

2.4mR International Class Association

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes Date: November 25, 2025, **Format:** Zoom **Duration:** ≈2 hours 32 minutes

Present

- Heiko Kröger (President)
- Niko Salomaa (Director)
- Mikael Bekkevold (Director/Finance Advisor)
- Fia Fjelddahl (Vice President)
- John Seepe (Secretary)
- Guest: Hannah Stodel – Para World Sailing Manager
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Quick recap

The meeting focused on discussing the 2.4 class's participation in combined World Sailing Championships in 2026 and 2027, including qualification requirements and logistics. The group addressed concerns about new racing formats and their impact on para-sailing, while also discussing the format and dates for the 2026 Portugal Para Sailing World Championships. The conversation ended with discussions about inclusive sailing events, contracts for Paralympic sailing, and various financial and organizational matters, including a European Cup proposal and scheduling of the next meeting.

Next steps

- Hannah Stodel: Send draft contract regarding combined championships and Paralympic class agreement to the 2.4 class executive committee for review.
- Michael: Follow up with Paul regarding the 500 euro payment requests from Netherlands and Ricard, and CC all relevant parties.
- Fia: Follow up with the Swedish association treasurer to ensure the annual payment is processed and confirm if payment was missed.
- John: Communicate with Peter Russell again to confirm nomination needs for the technical committee for the upcoming AGM.
- John: Send out an email to the group regarding AGM proposals and nominations, including information about the technical committee.
- John: Have a conversation with Frank Havik about the European Cup proposal and send a summary to the group after the conversation.
- All EC members: Review the draft contract from World Sailing (when received) and prepare feedback/decide on next steps regarding commitment to combined championships.
- All EC members: Consider and discuss, as a class, the requirements for Paralympic class commitment (e.g., Appendix K/OD rules) and communicate outcome to Hannah Stodel.
- Michael: Monitor progress with the Swedish association regarding payment and update the group.
- All EC members: Schedule and attend next meeting on January 7th to continue discussions (noted as action since it was agreed upon).

Summary

2.4 Class Championship Integration Plans

The meeting discussed the potential for the 2.4 class to participate in combined World Sailing Championships in 2026 and 2027, hosted by Gardinia and Porta Maya respectively. Hannah explained that while the class could still award its own titles within these combined events, it would need to align with the Paralympic qualification pathway, which involves submitting a package to the Olympic Committee by December 15th. The group discussed the benefits of joining these combined championships, including shared hosting costs, but also noted the challenge of maintaining the 2.4 class's distinct identity. The meeting faced some technical difficulties with Hannah's connection, but she remained available to answer questions about the qualification process and potential equipment alignment.

Sailing World Championship Logistics Planning

The meeting focused on organizing world championships for a sailing class, discussing logistics, and addressing concerns about shipping costs and event management. Hannah explained that she would handle all requirements for the championships, including managing contracts with hosts and supporting social activities. Niko raised concerns about high shipping costs, and Hannah assured him that competitive shipping options would be secured, potentially at a lower rate than the current quote. The group also discussed the possibility of coordinating with Kun & Nagel for shipping and other events.

Para-Sailing World Championship Logistics

The meeting focused on the format and logistics of para-sailing events, with discussions about the meter rule and one-design classes for the World Championships. Hannah emphasized the need to celebrate para-athletes while keeping the space open, but noted that the meter rule cannot be considered for a potential return to the Paralympics. The group also discussed concerns about the uncertainty of costs and logistics, with Heiko highlighting the need for a fixed price from the organizing committee. Additionally, there was a discussion about implementing shorter races to align with Olympic format, but Heiko raised concerns about the challenges this would pose with the current rules and judging in a small fleet.

New Racing Formats Implementation Discussion

Hannah discussed the implementation of new racing formats, emphasizing transparency and communication with sailors. She highlighted that the new formats will be tested at upcoming events, with feedback encouraged and shared through forums and livestreams. Heiko expressed concerns about the impact of new formats on sailors' performance and the importance of testing rules before major events. The group discussed the need for sailor feedback on the new formats and the potential for these changes to be applied to other classes, including Olympic classes.

Para-Sailing Format Concerns Discussed

The group discussed concerns about a new sailing format and its implications for para-sailing. They expressed worries about the high cost of participating, the risk of damage, and the potential for sailors to be priced out of the sport. Heiko suggested that a standardized boat format with short races could be interesting, but Mikael raised concerns about the

extreme nature of the format and the high risk involved. The group also discussed the possibility of this format being used for future Paralympic Games, but expressed uncertainty about whether sailors would be willing to invest in this new category.

2026 Para Sailing World Championships

The group discussed the format and dates for the 2026 Portugal Para Sailing World Championships, with Hannah Stodel confirming the event will run from October 8-16, 2026, following the 2025 Oman event and format. The discussion centered around meeting minimum participation quotas, with Hannah explaining that World Sailing requires evidence of viable class participation to support the 2.4m class's inclusion in future Paralympic Games. Heiko Kroger raised concerns about the feasibility of achieving the required 20 competitors given funding challenges and the short notice for such a significant event, while Hannah acknowledged the financial difficulties faced by para-sailors worldwide and emphasized the importance of securing Paralympic Games inclusion to unlock funding streams.

Inclusive Sailing World Championships

Hannah Stodel and Heiko Kroger discussed the challenges and strategies related to inclusive sailing events, focusing on the IPC's perspective and the need for combined para and inclusive world championships. Hannah clarified that the IPC does not demand inclusive worlds but appreciates the approach, as it aligns with their evolving understanding of inclusion and helps showcase the sport's viability beyond the Paralympics. They emphasized the importance of balancing para and inclusive participation to ensure the sport's sustainability and growth, while addressing the IPC's requirement for data and numbers.

Inclusive Sailing Events Integration

The group discussed the need for inclusive sailing events that combine different disability classes and able-bodied sailors, as per IPC requirements for Paralympic Games credibility. Hannah Stodel emphasized that sailing needs to demonstrate its capability to organize combined sports events, unlike other sports that integrate different categories in a single championship. The team acknowledged challenges with short notice periods for hosting world championships, which Fia highlighted as problematic, and Hannah Stodel acknowledged governance issues that have caused delays but assured improvements in planning and communication for future events.

Paralympic Sailing Contract Update

Hannah Stodel explained that the decision on whether sailing will regain its Paralympic status will be made by the end of 2026. She discussed a new contract between World Sailing and the 2.4 class, which mirrors the Olympic classes' contract and outlines delivery expectations and World Championship commitments. Hannah assured that there would be a "get-out clause" if the 2.4 class is not chosen as the Paralympic equipment, and the class would be fully entitled to move away from the agreement.

Paralympic Sailing Contract Discussion

The meeting focused on discussing a contract for Paralympic sailing, with Hannah Stodel explaining that the contract would require meeting minimum quota standards and addressing concerns about the 2026 World Championships in Sneek. Heiko Kroger emphasized the need for a clear contract to establish partnership terms and mutual obligations, while Hannah committed to speaking with the legal team to provide a draft contract for review, acknowledging the busy period due to the IPC bid deadline.

Heiko expressed frustration that the class would be marginalized despite its long history as a Paralympic class. The group discussed receiving a draft contract from Hannah, with Michael and Fia raising questions about the fairness of competing against companies like RS Sailing that have more resources. The participants agreed to review the contract if received, but expressed skepticism about the proposed changes and concerns about the lack of clear benefits for the class.

2.4m Class Concerns Discussed

Ontario Yachts – New One-Design Boats

Update from North American representative:

- First two hulls have been completed (both with 181 kg internal lead)
- First boat being rigged and will be sailed imminently in Canada despite cold weather
- Production pricing expected within the next month

Bank Account Status

Mikael reported ongoing delays with bank signatories. Backup account available if needed. Target completion: before Christmas 2025.

AGM Preparations

- No nominations yet received for Technical Committee vacancies
- A few written proposals have been received.
- Deadline for nominations and proposals to be circulated again immediately after this meeting: Secretary to ping Peter Russell again for TC requirements and send final call for nominations/proposals within days.

European Cup Proposal Discussion

- The meeting covered several topics, including financial requests from the Netherlands and Sweden, with Michael tasked to follow up on the former and Fia updating on the latter. The group discussed Frank's proposal for a European Cup to unite various sailing events, with Heiko and others expressing concerns about Action for Europe's high entry fees and regulations. The team agreed to support Frank's initiative while maintaining independence, and John committed to summarizing the conversation with Frank for the group.

The next meeting was scheduled for January 7th, with a potential short Teams meeting if urgent matters arise before then.