

The British International Six Metre Association Constitution

1. Name

The name of the Association is the British International Six Metre Association (BISMA).

2. Terms and Definitions

Throughout this Constitution the following defined terms are used.

- a. "The National Association" shall mean the British International Six Metre Association (BISMA).
- b. "The International Association" shall mean The International Six Metre Association (ISMA), formed to control the affairs of the International Six Metre Class throughout the world.
- c. "The Committee" shall mean the committee of the National Association, consisting of duly elected committee members.
- d. "The National Association Constitution" shall mean the Constitution governing the conduct of the National Association and its members.
- e. "The National Association Register" shall mean the register of owners of International Six Metre yachts based in the United Kingdom, with their addresses, name and number of boat, etc.
- f. "The Class" shall mean the class of International Six Metre yachts sailing within United Kingdom waters.
- g. "The Measurement Rules" shall mean the rules governing and relating to the construction and measurement of each International Six Metre yacht and its certificate of rating enabling it to be a recognised boat within the Class for class racing purposes.
- h. "The Registered Sail Number" shall mean the national sail number allocated to the boat.
- i. "The National Association Secretary" shall mean the Appointed Secretary or duly elected Honorary Secretary of the National Association.
- j. "Certificate" shall mean a certificate issued, ratified and endorsed as hereinafter provided recording:
 - i. The Registered Sail Number of an International Six Metre yacht.
 - ii. The fact that such a Six Metre Yacht originally complied with the class rules on completion of construction, together with such particulars as may be required by the Class Rules.
- k. "Valid Certificate" shall mean a certificate in which:
 - i. The particulars of ownership are up to date and entered on the class Register of the National Association.
 - ii. Any endorsement required by the Measurement Rules has been duly entered.
- l. "Fleet" shall mean three or more registered International Six Metre yachts not under the organisation for an already existing fleet, normally located sufficiently near to each other to permit regular racing between them.
- m. "Six Metre Yacht" shall mean any yacht designed and constructed to The Measurement Rules as stated in g.

- n. "Owner" and "co-owner" shall mean any person or persons or association entered on a certificate as owner or co-owner of an International Six Metre Yacht.

3. Objectives

The Objectives of the Association are:

- a. The encouragement of amateur International Six Metre yacht racing sailing and organisation, and the arrangement and holding of Corinthian sailing matches, races regattas and competitions for International Six Metre sailing yachts holding valid certificates of rating within the United Kingdom. Yacht racing to be governed by the racing rules of The National Association. Such events to be organised by The National Association directly or in association with other national authorities or recognised yacht clubs.
- b. To organise a British Open Championship to be held annually.
- c. To encourage international and national competitions within the United Kingdom for the Class and to co-ordinate each season's programme for all class events within the United Kingdom.
- d. To regularly review the application of the Technical and Measurement Rules and to make recommendations and representations to The International Association with regard to such rules and with regard to other matters affecting or concerning the class.
- e. To undertake all necessary steps with international and national authorities and sailing organisations in order to ensure and co-ordinate the achievements of the objects stated above.
- f. To represent the interest of members of the National Association with the International Association or other recognised authorities or bodies and to keep members informed of developments technical or otherwise concerning the Class and any proposal concerning Class Rules.
- g. To maintain a National Association register of members and boats.
- h. The promotion of social intercourse between members of the National Association.
- i. To co-ordinate activity with any other Association having the same objects as set out in this document.

4. Membership and voting rights

The following classes of membership shall be recognised:

- i. Full Membership
 - ii. Associate membership
 - iii. Honorary Membership
- a. Full Membership shall, upon payment of the prescribed annual subscription be open to any owner of a British Registered Six Metre yacht or in the case of co-owners, to any one of them, or in the case of a British Six Metre yacht owned by an organisation or association, to a nominated representative of the organisation or association.
 - b. Associate Membership shall, upon payment of the prescribed annual subscription, be open to any co-owner of a Registered British International Six Metre yacht not being a full member, or to individuals interested in the British International Six Metre Class.
 - c. Honorary Membership may be offered to such persons as will in the opinion of the Committee assist in the development and aims of The National Association.

5. Cessation of membership

A member shall cease to be a member of the Association:

- a. Upon notice in writing to the Secretary of the Member's intention to terminate membership and payment of all monies due to the Association.
- b. Upon death.
- c. Upon bankruptcy
- d. If the conduct of any member is such as shall, in the opinion of the Committee be injurious to the character or interests of the National Association; in such case the Committee may expel such member provided that any member whose expulsion is under consideration shall be entitled to offer an explanation either orally or in writing to the Committee before the resolution for expulsion is to be put to the vote.
- e. No appeal shall lie from a resolution of the Committee for expulsion; the Committee's discretion and decision shall be absolute and final. Nor shall the Committee be bound to give any reason for their decision.
- f. A letter or notice sent by post or electronic mail addressed to a member and sent to the member's last known address shall be sufficient for the purposes of Sub Article d. of this Article.

6. Committee

The affairs of The National Association shall be administrated by a Committee subject to the following regulations hereunder set forth by the Committee which shall consist of not less than four and not more than six full members of the National Association, elected annually at a General Meeting of members, or by postal vote.

- a. The Committee shall have sole power on behalf of the National Association to make recommendations to the International Association for changes in the Measurement Rules and in regard to any related technical matters.
- b. The Committee shall have power to co-opt any person to assist it, whether a full, associate or honorary member of the National Association, but such persons shall not be entitled to vote in Committee. Such co-opted members shall serve as members of the Committee, either for specific purposes or for a specific period of time as determined by the Committee.
- c. No member shall serve on the Committee as an Elected Member for more than three years at the end of which period he shall retired, he or she may be proposed for re-election.
- d. The Committee needs to fill a vacancy arising in the Committee unless the total number of Committee Members has dropped below the minimum number of four. In such event the Committee shall have the power to appoint a full member to fill such vacancy until the next Annual General Meeting in convened.
- e. At its first meeting to be held immediately after the Annual General Meeting of the national Association, the Committee shall;
 - i. Elect one Committee Member to act as Chairman of the Association.
 - ii. Elect a Class Captain.
 - iii. Appoint a Secretary or elect an Honorary Secretary who shall keep correct Minutes and records of all Committee and General Meetings, together with the National Association Register, and shall be responsible for communicating to members of the

National Association all relevant proceedings to the International Association and, when so directed by the Committee to owners or co-owners of International Six Metre yachts based in the United Kingdom who are not members of the National Association.

- iv. Elect an Honorary Treasurer who shall receive member's subscriptions as shall be determined each year by the members at the Annual General Meeting of the National Association.

After providing for all expenses and payments considered by the members to be necessary or desirable, any balance of the funds of the National Association may be utilised or dealt with in such manner as the Committee may determine for the furtherance of the objectives of the Association.

- v. At meeting of the committee, three of the elected members shall form a quorum.
- vi. The Committee shall have power to make recommendations to the members in a general meeting, or by post, for alternation in, or additions to the National Association Rules.
- vii. The Committee is to arrange an Annual National Championship of the class within the United Kingdom and such International Championship and other events as may be deemed appropriate. All matters pertaining to International Championships held in the United Kingdom shall be arranged by the Committee in consultation with The International Association, World Sailing, the RYA and with the supporting Club or Clubs.
- viii. At least twenty-one days notice of the date, place and agenda for any Committee Meeting should be given in writing by the Secretary to each Committee Member. Any business conducted by correspondence shall always be circulated through the Secretariat, and any Committee Member not answering a motion communicated to him in writing or by electronic mail within twenty one days of the date of sending shall be deemed to have agreed to such a motion.

f. The office of a member of the committee shall be vacated:

- i. If he is no longer a full member of the National Association or having been appointed under Article 4. Sub Article d. above, is no longer an Honorary Member.
- ii. If by notice in writing to the Secretary of The National Association he resigns his office.
- iii. If he is removed from office by resolution duly passed pursuant to Article 5. applying to expulsion of members, or if in the unanimous opinion of the other members of the Committee he is no longer fit to hold offices as member of the Committee.

7. Annual General Meeting

The National Association shall hold an Annual General Meeting in every calendar year in such time and at such place agreed by the officers of the National Association; such meeting to take place not later than fifteen months from the date of the preceding Annual General Meeting. The Secretary shall specify his Meeting as an Annual General Meeting in a notice calling it, not later than thirty days before such Annual General Meeting shall take place. Notice of any resolution to be proposed at the Annual General Meeting shall be deposited with the Secretary at least twenty-one days before the meeting, and with their agreement, shall be added to the Annual General Meeting Agenda.

- a. The Notice of the meeting shall give the names of existing officers of the Association.

- b. At an Annual General Meeting of the National Association one third of the membership, either present or represented by proxy, shall form a quorum.
- c. At an Annual General Meeting, any resolution put to the vote shall be decided by a simple majority having regard to proxy votes.

8. Extraordinary General Meeting

Any General Meeting other than the annual General Meeting shall be called an Extraordinary General Meeting.

- a. An Extraordinary general Meeting shall be called upon requisition in writing made and signed by at least three members entitled to attend and vote at a General Meeting to consider such matters as shall be stated in the requisition which shall be promptly submitted by the Secretary to the Committee for their consideration. Thirty days' notice shall be given of an Extraordinary General Meeting.
- b. The majority necessary to carry a resolution in an Extraordinary General Meeting shall be at least three-quarters of this membership, present, or represented by proxy. Any resolution so carried shall be absolute and shall at once become effective.

9. Proceeding at General Meetings

All business shall be deemed special that is transacted at an Extraordinary General Meeting. All business that is transacted at an Annual General Meeting must include consideration of the accounts, balance sheets, the reports of the Committee, Secretary, Treasurer, and the election or the announcement of the election of the members of the Committee.

- a. At all General Meetings, the Chair shall be taken by the Chairman, and in his absence the Chair shall be taken by the senior Committee member present.
- b. The Chairman may with the consent of the majority of the full members present at the meeting, adjourn the General Meeting from time to time and from place to place but no business shall be transacted at any adjourned meeting other than the business left unfinished at the meeting from which the adjournment took place.
- c. Members who were not present at an original meeting shall be entitled to attend and vote at an adjournment thereof.
- d. The Secretary shall circulate minutes of a General Meeting to all members.
- e. Proxies must be in writing or by electronic mail and must be given to a full member of the Association, which copies submitted to the Secretary prior to the meeting for which they are designated.

10. Postal or Electronic Mail Ballots

Should a matter arise which in the opinion of the Committee either is of such an urgent nature that it should be resolved within the period of the time required to give notice of an Extraordinary General Meeting or is of such a nature that the Committee decide that it is necessary to require an Extraordinary General Meeting to be held then such matter may be circulated to the members by post or electronic mail, and members shall be requested to vote by post or e-mail within fourteen days of the date of posting of the request to ballot.

11. Subscriptions

Subscriptions payable for all classes of membership of the National Association shall be decided at the Annual General Meeting and shall become due on 1st March of the following year. A member joining the National Association after 1st October shall not be liable to pay his subscription for that calendar year.

- a. Until otherwise determined by the National Association in general Meeting, the annual subscription payable by members shall be as follows:
 - i. Full Members owning an International Six Metre yacht: £250.00
 - ii. Associate Members: £30.00
 - iii. Honorary Members: nil
- b. Any member whose subscription has not been paid within three months of the due date, and whose name has been removed from this list of members of the National Association by the Committee may have his name restored to the National Association at the discretion of the Committee on payment of any subscription due. In any event, no owner shall be permitted to participate in an event without having paid his/her current annual subscription.
- c. Except for their financial liability and obligations as set forth herein, members shall have no financial or legal liability or obligations either expressed or implied to the Association or to others arising from their membership in the Association.

12. Annual contribution to The International Association

A percentage of the National Association's annual income from Full Member subscriptions, which shall be the same as that applied to all other National Associations and shall be contributed to The International Association annually as a general levy. The percentage to be fixed bi-annually by the Committee of The International Association.

13. Accounts

- a. The Committee shall cause true accounts to be kept giving full particulars of:
 - i. All monies, assets and liabilities of the National Association.
 - ii. All monies received and expended by the National Association and the reason for such receipts and expenditure.
 - iii. All sales and purchases by The National Association.
- b. The Committee shall cause the annual financial statement to be prepared and presented at every Annual General Meeting of the National Association.
- c. A copy of the annual financial statement, prepared for presentation at a General Meeting shall, be sent to every full member of whose address the Committee is aware, with the notice convening the Annual General Meeting.

14. Protection of the Class

- a. The National Association shall assist the International Association to maintain the character of the International Six Metre Class yacht and shall report to the International Association any matter, which may appear to violate or threaten the spirit of the class measurement rules.
- b. The National Association shall advise the International Association should it make any recommendation concerning any builders, hull fabricators or hull moulders in the United Kingdom.
- c. No yacht shall be entered on the National Association Register as a Six Metre Class yacht unless a rating certificate, current or otherwise, has been issued in respect of such yacht, in accordance with the class measurement rules.

- d. The National Association shall collaborate with the Royal Yachting Association (RYA) in the allotment and issue of Class Numbers for British owned International Six Metre yachts as they are built, and in providing information on allotment of numbers, names of boats, names of owners and addresses and change of ownership to the Secretariat of the International Association.
- e. Rating Certificates for the British owned Six Metre yachts shall be obtainable from the RYA.
- f. The National Association may require for inspection, rating certificates of all yachts competing in British National or Open Championship, or at other events conducted under auspices of the National Association and shall arrange that entry forms for such Championship or events give notice that valid rating certificates may be inspected and that measurements of new or replacement sails are entered on the certificate.
- g. Acceptance of Certificates by an owner or co-owners shall ipso facto render him/her or them subject to the jurisdiction of the National Association or of the Committee in any matter pertaining to class rules.

15. General

No member under any category shall utilise the National Association or any Association event or publications or yachts belonging to any member of the National Association for the purpose of business of any kind and no such member shall be allowed to make use of the name of the National Association of any member of the National Association for the purpose of advertising privately or publicly.

16. Law

This Constitution shall be interpreted and governed in accordance with the laws of the United Kingdom.

Cowes
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