

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes: May 13, 2025

Attendees: Heiko, Bruce, Niko, Mikael, Fia (Absent)

Summary

The Executive Committee (EC) of the 2.4mR class met on May 13, 2025, to discuss class rule changes, boat production updates, World Sailing's inclusive championship proposals, the Notice of Race (NOR) delays for an upcoming event, banking arrangements, trophy policies, and support for sailors. Key decisions included approving a promotional application, assigning action items to address NOR delays and trophy policies, and planning discussions with World Sailing to ensure annual Para World Championships within Open Championships. The meeting also addressed logistical challenges, such as high entry fees and lack of funding for sailors, particularly from the Czech Republic.

Detailed Topics

1. Class Rule Changes

- The upper batten class rule change is imminent, providing sufficient time for sailors to prepare for the World Championships and summer sailing.

2. Boat Production Update (Ontario Yachts)

- Progress reported on molding the first prototype boat, with a clean and neat initial molding process observed during a visit on May 12, 2025. Bulkhead installation is next.
- Discussion on optional boat features (e.g., traveler track recess, headsail boom indentation, cleat fittings) clarified that these are not mandatory. Ontario Yachts can omit them from molds if requested, though this may impact resale value.
- Proposal to flatten the front of the cockpit combing for easier mounting of equipment (e.g., compass, stopwatch) is under consideration by Ontario Yachts.
- A second prototype is planned, with production expected to ramp up post-spring season. A boat may be ready to sail by June 2025.
- Ontario Yachts will initially produce a "standard boat" based on a 2010 model, with plans to offer customizable options later. Photos of recent standard boats were requested for reference.
- Measurement tools will be brought in June to certify prototypes.

3. Super 3 Update

- Limited contact with Brian Harding due to his recent hospitalization, delaying pricing and further discussions.

4. World Sailing Inclusive Championships

- World Sailing plans inclusive championships in 2026 (Brazil, single-handed) and 2027 (Poland, double-handed), but concerns were raised about feasibility, especially for 2.4mR sailors due to high travel costs to Brazil.
- Proposal to advocate for an annual 2.4mR Para World Championship within the Open World Championship to ensure inclusivity and participation, as the class has practiced for 30 years.
- Concerns about World Sailing's organizational inefficiencies and lack of decision-making authority from contacts like Hannah. Suggestions to involve Fiona Kidd (International Development) for broader perspective.
- Frustration with World Sailing's delays in approving measurer training (e.g., Thomas's IM program).

5. Notice of Race (NOR) Delays

- Delays in publishing the NOR for this year's World Championships in Italy due to lack of confirmation from the Italian Sailing Federation. No clear timeline or responsible contact identified.
- Discussion on applying pressure via the hosting club or direct contact with the Federation. Massimo (formerly with World Sailing, now with IPC in Germany) was suggested as a potential alternate contact to the club.
- Agreement to post a polite update on the class's Facebook page if no response is received by Monday, May 19, 2025, to inform members of the delay.

6. Banking Arrangements

- Paul drafted a document outlining banking needs to solicit bids from UK-based accounting or law firms. The EC approved moving forward with Paul contacting potential firms.
- Suggestion to consult the British Sailing Federation for recommendations on firms used by other classes.
- Challenges noted with international signing requirements, emphasizing the need for a UK-based handler.

7. Trophy Policies

- Discussion on formalizing trophy policies, including responsibility, engraving standards, and customs issues (e.g., high costs in Australia in 2015).
- Proposal to create a new trophy to replace the lost Princess Sophia Trophy, and an additional trophy potentially for a team event (three-person teams) within the World Championships. Bruce offered a digitized painting of three boats for the trophy design. These would be for next year's Worlds not this year's.
- Concerns about lack of documentation for existing trophies (e.g., engravings, plaques). Photos of all trophies are needed.
- Suggestion to explore a policy where winners receive a photo with the trophy and a smaller keepsake, rather than transporting valuable trophies internationally.

8. Support for Czech Sailors

- Daniel Bina requested a reduced entry fee and permission to camp at the Yacht Club for two Czech sailors.
- Debate on fairness, as financial struggles are widespread (e.g., Brazil, Argentina). Agreement to support the request but clarify that the club, not the class, decides.
- Proposal to allocate a budget (e.g., €2000 annually) for youth or financially challenged sailors to attend Worlds, to grow participation.

9. Promotional Application

- A €500 application from the US to list the 2.4mR class alongside other one-design boats in publications was unanimously approved.

10. Other Items

- Zoom renewal due within a month; payment to be coordinated with banking updates to minimize wire transfer fees.
- Update on the Sylvia Cup: A note was sent to the Swedish royal family via a contact in Palma, Spain, about its loss, but no response has been received. Suggestions to contact Peter Norlin's wife (head of the Swedish Paralympic Committee) or via Emma (connected to World Sailing) for replacement options.
- Concerns about high entry fees (e.g., €235 for Kiel Week, €150-170 for Action for Europe) and low participation (e.g., 15-16 entries for Kiel Week) due to lack of Paralympic funding and declining class interest.

Action Items

1. **Heiko:** Contact the Italian Sailing Federation and/or Massimo (by May 14, 2025) to expedite NOR confirmation. If no response by May 19, 2025, coordinate with John to post a polite update on the class's Facebook page.
2. **Heiko:** Discuss with Hannah (World Sailing) and Fiona Kidd to advocate for an annual 2.4mR Para World Championship within the Open World Championship. Prepare talking points (with input from Bruce) for the call.
3. **Bruce:** Send Heiko thoughts on World Sailing talking points and Fiona Kidd's full name. Share digitized painting for potential team trophy design.
4. **Michael:** Inform Paul to proceed with contacting UK accounting/law firms for banking arrangements. Suggest reaching out to the British Sailing Federation for recommendations.
5. **Nico:** Draft a preliminary trophy policy document (covering responsibility, engraving, customs, etc.) for the next meeting.
6. **John:** Engage other sailing classes to research trophy handling practices and documentation. Send action item list to EC members. Coordinate with Michael on Zoom renewal and promotional application payments. Follow up on Sylvia Cup outreach via Peter Norlin's wife or Emma.
7. **Heiko:** Ask the hosting club about camping permissions and entry fee discounts for Czech sailors.
8. **All:** Provide photos of existing trophies to document their condition and engraving details.

Next Meeting

- **Date:** June 3, 2025
- **Agenda:** Review class rule review (item 13 from previous minutes), NOR status, trophy policy draft, World Sailing discussions, banking updates, and other ongoing items.

Additional Notes

- Condolences were extended to Bruce for his mother's passing on May 12, 2025.
- The Technical Committee (TC) meeting is scheduled for June 25, 2025, with the next EC meeting tentatively in early July if the schedule shifts.