

## International iQFOiL Class Association Executive Committee Meeting

### MINUTES

**Date and time:** 05<sup>th</sup> of February 2025 – 15h00-17h41 CET

**Place:** Online via the Zoom conferencing system

**In attendance:**

#### List of Attendees

- Gonzalo Costa Hoevel – iQFOiL Class Manager
- Valérie Boutet Massonneau – iQFOiL Class Executive Secretary
- Ronnie Meir – iQFOiL Class President
- Peina Chen (CHN)
- Matthew Rickard (EST)
- Sam Ross (GBR)
- Adrien Gaillard (MEX)
- Kiran Badloe (NED)
- Olga Maslivets (NOR)
- Ewa Jodlowska (POL)

#### Apologies:

- Sara Wennekes (NED)

### PRACTICE RACE DAY

Following feedback from athletes and coaches on improving the efficiency of the Practice Race Day, various options were discussed:

During the 25' iQFOiL Games #1 in Lanzarote, the Race Committee dedicated the afternoon to practice with multiple starts. This provided an opportunity for athletes and the water crew to familiarise themselves with race procedures.

Some ExCom members proposed shifting the Practice Race Day by one or two days. However, concerns were raised about the financial burden on organisers due to additional staff costs for per diem, accommodation, and catering.

A potential approach is to allocate two race areas, one for Course Racing and the other for Sprint Racing, adapting to weather conditions. This will be trialed at the iQFOiL Games #2 in Cadiz.

An alternative option involves running 2-3 starts in one format and an additional start in the other when only one race area is available, ensuring all possibilities are covered.

### 7.3 & 8.0 SAILS – DISCUSSION AND UPDATES

The races in Lanzarote took place mostly in the middle to high wind range, with limited racing in lighter wind conditions.

#### Key Learnings

- Impact of Sailor Weight
  - Lighter sailors performed better than expected, with a higher chance of achieving top results, even in windy conditions.
  - While heavier sailors still had an advantage in strong winds, they became more vulnerable and lost ground when mistakes were made.

- Performance in Strong Winds (Up to 28 Knots)
  - Technique played a more significant role than weight in the strongest winds.
  - Downwind sailing remained highly technical, requiring a balance of skill and physical ability.
- Light Slalom Race
  - In the light slalom race, lighter girls managed to move up in the rankings, with mid-range girls also showing strong performance.
  - There was a variety of different sailors winning races, indicating a healthy mix of results.

### **Additional Feedback and Observations**

- Training in Palma
  - Feedback from training sessions in Palma revealed that sailors using 7.3 sails seemed to have an advantage, even in lighter dodge winds, compared to those using 8.0 sails.
  - Further assessments will be conducted in Cadiz to continue evaluating sail performance in different wind conditions.
- \*8m<sup>2</sup> Sail Category
  - One of the major learnings was the return of pumping as a core racing element.
  - Although heavier sailors generally had an advantage in the breeze, lighter sailors, especially youth and U23 competitors, scored well on several occasions.
  - A variety of different sailors secured race wins, emphasizing diverse skill levels.
- Sail Wear and Tear
  - It was noted that some sailors' 7.3 sails showed aging on the #7 batten pocket, which will require further analysis and monitoring.

## **COURSE RACE MANAGEMENT FOR 8M & 7.3M SAILS**

The shifting conditions in Lanzarote limited precise analysis, but initial observations suggest that course sizes may need to be reduced.

The potential for adapting Abandoning Policies was discussed, including reducing the number of finishers required to validate a race to three. This would ensure races continue even in challenging conditions. A proposal to allow 3-5 finishers within the time limit to retain their results while others restart the race will be explored further when there are more events on which to base observations.

A key question was raised: If a race/heat is abandoned and resailed later in the week, must the resailed heat follow the exact format of the abandoned one?  
it was agreed that the race would be run in a similar start format (reaching or upwind).

## **FORMAT – MARATHON & MEDAL RACE DAY**

### **MARATHON**

The Marathon remains a priority for iQFOiL events, aligning with World Sailing's plans for LA.

Acknowledging organisational challenges, efforts will be made to refine the format, ensuring it remains the ultimate endurance test—a demanding one-hour race where consistency and stamina make the difference

The upcoming iQFOiL Games #2 in Cadiz will feature a large square course with two laps. This format aims to balance endurance with accessibility.

### **MEDAL RACES SERIES**

ExCom Members agreed that the new format improves competition dynamics, retaining the significance of the Opening Series while incorporating quarter-finals, semi-finals, and a Grand Final elimination format.

The format enhances tactical opportunities and improves live-streaming appeal due to more frequent strategic battles.



Having four athletes in each of the quarter-final, semi-final, and Grand Final is straightforward and easy to follow.

A discussion took place on whether the second-place finisher in the Opening Series should receive greater protection. However, it was concluded that the proposed alternatives would make the format more complex to understand, and in any case, securing a direct spot in the Final already provides better protection than the previous system.

## FUTURE EVENTS & BIDS

Strong proposals for 2026-2028 have been received from the UK, Portugal, and the USA.

Final scheduling will depend on World Sailing's decision regarding the 2026/2027 World Championships.

The possibility of Cape Town (South Africa) & Hainan (China) hosting the 2028 World Championship will continue to be explored, with further logistical and financial assessments needed.

## REACHING STARTS – IMPROVED JUDGING SYSTEMS

At the recent London meeting of Olympic Class managers and World Sailing, it was confirmed that the exploration of better judging systems for early starts should continue.

World Sailing now supports class-led experimentation, with the 49er Class mandating Vacaros tracking technology for testing.

iQFOiL will arrange discussions with the 49er Class and Vacaros after initial testing phases, ensuring technological advancements align with racing needs.

## LONG-TERM PLAN – IQFOIL RACE OFFICIALS AT WORLD SAILING EVENTS AND THE OLYMPICS

The iQFOiL Class is working in collaboration with World Sailing to develop Race Officials for the upcoming quadrennial cycle. The primary objective is to cultivate a diverse group of officials, ensuring representation from both genders and all regions. As the Olympic Qualifiers and Games approach, the aim is to have a broad community of skilled Race Officials who possess the necessary expertise. This pool will serve as the primary source for appointments during these major events.

Olympic Class managers are working collaboratively with World Sailing to refine the Olympic Class Agreement, as they seek a more balanced approach to the Appointment Committee's role in selecting event officials.

Following negotiations, World Sailing agreed to select officials based on lists provided by each Olympic Class.

iQFOiL is committed to closely monitoring this development and will continue to advocate for increased involvement in the selection and appointment processes.

The Executive Committee Meeting ended at 17h41