

Fireball Executive meeting of 20 January 2026; 20:00 UTC

Minutes (web)

Attendees

- Nick Rees (Commodore)
- Olivier Burgaud (Secretary)
- Mianne Erne (Minutes Secretary)
- Guy Newson (Treasurer)
- Dave Hall (Technical Committee Chair)
- Hiroshi Kato (Rear Commodore Asia)
- Cormac Bradley (Rear Commodore Western Europe)
- Evelyn Chisholm (Rear Commodore North America, Fleet Promotion)
- Heather Macfarlane (Rear Commodore Australia)
- Jakub Napravnik (Rear Commodore Central Europe)
- Vyv Townend (Worlds 2026)

Purpose

January 2026 meeting of FI Executive – plan future events, discuss World Sailing Agreement draft.

Agenda

1. Previous minutes
2. Review of Actions
3. 2026 Worlds
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Other Future Events
6. World Sailing
7. Marketing and Fleet Development
8. AOB

Minutes

1. Previous Minutes

The minutes of the September meeting have been posted on the website and are accepted.

2. Review of Actions

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

Action 73 – FRA agreed to suggestion from Executive, we can let Council vote on having the Europeans 2027 in St. Raphael

Action 74 – ongoing communication between Jakub and BEL.

Action 76 – ongoing. Evelyn and Liam are looking into different NA venues, Canada season is quite short.

Action 77 – ongoing. Heather is not quite happy with material received so far; some good material but also a lot of just sailing videos for entertainment

Action 78 ongoing

Action 79 done

Action 80 done

Action 81 Guy to send a copy of details on membership to Heather

3. 2026 Worlds

NoR was issued just before Christmas, 9 competitors signed up so far (7 UK, 2 non-UK), but deadline is only by end of April. Pricing is similar to last year's. They do their best to have Value for Money, with social events etc. every night at the club, some of them sponsored.

Charter boats programme is running, so far 2 teams showed interest, Vyv encouraged everyone to let him know as soon as possible if there is demand for more charter boats.

Electronic devices: Organizers will comply with whatever the class decides.

4. Treasurer's Report

Accounts are being audited.

£600 profit (this includes the £5000 subsidy for an AUS container).

Arco paid about £1700 in championship fees.

It proved to be the correct decision not to increase membership fees.

Memberships fees have been received except from USA. – Since this is the second year, USA is technically not a member of FI any more.

Olivier was in touch with Peter Wirth (USA), sent stickers, but there was a change of address and Olivier can only hope the stickers got to him.

Two US teams have shown interest in sailing at the Worlds, which raises the question as to what NCA they will represent.

Nick: should we have a look at what governance documents there are in the different NCAs?

Action 82 – Nick to find out what governance documents all NCAs have.

5. Other Future Events

2026 Europeans: none (Worlds are in Europe)

2027 Europeans: Southern France (last week of August)

2028 Worlds: Kenya (confirmed)

2028 Europeans: Belgium – July or early August?

2029 Worlds: Europe – possibly Northern France (see discussion below)

2030 Worlds: Europe – possibly Italy? Lake Garda again?

Worlds in northern France could be hosted by Douarnenez either in early July 2029, or in late August in 2030. Late August would be more suitable, so the question is if Italy could be moved forward to 2029, then Worlds 2030 would be in northern France instead.

Action 83: Nick to present the above list of future events to Council and elicit confirmation for Europeans 2027 in Southern France as well as preliminary agreement to other events.

Action 84: Nick to see if (and where) Italians could do a Europeans in 2029, then sort out order of events with Italy and France.

Action 76: Evelyn to keep looking into the possibility of a North American Worlds in 2031

6. World Sailing

General considerations: What do we get in return to the fees we pay World Sailing? What would be consequences if FI renounced WS?

- We can officially call our championships World Championships, though some classes who have left World Sailing are still holding world championships.
- WS has a lot of expertise, which – among other things – helped a lot with the class rule changes last year.
- Leaving WS might keep good personnel from working at our international events because it doesn't give them any points with WS.
- Leaving WS might also lead to a split in the class (cf. Laser vs ILCA)

Discussion of the Agreement draft sent by World Sailing:

The whole draft sounds very one-sided in favour of WS.

“Parties” – The wording “INSERT PLACE OF INCORPORATION] [with registration number]” raises the question about what type of “corporation” or association Fireball International is (i.e. what type of legal entity).

Point 4: most of this is not really relevant for us – we don't have manufacturing specifications but class rules. Only parts that do count for us are 4.2.2 and 4.3

> Change 4 into a section on “Class Rules” instead

Point 5: Appointed Builders – how is this relevant to FI? > needs clarification

Point 9. “and other events” – How far into national levels of racing does this reach? > this needs clarification.

Point 11.3 is very invasive

Important points to raise with WS:

- We need a clause that will allow us to leave the association.
- a clause to prevent WS from making commitments on behalf of FI
- a clause to say FI is not liable for any action of WS (indemnity clause)

Action 85 all members of the Executive to read WS Agreement draft critically and add additional comments

Action 86 Nick to send the comments on the Agreement back to WS

7. Marketing and Fleet Development

Main activity was the YouTube channel.

Nick would like to ask all NCAs to send in reports on their activities, to be sent out to all other NCAs. He did it in 2024, but got an answer from only a few NCAs

Is it worth the effort? Maybe just ask for a report of their Nationals?

7. AOB

Cameras on boats during the Worlds: The AGM decided rules should be changed so as to allow cameras on board during races.

A temporary rule change in the SI should be possible.

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

Next Executive Meeting: Mon, 13 April, 2026, 07:00 UCT.

End: 22:45 UCT

Aarau, 15 February 2026



Mianne Erne