

International iQFOiL Class Association Executive Committee Meeting

MINUTES

Date and time: 11th of March 2025 – 10h00-12h01 CET

Place: Online via the Zoom conferencing system

In attendance:

List of Attendees

- Gonzalo Costa Hoevel (ARG) – iQFOiL Class Manager
- Valérie Boutet Massonneau (FRA) – iQFOiL Class Executive Secretary
- Peina Chen (CHN)
- Matthew Rickard (EST)
- Sam Ross (GBR)
- Adrien Gaillard (MEX)
- Olga Maslivets (NOR)
- Ewa Jodlowska (POL)
- Sara Wennekes (NED)

Apologies:

- Ronnie Meir (ISR) – iQFOiL Class President
- Kiran Badloe (NED)

MEDAL RACES SERIES – DEBRIEFING AFTER THE TROFEO PRINCESA SOFIA

The meeting opened with a debrief on the Medal Race Series format tested during the **Trofeo Princesa Sofia**, with the objective of providing feedback to the **World Sailing Format Working Party**, scheduled to meet shortly.

At this event, the iQFOiL Class trialled the **“first to three wins” system**, previously used by the Kite Class for Paris 2024. Under this system, the leader of the Opening Series is credited with two wins, while the second-place athlete starts with one win. At the same time, the Kite Class tested the iQFOiL's **“first to two wins” format**, used in previous iQFOiL Games (Lanzarote and Cadiz).

From the iQFOiL perspective, the weather conditions in Palma were very favourable, allowing the Final Series to run smoothly. The top athletes after the Opening Series also emerged as the winners of the Grand Final, making it difficult to assess the system's resilience under more variable conditions.

In contrast, the Kite Class raised concerns with the two-win format. In both men's and women's fleets, the second-placed athletes at the end of the Opening Series dropped to fourth in the final results, which they found unfair when compared to the three-win system. This experience helped strengthen the position in advocating for a system that offers greater protection to the second-place finisher.

An alternative proposal to protect the 2nd place finisher was put forward, drawing inspiration from similar systems used in tennis. The **“advantage” model** grants the second-ranked athlete a form of protection:

- If the Opening Series leader wins the first heat of the Grand Final, the second-place athlete keeps their position regardless of their result in that race.
- However, if the leader does not win the first heat, the advantage is lost and regular racing continues.

This system is seen as fairer to athletes, especially within a five-day competition format that includes a robust Opening Series. However, both Classes acknowledges that if the **IOC shortens the Olympic format to 3 competition days plus a Medal Race Series**, the more streamlined two-win system may still be more appropriate.

The advantage format will be tested by both the iQFOiL and Kite Classes at the upcoming Hyères event, to gather athlete feedback and assess its viability.

GAASTRA NEW BUILDER APPLICATION

The Gaastra brand has expressed interest in joining the **iQFOiL New Builder Application Process**. This multi-stage process allows new manufacturers to become licensed to produce Class-regulated Olympic equipment—including sails, foils, boards, masts, and booms—in compliance with World Sailing’s Olympic Equipment Policy.

Gonzalo Costa Hoevel presented a summary of the application process, which is publicly available on the Class website:

👉 [iQFOiL New Builders Page](#)

Discussion Points:

Concerns Raised:

- Difficulty in achieving identical sail reproduction, even within a single production facility—raising concerns about consistency across different factories,
- Acknowledgment of the current status in the **ILCA Class** with multiple manufacturers was made. This situation served as a relevant reference point in the discussion, underlining the complexities and challenges associated with introducing additional licensed builders,
- In response to similar challenges, **Patrik** has opted for the **White Label Protocol** (details available [here](#)).

Benefits Highlighted:

- Additional builder options provide **greater equipment choice for athletes**.
- Increased competition among builders may lead to **higher quality standards**.
- Sails are **less affected by environmental variations** (e.g., humidity, drying time) compared to boards.
- A **detailed Building Manual** will help ensure consistent standards and define tight tolerances.
- **Easier quality control** for sails, as no destructive testing (like cutting) is needed.

Conclusions:

The Executive Committee expressed **support for Gaastra’s inclusion** in the New Builder Application Process, with the following conditions:

- Close cooperation between **World Sailing** and the **iQFOiL Class** is essential throughout the evaluation and approval process, as the Class brings critical technical expertise and should play a central role in guiding and supporting decision-making,
- The Class will continue to be actively involved at **each stage** of the builder approval journey,
- The Committee members expressed a strong desire to **test initial sail prototypes as early as this summer** to inform next steps.

The Executive Committee Meeting ended at 12h01