

# RS21 INTERNATIONAL CLASS ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION

## DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this Constitution:

**“RS21”** means the 6.34 metre long 3-sail keelboat designed by Jo Richards and RS Sailing, and launched in 2017

**“International Class Association”** means RS21 International Class Association

**“National Class Association”** means an RS21 National Class Association that has been granted a charter by the International Association

**“National Authority”** means the World Sailing Member National Authority (MNA) for that specific country

**“Copyright Holder”** means the owner of the copyright to the RS21 sailboat

**“Licensed Builder”** means the entity holding the current license from the Copyright Holder to build and sell the RS21 sailboat

**“Class Rules”** means the Class Rules adopted by the RS21 International Class Association.

## 1 NAME

1.1 The name of the Association shall be the "RS21 International Class Association".

## 2 OBJECTS

2.1 The objects of the association are:

- (a) To promote and develop RS21 class activity under uniform rules throughout the world.
- (b) To provide a structure for class management and for the exchange of information among RS21 sailors to enhance the enjoyment of these sailboats.

2.2 In furtherance of other events with international participation the RS21 Class Association will:

- (a) Encourage the formation of National RS21 Class Associations in all countries where boats are raced.
- (b) Ensure that International Championships are held in appropriate locations and to proper standards, and shall oversee such events.
- (c) Approve other events of International impact on the RS21 Class and ensure they are held to proper standards.
- (d) Promulgate and review the Class Rules in association with the Copyright Holder and Licensed Builder.

### **3 MEMBERSHIP**

3.1 Every member in good standing of a National Class Association, which is also in good standing with and accredited by the International Class Association, shall also automatically be considered a member of the International Class Association.

3.2 The National Class Association shall supply to the International Class Association details of its members on a regular basis, as from time to time defined by the International Class Association.

3.3 If there is no recognized National Association in a specific country, an RS21 owner shall be entitled to register as a member of the International Class Association directly.

### **4 ELIGIBILITY**

4.1 Any National Class Association may, upon application to the Executive Committee of the International Class Association, be granted a charter as a National Class Association, provided it satisfies the following requirements of membership:

- (a) that it has formed a duly constituted National Class Association, recognised by their country's National Authority for the development of RS21 sailing activity within the country;
- (b) that there are not less than (4) four RS21s registered in that country;
- (c) that it has a duly elected committee, including such officers as it shall determine necessary and requisite, and,
- (d) that there is no other Class Association in their country already accredited to the RS21 International Class Association

- 4.2 Only members of the International Class Association shall be eligible to enter events organised or sanctioned by the International Class Association.
- 4.3(i) Only members of a National Class Association shall be eligible to enter events organised or sanctioned by a National Class Association, if one exists.
- (ii) In the absence of a National Class Association, RS21 owners wishing to compete in events within their country that are organised by the National Authority for that country, shall first register as members of the International Class Association.

## **5 NATIONAL APPLICATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL CLASS ASSOCIATION CHARTER**

- 5.1 Each application to the International Class Association Executive Committee for a charter shall include a copy of their Class Association Rules, together with a current list of the members of that Class Association and the RS21s registered within that country.
- 5.2 Shall appoint a council member who shall be the only official channel of communication with the International Class Association and whose address will be the official address of that National Class Association until the International Class Association Secretariat is advised, in writing, by that Class Association of any change of Council member and or address.
- 5.3 Each application shall be accompanied by a registration fee in such amount as shall from time to time be fixed by the by-laws enacted by the International Class Association in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution.
- 5.4 The members of the Executive Committee of the International Class Association shall be bound by this Constitution, and duly enacted amendments thereto and shall comply with all resolutions and regulations made in accordance with this Constitution. National Class Associations shall use their best endeavours to ensure that individual members also comply with such resolutions and directions.
- 5.5 A member shall cease to be a member during any period in respect of which it or he has not paid its or his/her subscription or other monies due to the International Class Association or upon receipt of notice of its or his resignation by the Executive Committee of the International Class Association. Such membership may be renewed with immediate effect by payment of outstanding dues or other monies owing to the International Class Association.

## **6 GOVERNANCE**

- 6.1 The International Class Association shall be governed by its Executive Committee and its affairs and property shall be managed and administered on an ongoing basis by this Executive Committee in accordance with:
- (a) the provisions of this Constitution and any Regulations passed under this Constitution,
  - (b) any policies for the operation of the Association determined by the International Class Association
  - (c) or any directives or guidelines established by the International Class Association

## **7 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

- 7.1 The International Class Association Executive Committee shall consist of selected members of the International Class Association and of one Representative of each member National Class Association.
- 7.2 A meeting of the International Class Association Executive Committee shall be held annually in such place and time as the Committee may consider most convenient to the majority of the members. This meeting shall:
- (a) Receive the result of postal ballots.
  - (b) Receive from the International Class Association and approve, a statement of accounts for the preceding accounting year, forecast accounts for the current year, and a budget for the next year.
  - (c) Receive and decide on resolutions submitted in accordance with 7.4.
- 7.3 A Special meeting of the Executive Committee shall be called by the appointed Executive Officer.
- (a) If the Executive Committee so resolves and in accordance with that resolution, or
  - (b) forthwith upon (but not less than 6 weeks after) receiving the written request of not less than 10 International Class Association members (which request shall also specify any resolution which the members concerned wish to propose at the meeting).
- 7.4 Resolutions to the Executive Committee shall only be submitted by a International Class Association member.
- 7.5 At least 4 weeks written notice shall be given of any Executive Council Meeting by the Class Chairman to the members of the Executive Council, together with a copy of the agenda for the meeting and of any resolutions which are to be proposed at the meeting. The Class Chairman shall give

such notice of (and only of) such resolutions as have been specified to him in writing 6 weeks before the meeting at which they are to be proposed.

- 7.6 The chairman at meetings of the Executive Committee shall be the President, or in his absence, a Vice-President. If neither the President nor any Vice-Presidents are present, the meeting shall elect a chairman.
- 7.7 Nominations for officers may only be made by a National Class Association except as provided by 7.8.
- 7.8 Nominations for the officers standing for election must be received in writing by the Class Chairman six weeks before the annual meeting of the Executive Committee, provided that if there are not nominations for all the available posts the outgoing Executive Committee may make such additional nominations as are necessary in order to fill all available posts.
- 7.9 At any Executive Committee meeting only resolutions of which notice has been given in accordance with this Constitution may be proposed and no amendments thereto shall be permitted, unless the amendment is accepted by the proposers of the resolution.
- 7.10 Proposals for amending the Constitution and Class Rules shall be by special resolution to a meeting of the Executive Committee
- 7.11 Four (4) weeks before the meeting of the Executive Committee, member National Class Associations should certify in writing or written electronic communication, by boat number as well as owners names the number of registered RS21s that National Class Association represents.
- 7.12 Only International Class Association members shall be entitled to vote at a meeting of the Executive Committee. The number of votes to be cast by National Class Associations or International Class Association members representing countries without an as yet formal National Class Association in any ballot in meetings of the Executive Committee shall be as follows:
  - National Class Association: 1 vote
  - International Class Association Member from a country with no formal National Class Association being registered due to having fewer than 4 boats: 1 vote

Elected Members of the Executive Committee shall be able to cast one vote each.
- 7.13 Voting at Executive Committee meetings shall (unless otherwise stated by this constitution) be by simple majority of the votes cast. In the event of a tied vote the President of the Executive Committee shall have a casting vote. If the President is absent from the meeting the Chairman of the meeting shall have a casting vote.

- 7.14 The quorum required at Executive Committee meetings shall be 40% of the International Class Association members, represented in person or by proxy, who shall be represented by National Class Association members from at least two Continents and who are entitled to vote at the meetings.
- 7.15 A member National Class Association may appoint a proxy for the purpose of voting.
- 7.16 A special resolution shall be passed at an Executive Committee meeting only if 2/3rds or more of the votes cast are in its favour.
- 7.17 In the event of the Executive Committee passing a resolution at a meeting which, in the reasonable opinion of Copyright Holder or Licensed Builder, is contrary to the business interests of the themselves, the Copyright Holder or Licensed Builder may request the resolution be referred to the Executive Committee of World Sailing for binding arbitration or to such other body selected by World Sailing executive with agreement of the parties.
- 7.18 The Copyright Holder and Licensed Builder shall have right of veto to any resolution of the Executive Committee relating to the Class Rules.

## **8 OFFICERS**

- 8.1 The Executive Committee shall consist of the following:
- (a) President
  - (b) Class Manager
  - (c) No less than 1 National Class Association representative
  - (d) A minimum of 2 International Class Association members
  - (e) Honorary Treasurer
  - (f) A representative of the Licensed Builder
  - (g) Chairman of the Technical Sub-Committee
- 8.2 The President, Class Manager and Honorary Treasurer shall be members of the Association or of one of its member National Class Associations and be elected by the membership by postal ballot or written electronic communication for a term of 2 years. Any retiring officer shall be eligible for re-election provided that he has not served more than 8 consecutive years in that office, with the exception of the Chairman of the Technical Sub-Committee.
- 8.3 Each member of the Executive Committee shall have only one vote except that the President or acting chairman shall have a casting vote in the event of a tie vote.

- 8.4 If vacancies shall occur on the Executive Committee between meetings:
- (a) In the event that a vacancy occurs in any of the posts of President, Vice President or Honorary Treasurer the remaining members of the Executive Committee shall forthwith appoint one of their number or a person co-opted in accordance with (b) to fill the vacancy and the remaining members of the Committee may, but shall not be obliged to, co-opt such member or members as they shall consider fit to fill any vacancy.
  - (b) Members so co-opted or appointed shall remain in office until the next meeting of the Executive Committee
- 8.5 A Class Manager may be employed by the Executive Committee at such times and on terms and conditions determined by it.
- 8.6 In the event of the absence or vacancy of the position of Class Manager one of the Executive Committee members shall fulfil all the obligations and duties of the Class Manager.

## **9 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

- 10.1 Executive Committee meetings shall be held on such occasions and at such places as are either called by the President or decided by previous meetings of the committee.
- 10.2 The Class Manager shall give at least 3 weeks-notice of such meetings, unless 75% of the voting member of the committee give their prior consent to a reduced notice period.
- 10.3 4 voting members of the Committee shall form a quorum.
- 10.4 The President shall chair all meetings at which he is present. At meetings where the President is not present the meeting shall elect a chairman from among themselves.
- 10.5 Resolutions at Executive Committee Meetings shall be passed by a simple majority of the voting members of the Committee present and voting. In the event of a tied vote the chairman of the meeting shall have a casting vote.
- 10.6 The Executive Committee is authorised to utilise for meetings telephonic or internet communications providing all participants can hear and participate in all communications.
- 10.7 The Executive Committee may delegate to any one or more of its members such powers and duties as it shall determine for special purposes for a limited period.

## **11 TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

11.1 The Executive Committee will appoint a Technical Sub-Committee consisting of a Chairman plus 2 other members.

11.2 The function of the Technical Sub-Committee is

- (a) To advise the Executive committee on any technical matters relevant to the Class.
- (b) To ensure that the One Design control of the Class is properly exercised by the builders and suppliers in accordance with the manufacturing specifications..
- (c) To investigate any query by a boat owner regarding the one design or specification of this boat, and to report to the Executive Committee.
- (d) To consult with the Copyright Holder and Licensed Builder on any development of the boat or equipment deemed to be desirable as a result of sailing experience.
- (e) To ensure that the boats used in World and Continental Championships as well as all other major regattas comply with the Class Rules.

## **11 ONE-DESIGN PROTECTION OF THE RS21 CLASS**

11.1 The Copyright Holder and Licensed Builder have provided the original RS21 Class Rules, which shall at all times remain the property of the Copyright Holder and Licensed Builder. The International Class Association has adopted and administers the Class Rules.

1.2 The Copyright Holder and Licensed Builder have the right of veto to proposals for changes to the Class Rules.

## **13 FINANCIAL MATTERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CLASS ASSOCIATION:**

13.1 The International Class Association shall be funded by:

- (a) Fees payable from the Licensed Builder, as agreed by the Licensed Builder and the Executive Committee from time to time.
- (b) Subscriptions from National Class Associations and individual members where applicable and as defined by the Executive Committee from time to time.
- (c) A share of the Entrance Fee of World and Continental Championships, negotiated between the Executive Committee and the Organisers of the event.
- (d) Sponsorship, television rights and any other revenue negotiated and accepted by the Executive Committee.



- 13.2 The Association's subscription years shall run from 1 January to 31 December.
- 13.3 The amount to be paid as subscriptions to the International Class Association shall be decided by the Executive Committee.
- 13.4 Member National Class Associations may be required to pay a fee for each paid up member of their Association. These fees shall be payable at the end of each quarter in respect of their membership fees received in that quarter. The amount of the fee shall be decided by the Executive Committee.
- 13.5 All other fees, such as those for approval of events, professional or other, or for services provided at events, shall be decided by the Executive Committee.

## **14 EXPENSES**

- 14.1 A budget for expenses shall be agreed each year by the Executive Committee and expenses shall be reported under a separate heading in the Annual Accounts.
- 14.2. The reasonable expenses of the Officers and other members of the Executive Committee in complying with their obligations and exercising their powers under these rules may be payable out of the funds of the International Class Association on application to the Executive Committee.

## **15 ACCOUNTS**

- 15.1 The Executive Committee shall cause annual accounts to be prepared for each year which truly and fairly show the Association's capital and its income and expenditure.
- 15.2 The fiscal period of the Association shall be 1 January to 31 December each year unless changed by resolution of the Executive Committee
- 15.3 A copy of the accounts for the latest complete fiscal period shall be sent by the Class Manager to each member National Association with the notice of the Annual meeting of the Executive Committee..

## **16 NOTICE**

- 16.1 Where under this Constitution the Class Manager is required to give written notice to any person or body, such notice shall be deemed for the purposes of this Constitution to have been given if it is given by post or written electronic communication and so that:

- (a) If it is given by post it shall be deemed to have been given on the 7th day after the Class Manager shall have posted such notice by first class or air post to the person or body concerned at the address given for such person or body in the records of the Association whether or not it shall in fact have been received by the person or body concerned within that time or at all;
- (b) If it is given by written electronic communication it shall be deemed to have been given 24 hours after the Class Manager has successfully dispatched the written electronic communication whether it has in fact been received by the person or body concerned within that time or not at all.
- (c) Provided that the Class Manager shall only be entitled to give notice to a person or body by way of written electronic communication if that person or body shall have provided (and not withdrawn) the address or number for the electronic communication to the Executive Committee.

16.2 The Class Manager shall keep a register of such notices, which shall include evidence that the notice has been sent.

## **17 SUSPENSION AND REMOVAL FROM MEMBERSHIP**

17.1 A member, or individual of a National Class Association, may be suspended from membership by the Executive Committee only after a hearing protecting his rights to due process including a mutual exchange of evidence prior to the hearing.

17.2 A member may be suspended for the following:

- (a) Committing an unlawful act in relation to the Association or one of its members, or
- (b) For any unsportsmanlike conduct contrary to the interest of the members of the association, or
- (c) For intentional violation of Class Rules.

17.3 A member National Class Association shall apply any such suspension to any of its individual members so suspended

17.4 A member of the Association shall not be entitled to any return of any part of his / her, it's subscription in respect of any period for which he / she, it shall be suspended or removed from membership.

## **18 AMENDMENTS**

18.1 This Constitution may only be amended by a special resolution for which notice has been duly given and which is duly proposed and passed at a

Executive Committee meeting pursuant to the terms and conditions of this Constitution.

## **19 LIMITATIONS**

- 19.1 The Association Committee members shall not be obliged to do any of the things required of them by these rules if the Executive Committee shall not reasonably be expected to be in funds sufficient to pay their reasonable cost and expenses by the time these costs and expenses are estimated to come due.
- 19.2 In the execution of their powers and duties under this constitution no officer or other member of the Association Committees shall be liable for any loss to any of the members or former members of the Executive Committee or to the assets of the Association by reason of any mistake or omission made in good faith by him or any other officer or member of the Executive Committee or for any other matter other than wilful and individual wrongdoing omission or fraud on the part of the person who is sought to be made liable.

## **20 PROPER LAW AND JURISDICTION**

- 20.1 The proper law of the RS21 International Class Association and Executive Committee shall be English law and this Constitution shall be construed, take effect and be enforced accordingly.
- 20.2 The decision of the Executive Committee shall be final in matters of the management of the Association and only if the actions or decisions of the Executive Committee are disputed formally in writing by any member or group of members of the Association, shall the decision be subject to the judgement of a court of proper jurisdiction in the circumstances applying English law as provided in Article 20.1.