

19 July 2026

Ref: ICA-SGM-2026-01

Special General Meeting

Type: Special General Meeting, conducted in accordance with the Constitution in the same manner as an Annual General Meeting.

1. OPENING AND QUORUM

The meeting was opened by the Chair. Heiko provided opening remarks outlining the background and purpose. Thirteen of the fourteen National Class Associations (NCAs) were represented, confirming a quorum.

- Attempts were ongoing to secure full representation from Sweden.

2. PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

The meeting was convened to consider the use of ICA class funds to support participation by 2.4mR sailors in the 2026 Inclusive World Championships, to be held in Portimão, Portugal (a World Sailing event). The Executive Committee (EC) explained that:

- World Sailing (Para World Sailing) is organising the event as an inclusive championship open to sailors with and without disabilities, and to open designs.
- Presence of the 2.4mR class is considered important to remain in contention for selection as equipment for a potential return of sailing to the Paralympic Games. A decision by the International Paralympic Committee is expected in the third or fourth quarter of 2026, with subsequent evaluation events possible in 2027 and a target of the Brisbane 2032 Games.
- The class holds substantial reserves. The EC determined that expenditure of this scale required formal class approval rather than unilateral EC action.
- Discussions at the recent World Championships in Snake Island indicated broad support among sailors for financial assistance to ensure strong class representation.

3. PRESENTATION OF MOTION

Ricard (Finland) presented a formal motion proposing financial support structured as follows:

- Differentiated assistance according to origin: higher support for intercontinental sailors requiring charter boats; lower support for European sailors transporting their own boats, scaled by distance.
- Support limited to the first 15 sailors who register and pay the entry fee.
- Payment made after the event, with no payment in the event of non-attendance.

The motion aimed to provide equitable opportunity for participation across the class.

4. DISCUSSION

Key points raised included:

- Confirmation that the event is open to all sailors (able-bodied, para, open and NOD designs). Clarifications were obtained directly from World Sailing where the Notice of Race lacked precision.

- Concerns regarding the relatively high proposed expenditure compared with normal NCA support limits (€500), potential precedent-setting, and the need for careful stewardship of class funds.
- Emphasis that the 2.4mR remains a truly inclusive class and that no differentiation in support between para and non-para sailors should be introduced.
- Preference for supporting boat transport (including multi-boat trailers) over direct payments to individual sailors where practicable.
- Need for flexibility in allocation and total numbers to maximise participation and respond to practical logistics, for example additional boats on a shared trailer.
- Availability of charter boats: approximately four to five from Austria (subject to transport) and six excess boats from Finland, with further boats possibly identified.
- Importance of timely communication of final support levels to NCAs and sailors, given the early-entry deadline of 30 August 2026.
- Commitment by the Secretary to communicate the class's financial commitment and support for Paralympic sailing directly to the International Paralympic Committee.

5. DECISION

After discussion, the following motion was put to the meeting:

Motion: That the ICA authorised the Executive Committee to allocate up to €20,000 from class funds in support of 2.4mR participation in the 2026 Inclusive World Championships in Portimão, Portugal. Allocation shall be guided by the framework of the motion submitted by Finland (distance- and logistics-based support, limited initially to the first 15 registered and paid entrants, paid post-event upon attendance). The Executive Committee is authorised to refine the detailed methodology, adjust numbers within the overall ceiling as necessary to maximise participation, and communicate final arrangements to the NCAs.

Result: the motion was carried.

- Abstentions were recorded from Great Britain, France and Hong Kong (the latter not authorised to vote on behalf of the NCA).
- No formal opposition was recorded among the remaining represented NCAs.

6. FURTHER ACTIONS

- The Executive Committee will convene an emergency meeting within approximately eight to nine days to finalise allocation details and communicate specific support levels to the NCAs.
- The Secretary will prepare and circulate formal minutes of this meeting.
- The Secretary will prepare formal communication to the International Paralympic Committee (and World Sailing) advising of the class's financial commitment to the Portimão event in support of Paralympic sailing.
- NCAs are requested to disseminate information promptly to their members so that all eligible sailors have equal opportunity to register within any "first 15" framework.

7. CLOSING

The Chair thanked all representatives for their participation and the high level of attendance. The meeting was closed.

Minutes prepared by the Secretary.