

International RS500 Class Association Constitution

1. International Class Association

The full title of the Association shall be the International RS500 Class Association.

2. Objects

The objects of the International Class Association are to promote and further the interests of the RS Class throughout the world and to represent the interests of the RS Class owners as follows:

- (a) To manage constitution and Class Rule changes.
- (b) To arrange international events and provide sponsorship liaison.
- (c) To keep members informed of developments in the RS Class and maintain the RS Class international website.
- (d) To give guidance to the RS Admin Group on how services are to be provided for the RS Class.
- (e) To maintain the relationship with the Licensed Builder.
- (f) To maintain the relationship with the National RS Class Associations.

3. Terms and Definitions

Throughout these rules the following defined terms will be used:

- (a) "The International Group" shall mean the RS Classes International Group.
- (b) "The International Class Association" shall mean the relevant International RS Class Association for the particular RS Class.
- (c) "The National Group" where formed shall mean the RS Classes Country Group.
- (d) "The National Class Association" where formed shall mean the relevant National RS Class Association for the particular RS Class.
- (e) "The Management Committee" shall mean the duly elected committee who oversee the general affairs of the association.
- (f) "The National Association Rules" shall mean the rules governing the conduct of the National Association.
- (g) "The International Association Rules" shall mean the rules governing the conduct of the International Class Association.

- (h) “The Association Register” shall mean the register of owners of RS Classes, with their Country, addresses, name and number of boat, to be kept as hereinafter provided.
- (i) The “RS Classes” shall mean the RS One-Design Classes adopted by the International Group and built in accordance with the designers’ drawings and specifications, and licensed by LDC as an RS One Design.
- (j) “The RS Class” shall mean the RS500.
- (k) “The Copyright Holder” shall mean the person or persons or company holding the copyright to the design of the adopted RS One Design Class.
- (l) “The Licensed Builder” shall mean the person or persons or company licensed by the Copyright Holder to build the adopted RS Class.
- (m) “The Class Rules” shall mean the rules relating to measurement, construction and racing conditions of the class and governing the building of each RS Class and its’ rating as a recognised boat within the class for racing purposes.
- (n) “The Registered Number” shall mean the sail number allocated to the boat.
- (o) “RS Admin” shall mean the duly appointed Secretaries.
- (p) “Fleet” shall mean three or more registered RS Class boats of the same Class not under the organisation of an already registered RS Class fleet, normally located sufficiently near to each other to permit regular racing between them.
- (q) “Owner” and “Joint Owner” shall mean any person or persons, registered as owner of an RS Class boat.

4. Membership and Voting Rights

- (a) The following classes of membership shall be recognised:
 - (i) Full Membership
 - (ii) Youth Membership
 - (iii) Student Membership
 - (iv) Family Membership
 - (v) Block Membership
 - (vi) Honorary Membership
 - (vii) Associate Membership

- (b) Full Membership shall, upon payment of the prescribed annual subscription, be open to anyone.
- (c) Youth Membership shall, upon payment of the prescribed annual subscription, be open to anyone who is aged 19 or below on the 1st January of the year of subscription.
- (d) Student Membership shall, upon payment of the prescribed subscription, be open to anyone who is aged 22 or under on 1st January and in full time education.
- (e) Family Membership shall be open to a whole family (two adults and children under age 20 living at same address).
- (f) Block Membership shall be considered where an organization owns several RS boats for the use of a number of individuals. Block membership will be at the rate of current full membership per boat.
- (g) Honorary Membership shall be open to any person having an interest in the International Class Association who is proposed by a Full Member and seconded by at least one member of the Committee and is duly elected by the members at any general meeting of the International Class Association.
- (h) Associate Membership shall, upon payment of the prescribed annual subscription, be open to any joint owner of a boat in the RS Class not being a full member, or to all individuals or clubs interested in the RS Class.
- (i) Temporary full membership shall, upon payment of the prescribed subscription, be open to any person for a single non championship event per year.
- (j) Members of other RS Class International Class Associations which are included in the International Group shall have reciprocal membership of the International Class Association.
- (k) Members shall be bound by the International Class Association rules.
- (l) Members acting as helmsmen or entering an RS Class race which consist of, or include, the class shall be bound by the Class Rules.
- (m) (i) Each full member, youth member, student member, family member, block member and honorary member shall be entitled to one vote at a General Meeting or in an electronic/postal ballot of the International Class Association. For family membership and block membership the vote holder shall be specified on joining or renewing membership.

(ii) A change to the constitution, to the Class Rules or to membership fees, or an election of management committee members will require a majority of returned replies in favour in an electronic/postal ballot. Non-replies will not be counted.

5. Management

- (a) The management committee shall consist of a maximum six people of whom at least one will be a representative of the licensed builder and one from RS Admin; the Chairman, and other members shall be elected annually members in an electronic/postal ballot.
- (b) The Management Committee shall have powers to co-opt any person to assist it, whether a full member of the association or not, but such persons shall have no vote in Committee. No member of the Association elected in accordance with the provision of this clause shall serve on the Committee as Elected Committee members for more than two years. However, any member of the Committee who has served for two years may continue to serve if specifically re-elected by members.
- (c) RS Admin do not have a vote on the Management Committee.
- (d) The Management Committee shall co-ordinate such championships as may be required. All matters pertaining to International Championships shall be settled by the Management Committee in consultation with the sponsoring club or clubs, the host national sailing authority, the ISAF and the host National Class Association.
- (e) At least two weeks notice of the date, place and agenda for any Committee Meeting must be given in writing by RS Admin to each Committee Member. Any business conducted by correspondence shall always be circulated through RS Admin and any Committee Member not answering a motion communicated to him in writing within three weeks of the date of sending shall be deemed to have agreed to such a motion.
- (f) Entry to any RS Class event shall ipso facto render competitors subject to the jurisdiction of the International Class Association in any matter pertaining to Class Rules.

6. Power of the Committee

- (a) Subject to the provision of these rules, and in particular to the objects of the association, as expressed in rule 3, the Management Committee shall be empowered to perform all functions of management and administration.
- (b) The making of payments and receipt of monies shall be validly evidenced only by the signature of the Chairman or his deputies as appointed by the Management Committee and payments or receipt of monies exceeding the sum of £500 shall require the signature of the Chairman and RS Admin.

7. Conduct of Meetings of the International Class Association

- (a) An Annual General Meeting shall be held annually by the RS Class, at a place judged by the Management Committee to be the most convenient to the majority of members of the RS Class. The precise date, time and place to be at the Management Committee's discretion.

- (b) A Special General Meeting shall be called by the Chairman or RS Admin upon receipt by RS Admin of a written request, signed by not fewer than fifteen full members of the International Class Association.
- (c) At least six weeks written notice shall be given to members of any General Meeting.
- (d) At any General Meeting or Committee Meeting decisions shall be limited to matters on the agenda and shall be carried by a majority vote of full International Class Association members present. Voting shall be by a show of hands, unless a poll is demanded by not less than three of the full members present. At any meeting the Chairman shall have a casting vote. The secretary of the meeting, or RS Admin, shall be responsible for circulating all members or in the case of Committee Meetings, all Committee Members, with the result of any voting. In the event of an electronic/postal ballot, all returns shall be made to RS Admin within two weeks of the date of posting the ballot paper.
- (e) At any General Meeting of the International Class Association, eleven shall form a quorum.

8. Subscriptions

- (a) Subscriptions payable for all classes of membership of the International Class Association shall be payable annually and shall become due on 1st January each year. A member joining the International Class Association after 1st October, whose subscription has been paid for that year, shall not be liable to pay his subscription for the ensuing calendar year. Any proposal for a change to the subscription fees shall be circulated to all members for approval by a majority vote.
- (b) Any member whose subscription has not been paid within three months of the due date may have his name removed from the list of members of the International Class Association by the Committee. A member's name may be restored to the International Class Association Register at the discretion of the Committee, on payment of any subscription due.
- (c) Subscriptions shall be collected by the International Group on behalf of the International Class Association.

9. Accounts

- (a) The Management Committee shall cause true accounts to be kept giving full particulars of:
 - (i) All monies, assets and liabilities of the National Class Association.
 - (ii) All monies received and expended by the National Class Association and the reasons for such receipts and expenditure.
 - (iii) All sales and purchases by the National Class Association.

- (b) The Management Committee shall cause an annual financial statement to be prepared and shall arrange an independent review of it.
- (c) The Management Committee shall arrange for the accounts to be circulated to all members of the Management Committee for acceptance by a majority vote. The Management Committee or any fifteen members written request may refer the accounts to a General Meeting for acceptance by a majority vote.
- (d) A copy of the accepted annual financial statement shall be forwarded to RS Admin and to the International Group within 14 days of its acceptance.
- (e) The annual financial statement shall be available within 14 days on request to any member of the International Class Association.
- (f) The Association is a non profit making organisation. All profits and surpluses will be used to maintain or improve the Associations services/facilities. No profit or surplus will be distributed other than to another non-profit making organisation or to its members on winding up or dissolution of the Association.

10. Protection of “One Design” of the Class

- (a) The Copyright Holder and Licensed Builder have provided the original RS Class Rules, which shall at all times remain the property of the Copyright Holder and Licensed Builder. The International Class Association has adopted the RS Class Measurement as provided by the Licensed Builder.
- (b) The Management Committee may make recommendations to the Copyright Holder / Licensed Builder for changes to be made to the RS Class Rules. A change to a measurement rule will require a majority of returned replies in favour in an electronic/postal ballot. Non replies will not be counted.
- (c) Changes to the RS Class Rules as recommended by the Management Committee and approved by the International Class Association cannot be introduced without approval of the Copyright Holder and the Licensed Builder.
- (d) RS Admin shall be informed in writing of any rule changes. RS Admin will inform the National Class Associations of any rule changes. Rule changes will become valid one month after posting unless otherwise prescribed.

11. International Group

- (a) Matters including the following may be devolved to the International Group and these matters may be dealt with jointly with the other RS classes:
 - (i) Arranging and running class meetings
 - (ii) Arranging proposals and administering voting
 - (iii) Setting the International membership subscription

- (iv) All financial matters, including making and receiving payments, controlling assets and liabilities and keeping accounts.
- (v) Organising championships and other racing.
- (vi) Communications.
- (vii) Website.

12. Language

- (a) The official language of the International Class Association is English.

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