ILCA World Council Meeting Minutes (Q1 2026)

Date: 3 March 2026
Meeting Type: Virtual

1. Call to Order and Attendance

The meeting was called to order by Chair Mark.

Members Present:

- Mark Lyttle, President (ML)
- Nuno Gomes, Chairman Africa (NG)
- Aileen Loo, Chairman Asia (AL)
- Carlos Palombo, Chairman Central & South America (CP)
- Jean-Luc Michon, Chairman Europe (JLM)
- Ken Hurling, Chairman Oceania (KH)
- Ryan Minth, Chairman North America (RM)

Non-voting Council members present:

- Nick Page, Treasurer (NP)
- Eric Faust, Executive Secretary (EF)
- Hugh Leicester, Events and Race Management (HL)
- Santiago Sampaio, Chief Technical Officer (SVS)
- Chris Turner, Ovington, Builders' Representative (CT)

Staff and observers:

- Ravi Subramanian, Technical and Operations (RS)
- Andrus Poksi, Field Operations Officer (AP)
- Agustin Aguelles, Media Manager (AA)

Members Absent:

None noted after Virginia joined late

2. Approval of Minutes

Motion: To approve the minutes from the previous meeting subject to amendments requested regarding sustainability comments and allocation of costs between World Championships.
Proposed: JLM. **Seconded:** Ken Hurling
Action: Motion carried. Minutes to be updated and circulated.

3. Action and Decision Table Review

The Council reviewed the World Council Action and Decision Table and updated status of several items.

- **AIN (Neutral Athlete) policy:**

Action: Chair to circulate the draft AIN policy for review (target: within one week), for completion/approval by the Council.

- **Mark 5 / course format decision at World Championships:**

Action: Chair to carry this as an Events Committee action item.

- **ILCA Measurers communications:**

Decision/Update: Event-based measurer WhatsApp groups are being created for real-time support and clarification.

4. Interim Decisions

Decision Noted: Virginia Kravarioti was appointed to the World Council by majority vote with no votes against. Virginia made brief remarks accepting the position and committing to cooperation, transparency, and supporting the class worldwide.

5. President's Updates

President noted the importance of WC acting as a Board providing strategic and other direction and ensuring oversight of the class.

A. Athlete Panel

Status: Group has been formed and additional nominations received. Panel formation to be completed within 1 month .

B. Treasurer Position

Status: Four applications received. Interview panel established: Nick Page, Mark, Aileen Loo, and Eric Faust. Additional applications sought before proceeding to interviews.

C. Annual Meeting Date

Decision: Annual meeting provisionally rescheduled to late October or early November 2025 due to World Sailing meeting date change that would have created conflict.
Action: ML to circulate proposed dates/options.

6. World Council Undertaking

Motion: To implement the World Council Undertaking document regarding confidentiality and conflict of interest over the current quarter.
Proposed: EF. **Seconded:** REM
Action: Motion carried. Document to be signed by all members right away and renewed annually before each annual meeting.

7. Class Rules and Technical Matters

A. Standard Class Rules

Status: Deadline set for May 1, 2025 for World Council approval, followed by 30-day member vote. Implementation target: August 1, 2025.

Current Stage: With TMC members for detailed review. Latest PDF circulated. World Sailing Technical Department and Equipment Rules Subcommittee reviewing.
Outstanding Issue: Rule 6B regarding 500 grams dead weight for non-floating clothing/equipment. Historical context unclear.
Decision: If no historical justification provided within one week, rule 6B to be deleted as it is covered by standard Racing Rules of Sailing.
Action Required: World Council members to provide specific comments to Aileen Loo within one week. Tracy, Eric, and Takao are conducting detailed review.

B. IBM Review
Status: The current status and process for updating the IBM was reviewed.

C. ILCA 4 Mark II Sail
Status: Press release well received. Approximately 3,000 sails to be delivered April 1, 2025. Sail becomes class legal March 1, 2025.

D. ILCA 6 Sail Development
Status: ILCA 6 sail development continuing. Samples in production incorporating lessons from ILCA 4 testing. Extended testing period planned with Olympic-level sailors.

E. Supplier Updates
Status: SVS provided an update. Minor interference issue in vang units identified. Harken making adjustment. Selden approval halted after sample failed at gooseneck after 27 days. Selden conducting root cause analysis and additional testing. DEM Foils: Approved as independent foil supplier (first non-builder supplier in 18 months).

8. OCS Technology Implementation
Decision: Vaka ros selected as OCS detection technology provider following tender process (three responses received, only one viable).

Contract Terms:
- Initial implementation: 2026 World Championships in Dun Laoghaire (Men's and Women's)
- 14% discount for registered sailors
- Rental units available at reasonable price
- Direct transactions between Vacaros and sailors
- Extension planned for 2027 Sailing World Championships (January)

Technical Implementation:
- Proprietary mounting system being designed (Clive Humphreys leading)
- Mounts to be pre-installed by Ziegelmeyer on provided boats
- Atlas II units for qualifying series
- Halo device (1cm accuracy) for final series races
- Vacaros representative on-site for first event

Action: OCS Technology wording in NOR commended and to be shared with Region. Protocols to also be shared once agreed with host.

World Sailing Approval: Formal approval process underway. 49er class and IQFoil also implementing similar systems.

9. Confidential

10. Post-Production Monitoring Program (PPMP)

SVS gave an update on the 2026 Calendar:

- Senior Europeans in Croatia
- Palma (Sail Grand Slam event)
- Kiel Week
- Additional events under consideration based on budget
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Approach:

- Pre-event checks (before registration complete)
- Data gathering and builder compliance focus
- Not enforcement-focused at current maturity level
- Technical team officially part of event technical committees

SVS noted that World Sailing plans to attend Europeans for their own equipment auditing program. ILCA PPMP ahead of World Sailing's initiative.

11. Live Streaming and Media Report

A. Dun Laoghaire World Championships

Decision: Contract being finalized with Down Under Sail (same company as Adelaide). Live streaming for final series only. Studio remains in Australia, using Starlink. Cost approximately half of other providers. Discussions ongoing with Dun Laoghaire regarding robotic marks. Potential additional cost of $2,500 (two marks at $1,200 each) if needed. AP to clarify.
Action: In due course circulate live streaming plan to WC

B. Communications Report

AA provided an update on media and communications including updates to the ILCA website and social media pages. AA recommended that ILCA media should be on-site at major events rather than outsourced to maintain brand coherence, control, and maximize global engagement.
Action Required: World Council members to provide regional social media account information for tagging and collaboration.
Decision: AA added to Events Committee.

12. Events Committee

ML provided an update on the Events Committee. Two meetings held with summary / minutes in meeting materials Detailed reports in standing items. Next meeting second week of April 2025.
Process: World Council members to submit items for discussion or queries prior to each meeting. Recent event contracts included in meeting materials. New contracts to be added as signed.

13. Sustainability

Policy Status: ILCA Sustainability Policy V3 (final version) circulated in Dropbox.
Action: Formal adoption deferred to next meeting to allow World Council review and comments.
Committee Meeting Held: Minutes circulated covering:

- Policy review and approval by committee
- Technical improvements to boat building (collaboration with Green Boat)
- Continuation of travel fuel usage surveys
- Sustainability at events (Sail for the Sea registration)
- Sustainability officer requirement added to event contracts

Resource Needs Identified:

- Technical committee requires additional resources
- Part-time coordinator needed for event sustainability (remote work, coordinating with organizing committees)

Partnership: Starboard partnership proposal under discussion. Potential for supporting ocean cleanup initiatives in developing countries.
Action Items for Mid-Year Meeting:

- Draft job description for sustainability event coordinator
- Role and budget proposal
- Finalize Starboard partnership terms

Next Committee Meeting: Late April 2025.

14. Budget and Resourcing

ML identified three areas requiring budget allocation still under discussion:

- Marketing and communications
- Sustainability budget
- Bookkeeping

Finalization delayed due to other priorities (legal matters, class rules, IBM). To be resolved and reported back to World Council.

15. Financial Report

NP presented the financials. The accountant's review report was presented in meeting materials.
Key Points:

- $2 million loan being depreciated at $400,000 annually over 5 years
- 2024 depreciation prorated at ~$257,000 (loan taken in May 2024)
- Cash position better than net income numbers suggest due to depreciation timing
- Slight continuing decrease in equipment and boat purchases
- ILCA 4 sail expected to boost sail sales

Action Required: : JLM's question regarding the 2025 World Championship expenses will be answered in writing to all World Council members. As explained at the previous meeting, the difference is due to different contract terms and timing of contract negotiations between events host.

16. Event Updates

AP gave a presentation on past and upcoming ILCA events as circulated in the WC meeting documentation.

17. Adjournment

ML adjourned the meeting with thanks to all participants for their time and hard work on multiple major initiatives.