominated to the working group.

- c. An update on the implementation of an improved Olympic fleet rankings model was offered, referencing a events strategy published by the Events Committee in 2019. The working group will review the current rankings model and offer a simplified, transparent model and with focus on mitigating geography and logistics cost barriers.

The VP responsible for this area of work confirmed that the Board would investigate funding development work required.

- d. The committee received an update on the development of proposals to reduce material and non-material costs of competing and campaigning for the Olympic Games. The working group leader gave a brief update and noted that this working area shares a similar remit and could therefore collaborate with other focus groups.

The Chair thanked Ed Russo and Saskia Clark for their hard work in their respective groups.

8. Work Plan 2025

- a. As per the World Sailing Constitution, an Events Committee Work Plan was distributed to all members which was subsequently outlined and discussed by the committee. The events chair encouraged ongoing communication for improvements of the work plan. Among others, a reflection session to review the work of the Committee will be scheduled at the (in-person) annual conference in Dublin.

9. Proposal Assigned to the Events Committee

- a. The Events Committee did not receive any Proposals.
- b. There were no opinions on Proposals to be offered to any reporting body.

10. Any Other Business

- a. The Events Committee noted the report from the Safety Commission.

In his closing remarks the chair expressed that he was happy with progress to date and urged that if any working groups require further direction the members should contact him. A release date for the workstream that would facilitate future Proposals using Monday.com is anticipated to launch at the end of May and the chair urged the Board to facilitate this wherever possible.

The dates for next meeting were provisionally set as 27-28 August 2025.

The meeting ended at 1200 UTC.