



# INTERNATIONAL A CLASS CATAMARAN CONSTITUTION



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The "A-Division-Catamaran-Class" was originally founded in England by the former "International Yacht Racing Union" in 1956.

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# CONSTITUTION

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## **1. TITLE**

The full title of the Association shall be The International A-Division Catamaran Association (I.A.C.A.).

## **2. OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of the I.A.C.A. are to promote and further the interests of the A-Division Catamarans throughout the world including:

- 2.1. To maintain the restricted design character of the A-Division Catamaran.
- 2.2. To co-ordinate and manage the affairs of the Division.
- 2.3. To make recommendations on the control of the Division to World Sailing.
- 2.4. To encourage and co-ordinate National and International competitions within the A-Division Catamarans.

## **3. HEADQUARTERS AND APPLICABLE LAWS**

- 3.1. The I.A.C.A is an association subject to Swiss law, in particular Art. 60-79 of the Swiss Civil Code.
- 3.2. The headquarters of the Association shall be located at the address of Swiss Sailing.

## **4. MEMBERSHIP**

- 4.1. I.A.C.A. aims to promote their membership to all national A-Division Catamaran Associations (National Association).
- 4.2. A National Association may apply for membership to I.A.C.A. at any time, provided they comply with rule 5.
- 4.3. Each National Association, at the time of application, shall give evidence to I.A.C.A., of the following items :
  - 4.3.1. Its own Constitution with an English translation enclosed.
  - 4.3.2. Confirmation of recognition by its National Sailing Federation (exception see point 4.5).
  - 4.3.3. Names and full addresses of its Committee Members, List of its fleet members, including names, full addresses, sail numbers, status of the member (paying member, honorary member etc.) being the basis for the annual fees and number of votes.
- 4.4. Sailors with no National Association in their country can apply for an individual membership with the I.A.C.A. These members shall pay the same membership fee. Individual memberships are limited to 2 sailors per independent country.
- 4.5. In the case where an independent country does not have its own National Sailing Federation, the National Association must confirm this non-existence at

time of their application and supply all necessary documentation according to rule 4.3.

- 4.6. The I.A.C.A. Committee will inform the National Association if the application has been accepted or not within 4 weeks after receipt of the complete application.
- 4.7. The membership to the I.A.C.A. is valid from the date of the written I.A.C.A. confirmation on and after the payment of the I.A.C.A. fees. From that date on the Fleet Members are permitted to participate in I.A.C.A events.

## **5. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION**

- 5.1. National Associations may be formed in any independent country on application to the I.A.C.A. Committee. A National Association must consist of at least 3 members.
- 5.2. National Associations shall prove to be formed and recognised according their National Sailing Federation rules. (Exception rule 4.5). If not, the I.A.C.A. Committee shall reject the application for I.A.C.A. membership. All National Associations will be informed accordingly.
- 5.3. National Associations must comply with the I.A.C.A. Constitution and inform I.A.C.A. as soon as its Constitution should have been subjected to changes. The National Association shall submit the English translation of its own constitution to the I.A.C.A. Committee for approval.
- 5.4. National Associations shall nominate a Delegate or another Officer to be responsible for the affairs and conduct of the National Association to the I.A.C.A. Committee.
- 5.5. National Associations shall organise such local sailing and social activities as they find necessary within the objectives of the I.A.C.A.
- 5.6. National Associations may levy a subscription on their membership to cover their operating expenses.
- 5.7. The Committee of National Associations shall keep the I.A.C.A. informed about their activities, e.g. on their own homepage. Important news or matters concerning the I.A.C.A. interests should be published on the official I.A.C.A. homepage in English.
- 5.8. When proposing candidates as new members for the I.A.C.A. Committee, the National Association Committee has to make sure that the candidate will not use his future function for own commercial interests.

## **6. I.A.C.A. COMMITTEE**

- 6.1. The affairs of the I.A.C.A. shall be managed by the I.A.C.A. Committee.
- 6.2. The I.A.C.A. Committee shall consist of the following "Full Members", who must all be members of their respective National Association, shall be unbiased representatives and have no major commercial interests in the A-Division Catamarans:
  - President

- Secretary
- up to 5 additional Full Members.

I.A.C.A. is represented by its President or by whoever the President appoints as representative on his behalf. The I.A.C.A. Committee must make sure that the responsibilities and functions of each one of its members is clearly stated and described

- 6.3. The President, the Secretary and the Committee shall be elected at a World General Meeting (WGM). President and Secretary is a four-year term. Committee Member is one-year term.

At least 3 Continents shall be represented within the Committee Members.

- 6.4. In case the President resigns during his election period the Secretary will act for the President until the next WGM, when a new President shall be elected.

In case the Secretary resigns during his election period the President shall co-opt a Full Member of the committee to act as Secretary until the next WGM, when a new Secretary shall be elected.

In case 4 or more Full Members resign during their election period, the President shall call for an extraordinary WGM in order to elect a new committee.

- 6.5. National Association representatives may be nominated by the I.A.C.A. Committee to participate on special projects (without voting rights). Any representative may be co-opted as necessary.

- 6.6. A Full Member of the I.A.C.A. Committee shall be appointed by the I.A.C.A. Committee as the "International A-Division Catamaran Class" representative to World Sailing. If required, this Delegate will attend World Sailing meetings at the request of the I.A.C.A. Committee. This Delegate shall be an unbiased representative and have no commercial interests in the A-Division Catamarans.

- 6.7. In case that the I.A.C.A Committee or some of its Members or the representative to World Sailing prove to behave against the interest of I.A.C.A, 3 National Associations have the possibility to call in writing for an extraordinary WGM. This request will include the full argumentation and a proposal of corrective measures and/or in case names of volunteering candidates for substitution for the rest of the election period of the Committee. The case will be discussed at the extraordinary WGM and voted with a 2/3 majority.

## 7. MEETINGS

- 7.1. World General Meetings (WGM)

- 7.1.1. The WGM of the I.A.C.A. shall be held at and during each World Championship at a date, time and place at the discretion of the Committee.

- 7.1.2. The invitation to the WGM shall include date, time and place and the following applicable Agenda items:

1. President's Report
2. Secretary's Report

3. Economic Report and presentation of accounts and budget
4. National Association and Fleet Reports
5. Election of Officers and I.A.C.A. Committee
6. Membership Fees
7. Selection of venues for World and Continental Championships
8. Proposals, received by the secretary from National Associations, World Sailing or other institutions.
9. Regulatory and Technical Affairs (Alterations in the I.A.C.A. Constitution, Championship Rules, Ballots etc.)
10. Various

Such invitation and agenda shall be sent to all National Associations at least 4 weeks prior to the meeting.

- 7.1.3. All applications and proposals except what differently specified, being subject to any vote, must be submitted in writing and in English to the I.A.C.A. Committee and all National Associations at least 6 weeks prior to the WGM.
- 7.1.4. Only items on the official Agenda of the WGM can be voted on.
- 7.1.5. The I.A.C.A. Committee has to approve the financial situation, i.e. Balance Sheet and P+L Account per December 31st prior to February 28th as well the new Budget for the upcoming year. At least 6 weeks prior to the WGM the I.A.C.A. Committee has to submit these documents to the WGM for approval.
- 7.1.6. Extraordinary World General Meetings may be called by the I.A.C.A. Committee or shall be called by the President upon receipt by the Secretary of a request in writing signed by not fewer than 3 National Associations of the I.A.C.A. giving the objectives to be discussed and decided upon.
- 7.1.7. The President will distribute a written report of the meeting to all Delegates of the National Associations no later than 4 weeks after the WGM. If no objections are expressed to the Secretary during a further 4 weeks, the protocol is considered to be approved.
- 7.2. I.A.C.A. Committee Meetings
  - 7.2.1. At least 14 days written notice must be given to all I.A.C.A. Committee members.
  - 7.2.2. The notice of meeting shall include an agenda.
  - 7.2.3. I.A.C.A. Committee meeting can be held in person or electronically (telephone, conference call, e-mail).
  - 7.2.4. Decisions can be taken if at least ½ of the Full Members of the I.A.C.A. Committee participate or are actively involved. Should votes be equally divided the President vote prevails.

## **8. VOTING RIGHTS**

- 8.1. At a WGM each National Association may exercise its voting right based upon the notification and payment to I.A.C.A. of the previous calendar year fee per registered Fleet Members (paying and honorary members) or for the newly accepted National Associations within the same WGM, as per the following

ratio : 1-5 members = 1 vote; 6-11 members = 2 votes; 12-18 members = 3 votes; 19-25 members = 4 votes; 26-33 members = 5 votes; 34-42 members = 6 votes; 43-51 members = 7 votes; 52-61 members = 8 votes; 62-72 members = 9 votes; 73-83 members = 10 votes; 84-95 members = 11 votes; 96-108 members = 12 votes; 109-121 members = 13 votes; 122-135 members = 14 votes; 136-150 members = 15 votes; more than 151 members one vote every 15 additional members.

- 8.2. Each National Association will be represented at the WGM by its President or President delegate as notified to I.A.C.A. in writing.
- 8.3. Every National Association can opt to vote in writing or delegate its right to vote. In such a case, the Secretary needs to be informed in writing, at least 6 weeks prior to the WGM.
- 8.4. Individual members shall have no voting rights at the WGM.
- 8.5. Decisions made at the WGM shall be reached by a simple majority of the given votes. In the event of an equality of votes, the President shall have an additional vote.

## **9. MEMBERSHIP FEE**

- 9.1. The annual membership fee shall be determined or reconfirmed at each WGM.
- 9.2. The annual fee of the National Associations shall be paid in advance on or before December 31st of each year based on the Fleet Member list of the previous December 31st. Late payment will automatically reduce the number of places, minus 10 %, allocated for the next Continental /World Championship. Failure to pay the prescribed fee by April 1st may result in the exclusion of the National Association from the I.A.C.A. As long as the fee remains unpaid, neither the National Association has a right to vote nor its fleet members have a right to participate in International events.

## **10. COMMUNICATION**

- 10.1. Notice of the WGM and its protocols are to be sent by letter or e-mail to the Delegates of the National Associations and published on the I.A.C.A. home page.
- 10.2. Notice of Committee meetings and its protocols are to be sent by letter or e-mail to all Full Members of the I.A.C.A. Committee. The participants of the meeting can decide about a wider distribution of the protocol.
- 10.3. The I.A.C.A. Committee and the Delegates of the National Association are responsible to publish important information on the I.A.C.A. homepage.
- 10.4. The results of any ballot will be published on the I.A.C.A. homepage and by email or post to the National delegates.
- 10.5. The last indicated address of the contacts of the National Associations and its Fleet Members to the I.A.C.A. Secretary are the sole basis for every dispatch.

## **11. ALTERATIONS OR AMENDMENTS OF THE WORLD SAILING A-DIVISION CATAMARAN RULES**

- 11.1. Proposals for any alterations or amendments to the Class Rules must be submitted in English and in writing to the I.A.C.A. Secretary and must be supported and duly signed by at least 3 National Associations no later than 3 months prior to the next WGM and must be part of the Agenda items. In this case the proposal will be posted immediately to every National Association. The opportunity to ballot the proposal and the final wording shall be approved at WGM with a 2/3 majority of the votes.
- 11.2. The I.A.C.A Committee will name a Returning Officer in charge of the ballot procedure according to the ballot rules.
- 11.3. An appropriate ballot paper shall be prepared by the I.A.C.A. Committee within 2 months after the WGM and will be sent by letter or email to the last recorded address of all Fleet Members of the National Associations.
- 11.4. Each Fleet Member will have 1 vote. Each Fleet Member shall personally return the completed ballot paper directly to the Returning Officer. The Returning Officer must receive the completed ballot paper within 4 weeks of the date of the original circulation and it must comply with the ballot rules in order for it to be valid.
- 11.5. Proposals shall be deemed carried if 2/3 of votes cast are in favour. The results of the ballot will be circulated by the I.A.C.A. Committee to all Delegates of the National Associations and it will include a statement by the Returning Officer of the votes cast
- 11.6. The findings of any such ballot shall be passed by the I.A.C.A. Committee to World Sailing for confirmation.
- 11.7. Only the I.A.C.A. Committee has the sole right to deal with World Sailing concerning any alterations or amendments to the Class Rules of the International A-Division Catamaran Class.

## **12. ALTERATIONS OR AMENDMENTS OF THE I.A.C.A CONSTITUTION OR CHAMPIONSHIP RULES**

- 12.1. Proposals for any alteration or amendments of the I.A.C.A Constitution or Championship Rules must be submitted in English and writing to the I.A.C.A Secretary at least 3 months prior to the next WGM, and must be supported and duly signed by at least 3 National Associations. In any case every proposal shall be approved at WGM with a 2/3 majority of the votes.
- 12.2. Such proposals shall be distributed to all Nations at least 10 weeks prior to and discussed and voted on during the WGM.
- 12.3. The findings of any such vote shall be passed by the I.A.C.A. Committee to World Sailing for their records.
- 12.4. Only the I.A.C.A. Committee has the sole right to deal with World Sailing concerning any alterations or amendments to the Constitution or Championship Rules of the International A-Division Catamaran Class.



### **13. CHAMPIONSHIPS AND INTERNATIONAL EVENTS**

- 13.1. The I.A.C.A. shall arrange for the organisation of World and Continental Championships of the A-Division as may be required. The attribution process is defined in the Championship Rules.
- 13.2. The I.A.C.A. Committee may delegate the organisation and running of such Championships to the respective National Association. The National Association of the nation holding the event has however to guarantee that the Championship Rules are fully respected and that the I.A.C.A. Committee will be kept informed about the preparation activities.
- 13.3. The procedures of the Championships are according to the I.A.C.A. Championships Rules.
- 13.4. All international fleet meetings shall be conducted under the I.A.C.A. Championship rules.
- 13.5. The helmsman of each boat taking part in an International Event must be a registered Fleet Member of his National Association or be an individual member of the I.A.C.A.

### **14. LIABILITY OF THE I.A.C.A.**

- 14.1. The liability of the I.A.C.A. as an association and the I.A.C.A. Committee Members is limited to the funds of the I.A.C.A.

### **15. DISSOLUTION**

- 15.1. The dissolution of the I.A.C.A. may be required on a % majority vote at a General Meeting or Extraordinary WGM called by the President to discuss such a matter. The remaining I.A.C.A. funds (if any) will be stated in a final, audited Balance Sheet and a Profit & Loss statement. Such funds shall be distributed in proportion to the last official notice of the number of Fleet Members and the respective payments from each National Association.
- 15.2. The National Associations are to be informed about the final statement and the distribution of the remaining funds, which is payable within 2 months after the dissolution of the I.A.C.A.
- 15.3. World Sailing will be informed about the dissolution without delay.

### **16. APPROVAL OF THE I.A.C.A CONSTITUTION**

- 16.1. This constitution has been approved by the WGM vote dated September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022 and replaces the February 2014 Constitution.