

Fireball Executive meeting of 30 September 2025; 20:00 UTC

Minutes

Attendees

- Nick Rees (Commodore)
- Olivier Burgaud (Secretary)
- Mianne Erne (Minutes Secretary)
- Guy Newson (Treasurer)
- Dave Hall (Technical Committee Chair)
- Hiroshi Kato (Rear Commodore Asia)
- Evelyn Chisholm (Rear Commodore North America)
- Heather Macfarlane (Rear Commodore Australia)
- Jakub Napravnik (Rear Commodore Central Europe)

Purpose

September 2025 meeting of FI Executive – planning future events

Agenda

1. Previous minutes
2. Review of Actions
3. 2025 Worlds
4. 2026 Worlds
5. Other Future Events
6. Marketing and Fleet Development
7. AOB

Minutes

1. Previous Minutes

The minutes of the June meeting will be posted on the website asap.

The minutes of the AGM in Arco have been posted on the website.

2. Review of Actions

Executive discussed the decision taken by Council (AGM at Arco) on rule changes, especially concerning the use of cameras on board during races. There is a risk of escalation if camera footage is allowed in protest hearings.

Action 71: Heather to send rules imposed in AUS nationals concerning cameras to Dave Hall.

3. 2025 Worlds

The 2025 Worlds survey: a lot of responders took the opportunity to make free comments at the end. Quintessence of feedback:

Pre-event information was perceived as good by 69%, only few found it unsatisfactory. Most participants heard about it through other sailors but would like to get their information from the Fireball International website.

Although two thirds of the responders were happy with what they got for their money, a considerable number were dissatisfied with the measurement procedure (63.6%) and the social program (40%).

For more information, including all free comments, see appendix.

Action 72: Mianne to edit personal information and have the survey uploaded to the website

4. 2026 Worlds

NOR for 2026 in Torbay should be out by Christmas. Aim is to have an entry fee for both regattas of £695

Executive is waiting for more information about the budget.

5. Other Future Events

2026 Worlds: Torbay

2026 Europeans: none (Worlds are in Europe)

2027 Europeans: France is working on organizing an event and sending in an invitation. Location is still debated within the French NCA (St. Raphael or in the North)

Decision 19 – Executive strongly support a St. Raphael venue, with a possibility of having the 2029 Worlds in the North.

Action 73 – Nick to send a clear message to FRA to say FI strongly supports a 2026 Europeans in St. Raphael and a 2029 Worlds in the north of France.

2028 Worlds: Kenya (confirmed)

2028 Europeans: possibly Belgium. The Belgian NCA are looking into organizing the event across the border in the Netherlands, with the Medemblik Regatta Centre providing facilities and the RYCB (Royal Yachting Club Belgium) providing the race committee ect. Everything is still little defined, but both Medemblik and RYCB have started looking into it. Input needed from FI is what dates are preferred.

Action 74: Jakub to get in touch with Jules from Belgium about best time.

Considerations are above all wind/weather and holiday seasons in the area and the FI community.

2029 Worlds: Europe – possibly France (see above)

2030 Worlds: Europe – possibly Lake Garda again? Executive discussed if it is wise to return so soon. At Worlds 2025, during the Open Forum, there was clear support for going back. Several other venues were discussed.

Action 75: Nick to contact Giovanni, inviting him to make suggestions/proposals for locations in Italy for the 2030 Worlds

2031 Worlds: Japan has been suggested, but it would be during the European Summer, thus disrupting national racing there. In addition, the Japanese NCA is dwindling, so they find it difficult to predict if it is possible

Alternative: CAN just had a very good Nationals

Action 76: Evelyn to contact Liam to talk about a possible proposal for Worlds 2031.

6. Marketing and Fleet Development

The committee is working on getting a YouTube channel up and going, several videos have been uploaded.

Action 77: Nick to publish the YouTube channel – once it is in a good state – on Facebook, WhatsApp and the Website

Facebook page “Fireball International” should have administrators who are linked to the current executive committee.

Action 78: Heather to propose people to manage facebook page.

7. AOB

Action 79: Nick to send Guy contact in Arco and information concerning the amount they owe us in FI fees.

Action 80: Olivier to send current membership numbers to Guy so this year’s fees can be invoiced.

Next Executive Meeting: Tue, 20 Jan 2026, 07:00 UCT.

End: 21:15 UCT

Sangolquí, Ecuador, 19 October 2025



Mianne Erne

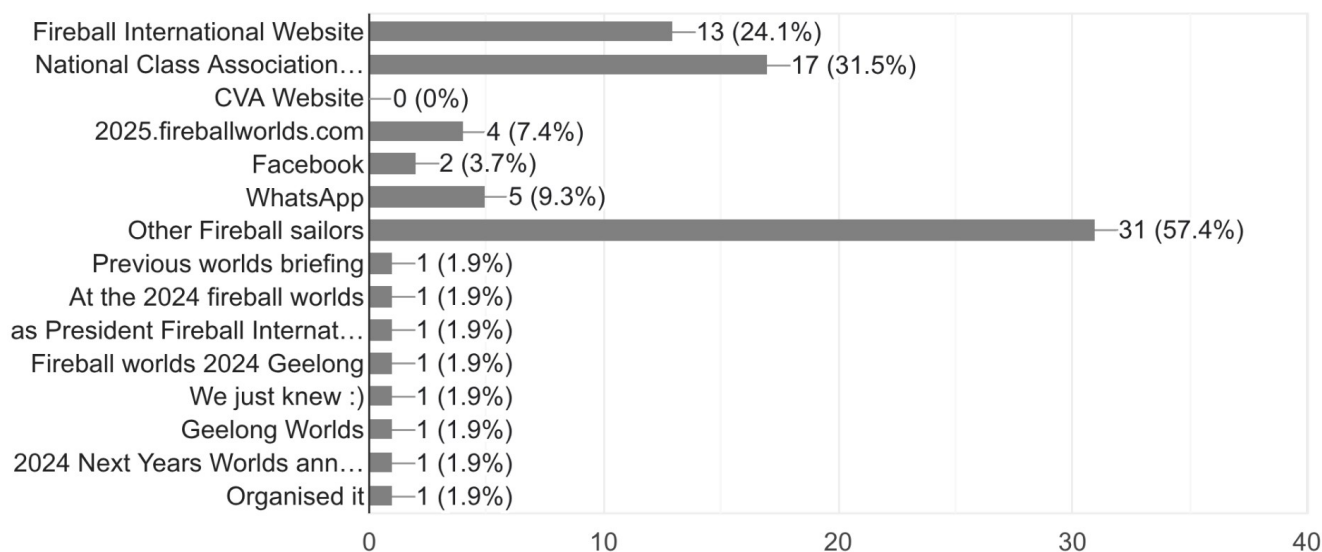
Fireball Worlds 2025 Survey Response Summary

as of 21 September 2025

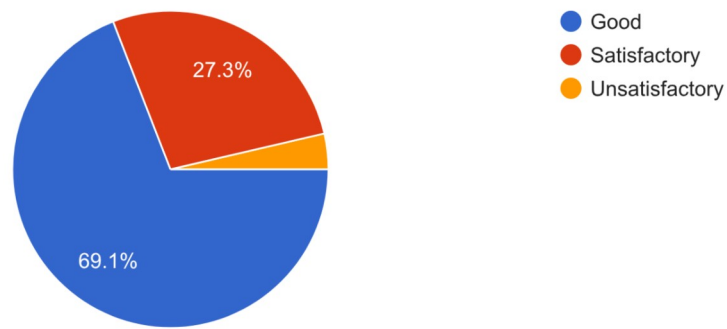
What was the sail number of your boat? 55 responses

Where did you learn about the event?

54 responses

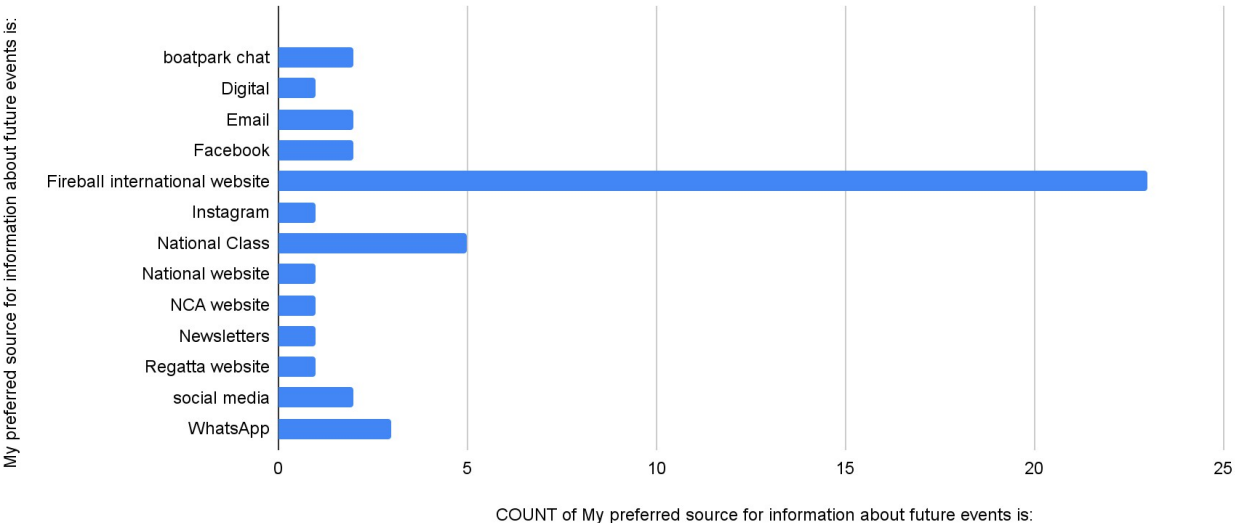


The information was
55 responses

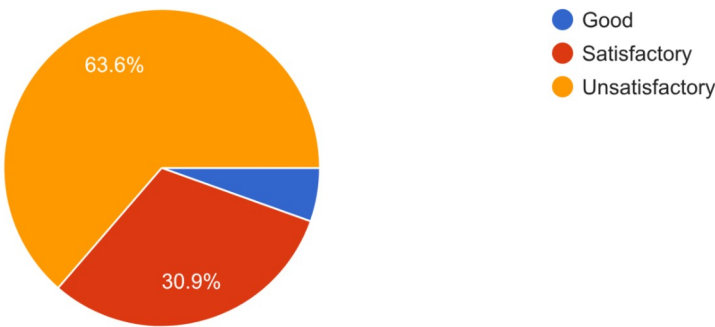


My preferred source for information about future events is: 45 Responses

COUNT of My preferred source for information about future events is:

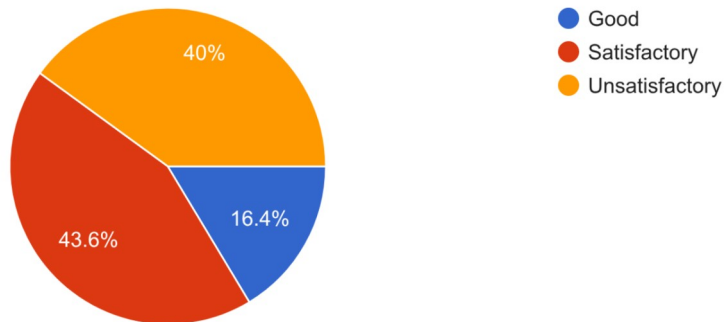


The measurement procedure was
55 responses



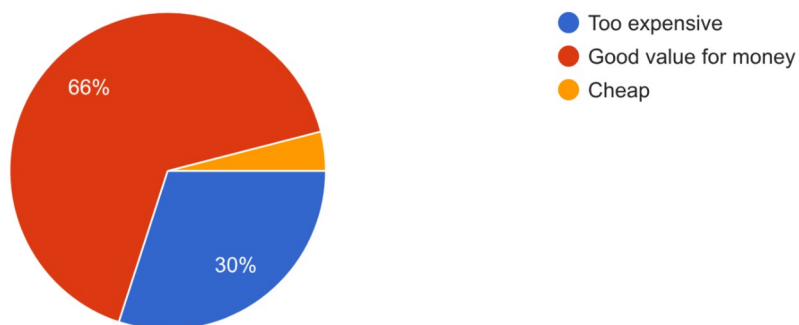
The social programme was:

55 responses



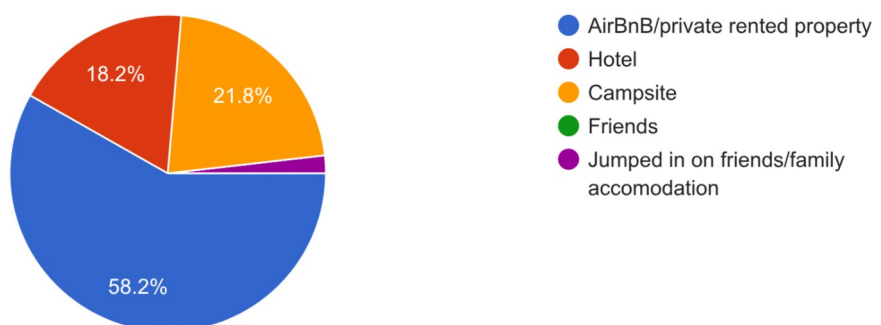
The overall value for money of the event was:

50 responses



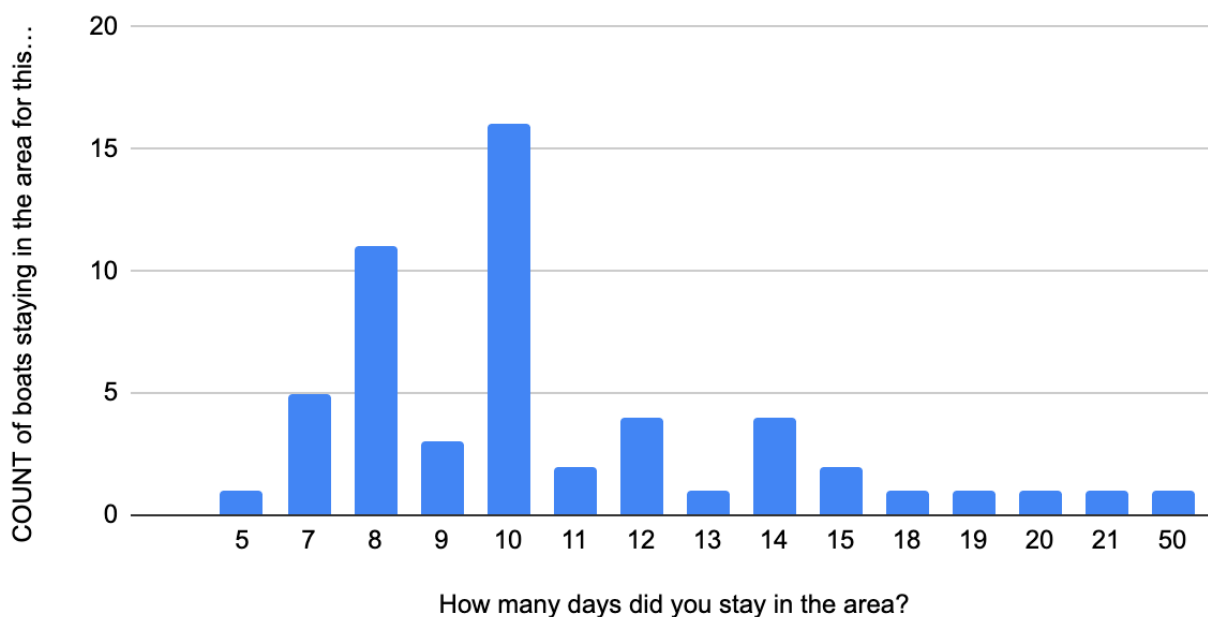
What sort of accomodation did you stay in?

55 responses



How many days did you stay in the area?

COUNT of boats staying in the area for this many days? vs How many days did you stay in the area?



Additional comments about your answers or any ideas which may help us improve future events: 43 responses

Launching 130+ boats from the two boat ramps wasn't easy. Improvement on the launching sites are my only complaint. Also, measurements issues were due to the measurer rather than the process itself, which was smooth.

Overall this was a great event at a great venue and yes we should definitely return. Accommodation is a huge issue at events so more information as early as possible is very helpful to point sailors towards reasonably priced accommodation. Also clarity on actual days of racing which was confused for this event, and is arguably confused for the 2026 Worlds - ie it is down (when the pre event UK Nationals are factored in) as almost a two week event. We need to make it clear from early on which are measurement days and which are racing days. An over extended event increases accommodation costs and causes issues in terms of using up holiday days....

At Arco the club was great and the volunteer input was really appreciated but the social element was a bit disjointed - many stayed at the beach bar after racing rather than joining pasta party, partly due to timing issues and clarity related to that. There was confusion about the main dinner which some presumed would be Friday. For the main meal there was absolutely nothing real to eat for vegetarians - in a group of almost 300 people no thought of vegetarians. One veggie asked for food and was given a plate of lettuce, nothing else. I paid for a meal tickets for my wife but we had to leave as there was nothing for us... Looking ahead to Torbay we need clarity now on measurement days and racing days -

posted on website. We need to know that those who do the UK Nationals/pre-event can get measured once ahead of the Nationals. And some kind of pointers for accommodation would be great...

Overall it was a really well ran event for the week, we were both very happy. The race officials and organizing team did a fantastic job during the event. The only disappointment I had with the event and it might be down to the class rather than the event organizers was that there was nothing organized for the final evening and the prize giving seemed to be cut short. But well done to all involved in organizing, we would love to come back!!!

Oh and if we could get some of the videos taken from the pin end of the starts that would be amazing!

I thought the events at the club lacked in all. I think if we go to lake Garda again look at another club one with atmosphere and bar and food

Launching and social facilities at club need much improvement. Measuring is always a problem - could we have a minimum hull weight for championships which includes all ropes and centre board?

Great sailing location, but the really unpleasant measurement process and lack of organized social programme took down the whole experience.

On the water, the event was fantastic. Off the water, however, it didn't live up to expectations for a world-class venue and price of entry. I think this came down to a lack of communication around things like the measurement process, social activities (for sailors and family members), and available facilities. With no central bar or planned presentations, many of us ended up organising our own plans last minute.

For future events, it would be great to see more off-water activities coordinated by either the club or the Fireball Association, especially given the entry fee. Alternatively, lowering the fee and simply arranging group bookings at local restaurants (where sailors cover their own meals) could be a good way to coordinate a better social event for sailors. Organising a boat for family to come out and watch would be nice too, even if only on one day. Thanks

The main feedback relates to the poor use of the 'reserve day'. The weather for the final two days of the event was well understood in advance by all. There was a real possibility that we could end up with a shortened series. Despite the fact that the weather on Wednesday was perfect for two races the Race Officer did not capitalise on this opportunity and use the reserve day. I spoke to him on Tuesday (during protest hearing) and it was clear he had no intention of using the Wednesday. He stated that 'he preferred to stick to the schedule because people had made plans for the 'layday'.'

There appeared to be a disconnect between the desire of competitors to race in the best conditions and complete the series and the view of the RO. Given the cost of attending the event this needs to be addressed going forward and international FB need to be more forceful in this regard or alternatively schedule to reserve day for the final day of the event as some other classes choose to do.

Another point is the catering. As a vegetarian, I left the event meal to get my own food as the only option was a heavily meat based dish. I was not the only person that was in this situation and again this needs to be addressed directly in the future.

Most importantly, my thanks for bringing the FB feet to such an iconic location and for all the hard work that I know from personal experience that goes into organising an event such as this. Sailing at Garda in a FB with my son is one of the highlights of my sailing life!!

The on the water stuff, sailing and race quality was amazing! The social events off the water left much to be desired compared to at previous fireball worlds

Poor race management

Many thanks.

Fantastic event for a first participation.

Absolute fantastic event, Pasta party very welcome, water/weather temperature great, great accomodation very near to the boats, slip area could be improved for so many boats, measurement could be simpler

More social events like band at Geelong. More drink choice. Better space for presentation so don't need sit on gravel. Most important....Better toilet access for sailors on beach.

Not enough social time, club facilities were poor

We arrived 1 week before the championship with 4 boats, 3 of which were rented.. and we had to pay 100€/ boat and 50€/ trailer (x2)... otherwise we couldn't register (welcome!)! The exits to access the club were often closed. Very not practical for tinkering or another things, and the people at the club not very helpful...when they close the door in front of you while you are loaded !...

We suggest eliminating the preliminary measurement days (with random checks during the regatta) and using that time for practice races and training.

I thought the venue was very good, but the after sailing meeting area could have been more conducive for mingling and socialising.

Changing the agenda after accommodation was booked was an expensive change. Better to have a national event before the Worlds in order to train

Less confusion around timing and where you have to go

Important for a social schedule to be had and stuck to. Sailors want a break after sailing though so not straight into prize giving straight after sailing.
Measurement in Maccagno and Ireland was so much better\easier.
I was very disappointed that although the club had robot marks they didn't use technology to set them. Setting the start line and w/w mark was very manual.

After losing 1 race due to flag confusion and having 2 flagpoles, insist on only 1!

Value for money – I wouldn't say too expensive but not good value for money either. I think we could have had better social programme, not necessarily expensive

Generally the racing was run well and the sailing - when the wind turned up - was very good. However, the clubhouse itself and attendant facilities, launching area and boat storage (ie shingle!) were not good enough for a major event. Altering the event dates after the NOR was published caused a great deal of trouble and unnecessary expense. The standard of on-water rule observance from certain nationalities left a lot to be desired (I realise this is a running issue but it really does need addressing).

Maybe creating a list of officials (e.g. Judges, ROs, Measurers) not to be engaged anymore?
I know, not really compatible with Fireball Friendliness

The Sailing was awesome, perfectly organised. I think the club could improve in the socials and provide 1 drink per day for this price

The best social programme was made by Heather at the prolonged closing ceremony. The organisers did nothing extra, considered they had entry fee from 136 boats.

The work of the race committee on the water was superb. The Events on land were ,not done with much Empathy

Measurement was very stop start and should have flowed better.
The social program was non existent and toilet changing facilities were very poor.

The sailing was fantastic and well run.

The pasta party is a good idea. The beer tap was absent on 2 of the evenings. Beer was present at the award ceremony but only few people found out after the ceremony that there was beer. For this entry fee couple of barrels of free beer would have been welcome.
Apart from this futile detail it was a magnificent big fireball fleet experience!

Beautiful regatta venue that I will be happy to return to in the future.

Measurement was so bad it could have put people off, there was no logical flow and the team needed a lot more volunteers to help out. Luckily the sailing was great. Better pre info on arrival process, boat storage and departure would have made things smoother. Like wise measurement checklist in advance would be helpful. Bar at pasta party would have sold plenty. But post sailing food is a good concept to be repeated. Really Great visual media coverage and reports but no interviews with competitors was a miss. Gold. Silver and bronze works better when prizes are known in advance. for uk worlds on site tech clinic and coaching day in advance and evening be briefs would be good

great event because it was fun area that accommodated partners well. More than just a sailing trip

The organisers could see that the weather was to turn bad later in the week. They should have had a procedure to delay the reserve day, knowing that the weather was to be bad. We wasted a day of great sailing on the lay day.

The social space was very poor. There was no social focal point for the event. The dinner was good food but no drinks provided (apart from a tiny bit of grappa and the beer queue).

How they thought that one slow beer tap could cater to 300 people is baffling. And then did nothing to change the system once they saw how slow it was. Why not buy boxes of beers and hand them out? Why not have a pay bar in addition?

We travelled a long way, the sailing was good but that is what they seemed to focus on with the hospitality as an afterthought.

Loved Riva del Garda and Torbole. Sailing was well run but would have been better with a preworlds. The club at Arco being half built with no bar and average food was not ideal. If we plan to go back in 2030 I would much prefer to sail from Riva Yacht Club.

Really enjoyed a "bucket list" experience

Measurement must not be a bad experience for anyone.

Provide information on measurement prior to the event.

Make sure competitors have easy access to drinking water during measurement - it's easy to get dehydrated, especially after travel.

Provide information on trailer storage prior to the event.

The host club should be welcoming and recognise that when competitors arrive they may be very tired from travelling and should be helped to do the right thing, not shouted at.

Give clear information on where to berth boats and on launching and recovery procedures, if not straight forward.

If we'd been given prior information on where boats would be located we would have put inflatable tyres on the trolley. Our solid tyres were hard to drag through the stones.

If postponements are made ashore please give an indication of time so competitors can get food and water, use toilets etc. The beach toilets were sometimes closed and the walk to the club took a while.

It is nice to have results printed out. It provides a social environment where people gather and chat.

If bad weather is forecast when boats are onshore, let competitors know and advise about direction to point boats, tying down and removing wheels.

Make it clear when access to the boats and trailers is not possible if areas are locked.

Having access to lockers in the changing rooms was great.

Having someone to ask questions to on reception was good.

The photos and videos were great.

Measuring: would be useful to have clear instructions in advance of the event so sailors can prepare their boats well before measuring. I understand this was not the usual measurement team, but the grumpy army was not a great first encounter after 16hrs of driving....

Slightly better food and drinks provisions after the events/socials.

Take group/nca pictures early and not at last minute (not specifically an FI topic).

Arrival very bad: teenager in chair at gate behaved as if we were at the wrong club (not allowed in for 15 minutes), made phone calls to ask? Maybe joking us, but it felt hostile.

Measurement was a very unpleasant.

Poor management of measurement team and flow created safety issues - hulls measured quickly, sails and spars slowly, so 10-20 sets of spars and sails outside area, people tripped and fell due to this. Hull team should have moved to spars and sails to clear backlog. Better flow through area would have helped. Rudeness was unnecessary.

Gravel in dinghy park was extremely bad.

Dinghy park very exposed to strong winds.

Launching was very bad. Clear rocks in shallow water. Not suitable for large championship.

Too much shouting from officials, with no clarity on what they wanted us to do.

Location was great, facilities were barely adequate especially for social functions where competitor numbers are in excess of 250+, perhaps ensuring competitors have safe access to facilities as required while repairing/preparing boats would be helpful, official regatta communication was poor - i had trouble accessing official documents and regatta sites, too many posts leading to confusion about which were official notifications and other interpretations thereof.

The logistics around measuring wasn't easy. Boats could have gone around the end rather than trying to reverse.

We seemed to be crossing over ourselves during measuring.

From starting the queue to leaving, mine took around 3hrs and it felt like it was made more stressful than it should have been. Others I know where double that time.

In recent past worlds: Pointe Claire, Dromineer, and Geelong, the final evening had a banquet with prize-giving and that was missed. The information was confusing as I bought tickets for my family for final banquet then afterward discovered that I was supposed to know they were for the crews union evening, which was rather annoying and loss of money. Also there were no scheduled activities for family and that was missed by my wife and other son. The measurement process and tough approach of the men leading it was frustrating and actually rather upsetting. The sailing was great. Special thanks to Heather, Nick, Christina, and others who did so much to make it a success. The work that Christina and her group did on arranging loaner boats and insurance was greatly appreciated and without it, I wouldn't have made it to Worlds.

Measurements Is a waste of time. Ripping off the whole boat, finding out every boat follows its own rules. 5+ kg on a boat that's already 82kg because the boat certificate Is based on old rules and new boats without additional kg. A weird and costly mess. Just do a sample of some of the First 20 boats in the First days.

Another ununderstandable choice was to not race on wednesday when It was known that the following days were terrible for the weather. Without these yo issues, championship would have been perfect

The work of the race committee was superb. In contrast, the one on land somewhat slim. I would have liked a more festive meal with real plates and cutlery.