

Please see the communication that was sent out by our CEO to Council members here:

Following the publishing of the draft Council minutes, there have been a number of emails circulating that have suggested that the recording of voting at the Council meeting may have been incorrect.

We operate with the highest level of transparency in our decision making processes for the sport, which includes distributing the full voting record with the minutes of the meeting when requested and a full video record being made available live and for playback on our website of the meeting.

Three Council members have formally notified the World Sailing Executive, that they believe that one or more of their votes were incorrectly recorded during the vote on Proposal 1 of Submission 037-18.

The World Sailing Board reviewed the information from the Executive Office on the voting procedure during its monthly Board call on the 3 December 2018.

Each Council member had a unique voting unit (ID) which was initially allocated on a random basis and then each unit was signed for by the Council member. The voting system records the votes sent from each unit against its unique ID.

All voting units were individually tested within the meeting room on the previous evening before the meeting to ensure that they recorded a correct vote against each button: 1,2,3 (yes, no, abstain). Each unit was then retested for connectivity on the morning of the Council meeting and all units were operating correctly.

We have reviewed the technical reports from the voting system (as provided by the voting company) and the results published in the minutes to check that there are no discrepancies. In addition, at the start of the Council meeting, two test votes were undertaken and the results are recorded. The purpose of the test vote is to ensure that all voting units were correctly transmitting the voting selection made and if not they were replaced and the Council member re-signed for the replacement unit.

Having reviewed this information, it is likely that any claimed 'errors' in voting are due to either pressing the wrong button for yes, no or abstain (1,2,3) or pressing a button too early before the voting is open or too late after the vote was closed - or not at all during the period when the voting was open, to correctly record their vote. Where there was no selection whatsoever recorded from a unit for a particular vote, it is indicated by a blank entry. During the meeting it was made clear that the indicator would signal green on the voting pads once the vote was registered and after the signal the votes are registered accordingly.

The voting units of the Council members who are suggesting that their votes were not recorded correctly, were used at the AGM and we have analysed whether there are any misreported votes from those MNA members or any pattern of votes not being recorded at all on these units and there are none.

The Council minutes record what happened at the meeting and we have always used the electronic record produced by the voting equipment as a reliable record of the votes taken. The same electronic voting procedure has been in use since at least 2009.

The World Sailing Board has asked the independent Chair of the Audit Committee to also review the electronic voting procedure that was used and to report to the Board on his findings and to make any recommendations for future electronic votes.

Under the Regulations, the contents of the minutes are a matter for the chairman of the meeting having considered the comments raised by Council members. In addition, the World Sailing constitution states: “*Where minutes of meetings are proven incorrect (e.g. misspelling or incorrect reference), the formal documents of that meeting shall be changed.*”. This point is being confirmed by the Constitution Committee, however the Board’s view pending this confirmation is the minutes should remain as written and the votes recorded as generated by the voting system.

Consequentially, whilst we understand that three Council members may have wished to have made a different selection on their voting pad, or indeed to have made a selection at all, there is no conclusive evidence to show any failure of the voting system and the record of the votes should remain as recorded.

The entire meeting can be reviewed on the video of the live stream of the Council meeting on our website and I hope this clarifies this matter.

Regards,

Daniel

(Daniel Smith - World Sailing **Communications and Digital Manager**)