

NFIA Board Meeting 9th June 2026

Present: Steffi Westerlund, Lennart Magnusson, Gero Martens, Simon Osgood and Michael Moller

Meeting Summary:

The meeting reviewed class activity, a technical rules nonconformity point, event planning, and administrative preparations for upcoming Gold Cup and the AGM. Participants exchanged regional reports on fleet sizes and participation, agreed on event interest for future Gold Cups, and discussed marketing and youth recruitment initiatives.

Regional and event updates: Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Finland and other countries reported mixed fleet sizes; Denmark expects about 24–25 entries at nationals. **Gero** reported 37 registered for the upcoming Gold Cup.

Sweden is interested in a 2028 Gold Cup bid and the Netherlands expressed interest in 2029, pending formal club applications and demonstration of operational readiness.

Steffi outlined a major Hanko program for 2027 with funding and ferry/logistics challenges.

Michael spoke about a Denmark-led refurbish-and-donate project for up to four older boats was proposed to support youth recruitment in regional sailing clubs, dependent on financing.

Technical nonconformity (keel/rudder): A nonstandard rudder/keel arrangement was identified on boats traced to a single manufacturer, with approximately five to six affected boats in Finland and Sweden.

Observed deviations include a longer/lower rudder and an altered keel bottom where the lower 85 mm was cut roughly 40 years ago.

The group focused on verifying a critical 230 mm keel-height section (section five) and matching rudder measurements. The group agreed any dispensation must be manufacturer-specific, sailor-made bottom cuts are unacceptable, and rudder lengths must be checked during measurement. **Lennart** agreed to measure all affected boats and prepare a special acceptance/dispensation document based on those measurements.

Regulatory and measurement points: The committee confirmed measurement methods (keel sections and weighing) and limits on adding ballast differ by boat vintage; practical repair options (welding/shortening) were discussed. Concern about competitive fairness if affected boats podiumed led to debate about acceptance versus protest remedies, but no broad rule changes were adopted.

Administrative items: **Lennart** will send materials to update the NFIA homepage and technical committee organization details and follow up on ownership-transfer documentation practices. The AGM will require a chairman's report from **Steffi** and a technical report from **Lennart** for advance circulation. Logistics for AGM venue and remote connectivity were assigned to **Gero**.

Gero Martens requested marketing support for the German association and promoted the German International Championship at Müritz, describing the venue, its harbour, historical role as an East German sailing performance centre, and confirming the event date in September 2027. Attendees were asked to note the date and the location's appeal was emphasized.

The meeting covered **2028 and 2029 Gold Cup prospects**, confirmed that club-level applications are required with Sweden 2028 and The Netherlands in 2029 which will require a demonstration of readiness, and highlight the importance of race-officer quality and regional enthusiasm when assessing bids.

Other governance and rule discussion: The group reiterated respecting the prior decision-making process for circulating and voting on rule-change proposals and noted that race-specific sailing instructions remain available to address on-course safety or placement issues. Recruitment suggestions included awards for youngest sailors and recognizing crew roles and possibly gender. The meeting closed with confirmations about future meeting being the AGM and remote participation arrangements.

Lennart confirmed plans to measure the affected boats, work with a naval architect and Swedish measurer, and prepare documentation and a special acceptance based on those measurements. The committee acknowledged this as actionable technical work for the measurement team and reiterated that sailor modifications (cutting to horizontal) remain unacceptable.

The next scheduled meeting is the AGM in July – Gold Cup. **Gero** to supply best date