

# Vice-President Candidate Application Pack

2025

# 4. Vice President Candidate Application Form

Please return the completed form to [elections@sailing.org](mailto:elections@sailing.org)

CAFs (excluding Part A of Section 4 and Section 6) for all Eligible Candidates shall be published on the World Sailing website – [www.sailing.org](http://www.sailing.org)

## YOUR PICTURE:

A profile picture is required as part of your application. The picture should be a good quality jpeg image of your head and shoulders only (passport style). Please import your photo below to size 35mm x 45mm or send the picture as an attachment at the same time you send your completed Candidate Application Form to [elections@sailing.org](mailto:elections@sailing.org)



## Part B: Your application information for publication

Family name Rawbone

Given name Kay

Gender ☒ Female

Date of birth 24th April 1051

Nationality British

Nominating MNA Sailing Federation of Hong Kong, China

Nominating for ☒ Vice-President

## Part C: Experience profile

Please detail only the most significant achievements across each of the following areas of sports involvement

### SAILING CAREER *i.e. sailing achievements*

Began sailing with my husband when we married. Dinghy sailing was our passion whilst we also had a small powerboat. Whilst living in the UK I was Secretary of the Maidenhead Sailing Club for a while.

Arrived in Hong Kong in 2003, joined the Hebe Haven Yacht Club in 2004 and bought our first keel boat. Participated in various club committees including race management, events etc. Mostly recreational sailing for ourselves whilst supporting the club racing events.

2009 saw the birth of Sailability Hong Kong Limited with my late husband and myself as founders. As I was at that time working within the NGO industry, we decided to work with 4 of my students with Special Education Needs to get things started. Introduced Inclusive sailing to Hebe Haven and to their Charity 24hr Dinghy Race and much more to highlight the abilities of our sailors whilst providing education to the club members and other visiting sailors..

We have grown from 4 sailors in 2009 to over 5000 sailing with us each year now. Sailing is now very inclusive in Hong Kong because of Sailability and continues to be supported by our Sailing Federation and the Government for Regional and overseas competitions. We are also asked to join Open races at the other sailing clubs in Hong Kong i.e. Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club, Aberdeen Boat Club and the Cruisers Owners Association of Hong Kong. Sailability is now very much part of the sailing Community in Hong Kong

I regularly join on MoHan (Limitless) our yacht, competing in races and recreational sailing. We join races such as the Annual Around The Island Race, COA Races including the Macau Race where in July 2025 we came in 1st in the return leg with an inclusive crew., Aberdeen Boat Clubs 4Peaks Race where in Jan 2005 we were first in our Division with a Crew of 12 sailors, 6 with disability and 6 without disability. Club races too.

I personally join Saturday sailing sessions (our longest running programme) each week to check on safety, compliance and to ensure everyone is learning whilst having fun. Dinghy sailing is undertaken every weekend with 2/3 different sessions taking place with sailors from a wide variety of backgrounds. Sailability is also in the school curriculum of SEN schools/organisations as we highlight the benefits of sailing.

Also ensure that I meet with every sailing group that sails with us and with our Para Sailors on a weekly basis to ensure they are all benefitting from their programmes, making adjustments where necessary and encouraging more new sailors to the sport.

Through these experiences I continue to see firsthand the benefits of sailing for everyone and how we can improve and create more innovative and diverse programmes.



**SAILING ADMINISTRATION** i.e. involvement with sailing administration, MNAs, classes, clubs, race officials (on a national/regional level). It is mandatory to declare any positions held in World Sailing MNAs, World Sailing Classes, World Sailing Affiliate Continental Members, World Sailing Affiliate Members, Associate Members and Recognized Organisations.

As Co founder & CEO Sailability Hong Kong Limited, I have been very hands-on since our start in 2009. My work within the Intellectual Impairment & Disability areas of Hong Kong since 2004 has offered great insights and opportunities within Sailability as can be witnessed by our growth, outreach, accessibility, inclusivity and diversity within our programmes, whilst also highlighting the changes to our sailors and their families lives whilst providing education to everyone within the sailing world in Hong Kong and beyond.

Responsible for the general running of Sailability Hong Kong and fundraising.

Regularly invited as a speaker at events and we also encourage people to come and see what we do. Sailing programmes are within the SEN schools and organisations curriculum as they see the benefits of what we have to offer and also the potential of some of their students who may move on to become Para Inclusive Sailors of the future. We were the first country in Asia to hold a Paralympic Development in 2017 which was the second of its kind in the world. Have held 2 South East Asian Championships in HK and we are looking to hold another championship in 2016.

We currently have a Hansa Liberty Asia Pacific Champion (2024) and a Hansa Liberty World Champion 2025 amongst our Para Sailing Team. Our Intellectual Impairment Team also achieved 2nd place in the 2025 Hansa Worlds in Sydney.

Chair of the Para World Sailing Committee – I also sit on the EDI and Growth Committees and supported the recent Para Inclusive Webinars. Had the honour last year of presenting at the World Sailing AGM with the title of 'Funding a Stream to a River'.

Chair of the ASAF Para & Inclusive Sailing Committee

Member of the ASAF Executive Committee and a member of the ASAF Growth Committee

Association Council Member of the Sailing Federation of Hong Kong, China (HKSF)

Member of the Hong Kong China Paralympics

Instrumental in the introduction of the WS Steering the Course, Women's Sailing Festival in HK, from its launch on the WS website in 2020.

Nominating Committee Member for the past 2 years at Hebe Haven Yacht Club

Committee Member since 2006 of the Hebe Haven Yacht Club's 24hr Charity Dinghy Race. Last year's race saw 10 of our boats sailed by people from 3 of the 5 beneficiary charities, out of the 32 which joined.

**OTHER SPORTS ADMINISTRATION** i.e. involvement with sports other than sailing whether national, regional or international

None



Held the 2nd World Sailing PDP in Hong Kong in 2017 which was the first in Asia.

Chair of the Para World Sailing Committee and part of the EDI and Growth Committees as a Para Sailing Committee Member. Sailability Hong Kong has attended and participated in many International & World Sailing Events since 2014 in Holland, Weymouth UK, Finland, Kiel, Sherboygan US, Spain, Portugal, Australia, Japan etc  
Hosted a webinar in 2020 with Hannah Stodel and Jovin Tan (Singapore Para Sailor) in connection with a previous bid to get back into the Paralympics.

Presented at the 2024 World Sailing Conference in Singapore with the theme - 'Funding a Stream to a River'

Hosted a World Sailing Webinar with Hebe Haven Yacht Club & Sailability during the World Sailing Steering the Course Women's Festival - Sailability has been a part of this for the past 5 years with 600 women and girls joining our events during that time.

OTHER Please detail other significant experiences to be included on your profile:

My career commenced in HR at Land Rover, UK, when HR was a very caring part of every organisation and reinforced what I had learned from my family that everyone should have a chance in life whatever their circumstances and/or life challenges.

Moving to HK in 2003 I began working in the Disability Sector with Adults with SEN/ASD etc looking at what more could be done to integrate further into our community, not only with work but also in sports. Representing the English speaking sector for disability in HK gave me the outreach into many areas of the HK NGOs who quickly learned that I had plenty of change ideas and also had the passion and courage to try. I was also a member of Workability Asia promoting good practices and inclusive workplaces with real jobs.

From experiences learned in the UK, and in Hong Kong in my previous role as Operations Director at The Nesbitt Centre, led to the respect and confidence from many NGOs to come and try sailing which was an unknown and inaccessible sport for many.

Sailability Hong Kong operates on average between 25 to 35 programmes each month, all year round. We have recreational sailing for ages 7yrs to 92yrs, whilst also looking for sailors who show aptitude when sailing, have the passion to learn more and to go further in the sport with the hope to represent HK at regional and international levels.

In Hong Kong we also have the resources at Sailability for progression into our Para Sailing Team which trains twice a week with our coaches continuing to be supported by the HK Paralympics. Progression at Sailability also applies to those joining our SEN/ASD etc groups as we integrate them with other sailors to join local, regional and international events which are now sponsored by the HK Government and also to adapt to volunteer roles for some to support others whilst improving and promoting confidence and communication.

For me personally I see sailing as a sport for all whilst offering the most accessibility, inclusivity and hopefully affordability, as we work together and reach out more to the under developed areas of the world in which we all live and can sail in. This applies to all areas of our Sailing Community

In June 2023 I was awarded the British Empire Medal from King Charles 111 for work within Hong Kong with Sailability Hong Kong Limited. I also received a letter from Princess Anne in her role as President of the RYA, for our outstanding services to Inclusive Sailing in Hong Kong. We joined the RYA in 2009 at the beginning of our journey and are one of the 4 Affiliated RYA Sailability Centres worldwide.

My thoughts for the future - every sailing, yacht, boat club to have some inclusive sailing which will grow once they see the life changes they are supporting whilst also encouraging the growth of our amazing sport for everyone worldwide.



**CANDIDATE GOALS** Please type in the box your main goals if elected. You will also be contacted by the World Sailing Executive Office in due course to see if you wish us to publish a manifesto document or video (see Election Rules Rule 3.4 and 3.5). Do not exceed 800 words.

Having a VP of World Sailing who has experience within the Para Inclusive Sailing sector would support and facilitate the focus on several key differences and initiatives which our sport can overcome whilst promoting and growing sailing as a World Sport for everyone:

1. Inclusive Policies - breaking down barriers (which includes affordability in relation to training or equipment) whilst continuing to advocate for policies that ensure equal access to sailing for everyone including individuals with disabilities and life challenges within our worldwide sailing community.
2. Awareness and Education - by arranging workshops and seminars for MNAs to educate the sailing community about inclusion and accessibility and the benefits of sailing to us all. Highlight the achievements of sailors within our communities to inspire and raise awareness of what our sailors can achieve in the sport.
3. Resource Development - growth by creating resources and tools for MNAs and organisations to implement inclusive practices and increase disability awareness training to aid growth. After all we are ALL different!. Look towards sustainability and recycling of equipment around the world as we reach out and share. All this whilst also working towards the reinstatement of sailing into the Paralympics in 2032.
4. Encouraging the promotion and organisation of more Open Events within our MNAs and Regions to include sailors with disabilities and to promote abilities around the world. Ensure that all major sailing events are accessible and welcoming to everyone offering advice where needed..
5. Representation and Advocacy by increasing the representation of sailors with disability in decision-making bodies within World Sailing. Encourage more to act as spokespersons to advocate for the needs and rights of sailors with disabilities to make our sailing world even more inclusive and accessible.
6. Funding and Sponsorship leading to Growth – working together; World Sailing, Regional Offices and MNAs to continue to encourage and the growth of sailing worldwide. Working together to find additional funding streams and promotion for adaptive sailing initiatives and events whilst fostering relationships with sponsors interested in supporting disability sports especially those countries and regions within under developed countries and those with lower income streams.
7. Collaboration, Community Building and outreach with all Yacht Clubs - to share best practices in disability awareness and inclusion whilst leveraging cross-sport initiatives to enhance visibility and support for our athletes and future ones with a disability. Encouraging them all to build a community of sailors of all abilities to share experiences, challenges, and successes. Introducing and promoting mentorship programs pairing experienced sailors with varying abilities.

By focusing on these areas, you would not only enhance the representation of sailors with disability in the sport but also contribute to growth within sailing and a more inclusive and better World Sailing.