

IRISH CRUISER RACING ASSOCIATION

[ICRA]



CONSTITUTION

ADOPTED AT THE GRANVILLE HOTEL WATERFORD, ON TUESDAY 27TH MAY 2003.

The Irish Cruiser Racing Association [the Association] is the body recognised by the Irish Sailing Association to promote and organise cruiser racing in Ireland.

DEFINITIONS:

CRUISER:

- a) A cruiser shall be a mono-hull yacht **fitted with lying down bunks for two people and adequate internal sitting-down accommodation for four people.**
- b) She shall further be capable of satisfying, without the necessity for modifications, ISAF Category 4 safety regulations. This provision does not preclude more stringent safety measures being required for particular races or events by race committees.
- c) ICRA reserves the **ultimate authority to determine whether or not a particular boat or boat model satisfies this definition.**
- d) The Association reserves the right to amend this definition from time to time as it sees fit. It shall be the policy of the Association to give one season's notice of major changes to this rule.

Objects

- 1 **The purpose for which the Association is established is to provide an umbrella association to promote and organise all monohull cruiser racing at the national level. The Association will recognise different Divisions within it based on suitable break points as determined by the Association from time to time. In particular the Association will:**

- a. Promote an **annual series of National Championships** for the various Divisions that make up the National cruiser fleet.
- b. Settle national **Division bands**.
- c. **Agree the dates** and the **rotation** of the **National Championships**
- d. Set **minimum criteria/Sailing Instructions** to be satisfied for an **event to be classed as a National Championships**.
- e. Maintain an oversight of all **cruiser handicapping systems**. [ECHO and IRC] and establish a system to oversee and ensure fair ECHO handicapping for the National Championships. The national handicap officer and committee will be a sub-committee of and report to the Association.
- f. **Select representative teams** from the national cruiser fleet to represent Ireland as the occasion demands.
- g. Select the cruiser nominees for the **Helmsman's Championship**.
- h. Hold an **Annual Conference** open to all cruiser sailors
- i. **Affiliate to the Irish Sailing Association [ISA]** as the national association for cruiser racing.
- j. Co-operate with and be supportive of the Clubs.
- k. Provide a **forum for communication and planning** and to promote and encourage the development of cruiser racing generally
- l. Do any such thing as may, in the opinion of the management committee, be necessary to achieve the above objects.

Membership

- 2 Membership is open to all owners or owner's representatives of recognised cruisers who are members of clubs affiliated to the Irish sailing Association [ISA] or another National Sailing Authority and who pay an annual ECHO subscription.
- 3 Owners or owners representatives from outside Ireland may be admitted to associate membership on the proposal of two members and application to the Executive Committee. Admission to associate membership shall be determined at the sole discretion of the Executive committee.
- 4 Members shall pay such annual subscription in such manner as is determined by the Executive committee from time to time.
- 5 [spare]

Management Structure and Meetings

- 6 The management structure of the association shall consist of:
 - a. A Commodore and a Vice-Commodore.

- b. An Annual Conference
 - c. A General Council.
 - d. An Executive Committee, and
 - e. Division Captains and Vice-captains
 - f. An Executive officer and/or a national handicap officer
 - g. The Commodore, Vice-commodore, division captains and vice-captains and handicap officer shall be ex-officio members of the executive committee.
- 7 The business of the Association shall be managed by the Executive Committee.
- 8 The Executive Committee shall have power to co-opt members to the executive committee either to fill a casual vacancy or as an addition to the existing committee. Any member so appointed shall hold office until the next Annual Conference. In establishing its structures and posts it shall be an aim of the Association to ensure a good spread of representation from the main cruiser fleets/areas.
- 9 Meetings of the general council shall be held from time to time as the executive committee determines or at the request in writing of any member of the executive committee.
- 10 In addition to the members of the executive committee, for meetings of the general Council a system of proportional representation based on the size of the cruiser fleet in each club will apply. This system shall provide a minimum of one voting delegate for each club that has from five to twenty cruisers on the national ECHO register, and one further delegate for each further twenty registered cruisers.
- 11 The Commodore, and Division Captains shall be appointed by the Annual Conference, on the nomination of the Management Committee.
- 12 The vice-commodore, vice-captains and executive Officer/s/Handicap Officer shall be appointed by the Executive Committee at its first meeting after the Annual Conference.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

- 13 An Annual Conference, open to all members, shall be held each year before the [30th November].
- 14 An Annual Dinner shall be organised in conjunction with the Annual Conference.
- 15 The Executive Committee shall meet within two weeks of the Annual Conference and thereafter at such interval, time, and place, as they see fit.
- 16 The Executive Committee shall make an annual report on the conduct of the national championships and the business of the executive committee generally to the Annual Conference.

MINUTES AND REPORTS

- 17 The Executive Committee shall cause minutes to be made, in a book specially kept for the purpose, of all meetings of the association and its committees.
- 18 Copies of the Annual Report and the Income and Expenditure Account shall be sent to the ISA seven days prior to the Annual Conference in each year

ASSOCIATION FLAG AND CREST

- 19 The Association shall have a crest, which shall be used on the Association flag, burgee, tie, and otherwise, as the management committee shall decide.
- 20 The Executive committee shall determine upon a suitable design for the Association crest.

AMENDMENTS

- 21 This Constitution may be amended, on the proposal of the Executive Committee, by the Annual Conference. Any member may submit a proposal for amendment, for consideration by the Executive Committee.