

Constitution of the Laser 4000 Class Association

Version 5 ratified 1-Apr-2003

1 Title

1.1 The full title of the class association shall be "The Laser 4000 Class Association" (herein after known as the "Class Association")

2 Objects

2.1 The objects of the Class Association are to:

- Enhance the enjoyment of Laser 4000 sailboats;
- promote and develop Laser 4000 racing in all countries;
- maintain the Laser 4000 as a strict one design class of sailboat; and
- generally encourage and foster the enjoyment of the sporting and recreational aspects of sailing.

3 Jurisdiction and Organisation

3.1 The Class Association shall have the sole and only authority over any matter of any nature affecting the Laser 4000 throughout the world, and its powers shall be vested in and carried out by the elected officers of the World Council and District Associations as provided in this Constitution and By-Laws, but subject to and in accordance with the General Rules and By-Laws of the International Sailing Federation

4 World Council

4.1 The World Council shall be comprised of the elected Chairman of each District Association (see paragraph 8) from time to time holding office, the immediate past President of the World Council, the Executive Secretary (see paragraph 5), the Chief Measurer (see paragraph 6) and two members of the Advisory Council (see paragraph 7).

4.2 The World Council shall elect from amongst themselves, the President and the Vice-President of the Class Association who shall hold office until their successors are elected to office.

4.3 The World Council may appoint additional officers to perform duties or carry out special projects as may from time to time be determined and they shall hold office for such time as is necessary.

5 Conduct of Meetings

5.1 The World Council shall meet from time to time at the request of the President or three other members of the World Council and in any case not less than once every twelve months at a venue to be agreed by the President. No meeting shall be valid unless a quorum shall be present and that at least fourteen days notice of the meeting and the business to be conducted shall have been given to all members of the World Council, unless all members shall have waived this notice period.

5.2 At meetings of the World Council, one third of the elected members shall form a quorum and decisions shall be reached by a majority of votes of those present, each elected member (excluding the Executive Secretary and members of the Advisory Council) having one vote and the President a casting vote in the event of there being no majority.

6 Personnel

6.1 The Executive Secretary of the World Council shall be appointed by the members of the World Council and shall hold office for such term and upon such conditions as the World Council shall decide. He/she shall be situated at the International Office of the Class Association and shall be responsible for the management of all business of the Class Association, subject to and in accordance with the Constitution and the direction of the World Council and including:

- liaison between the Class Association, the International Sailing Federation and all other yachting authorities;
- the co-ordination of all inter-District activities;
- liaison between the membership, District Measurers and the Chief Measurer;
- organisation of World Championships;
- general advice and assistance to the District Associations.

The Executive Secretary is entitled to attend and speak at meetings of the World Council but is not entitled to vote.

6.2 If no Executive Secretary is employed then these responsibilities shall be undertaken by a designated member of the World Council.

6.3 The Chief Measurer shall be a Full Member of the Class Association appointed by the elected members of the World Council. He shall hold office for such term and upon such conditions as the World Council shall decide. The Chief Measurer shall rule on all questions and challenges relating to the Class Measurement Rules and shall issue interpretations thereof deemed necessary by him. All such interpretations shall be binding until approved, rejected or modified by a decision of the World Council, duly published to members of the Class Association.

7 Advisory Council

7.1 One person nominated by Performance Sailcraft Europe Limited and one person nominated by Warsash 5000 Limited shall constitute the Advisory Council. The Advisory Council shall assist and co-operate with the World Council in carrying out their responsibilities. Members of the Advisory Council are entitled to attend and speak at meetings of the World Council but are not entitled to vote.

8 District Association

8.1 The World Council may as and when it deems it convenient for the administration of the affairs of the Class Association form District Associations.

8.2 The World Council shall have power to approve, amalgamate or disband District Associations.

8.3 Each District Association shall elect a committee which shall consist of a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, and Measurer who must all be Full or Associate Members of the Class Association.

8.4 Each District Association shall manage those affairs of the Class Association which may be delegated to it by the World Council.

8.5 The Constitution of the Class Association shall take precedence over the Constitution of any District Association.

8.6 Amendment of the District Associations is subject to approval of the World Council and Advisory Council.

9 Membership - Types, Qualification and Voting Rights

9.1 The following classes of membership shall be recognised:

- Full Membership;
- Associate Membership.
- Flexible Membership.

9.2 Full Membership of the Class Association shall be open to any owner of a Laser 4000, or in the case of joint owners to not more than one of them, or in the case of a Laser 4000 owned by an organisation, to a nominated representative of that organisation.

9.3 Associate Membership shall be open to any joint owner of a Laser 4000 not being a Full Member or to any individuals or organisations interested in the Laser 4000.

9.4 A Full Member may purchase a flexible membership, allowing nomination of a crew as a class member for the duration of an event.

9.5 Both Full and Associate Members shall be bound by this Constitution.

9.6 A Member of the Class Association shall belong to the District Association for the area in which they normally sail, even though such a place may not be their permanent residence; but such member, for valid reason and with the approval of the District Association in which they normally sail and the District Association in which they have permanent residence, may select instead to belong to the District Association for the area in which they have permanent residence.

9.7 Each Member shall satisfy the Fee requirements as dictated by their District Association.

9.8 Each Full Member shall be entitled to one vote at the General Meeting of his/her District Association. Associate Members shall be entitled to attend and speak at a General Meeting of his/her District Association, but shall not be entitled to vote. A member temporarily nominated through flexible membership shall not be entitled to attend a General Meeting.

10 Suspension

10.1 A member of the Class Association may be suspended by the World Council, on the recommendation of a District Association, for gross violation of the Constitution and By-Laws, for committing an unlawful act in relation to the Class Association or one of its members, or for any conduct contrary to the interests of the Class Association. The duration of the suspension shall be fixed by the World Council but may not exceed two years, and a suspended member shall during such period be precluded from racing or enjoying any other rights of membership.

10.2 A District Association Officer may be removed from office by the World Council for a wilful and unjustifiable act of commission or omission detrimental to the Class Association or one of its members.

11 Fees and Application

11.1 The annual membership fees for all classes of membership of the District Association shall be decided at the District Association Annual General Meeting.

11.2 A percentage of annual membership fee income collected by the District Associations shall be contributed to the World Council of the Class Association sufficient to defray the reasonable costs of the World Council. That percentage shall be decided upon the income of the District Associations.

11.3 By making an application to the Secretary of their District Association together with payment of the prescribed membership fees, providing that he is not currently under suspension from membership, a person may become a member of the Class and District Association as appropriate.

12 Racing and Championships

12.1 The District Associations shall annually sponsor a District Championship sailing event which shall be open to any member of the District Association to be held at such a place within the District as the committee shall determine.

12.2 Any racing as sanctioned by the Class or District Associations shall be undertaken in accordance with By-Law 1 Class Measurement Rules

13 Appeals to World Council

13.1 Any dispute arising in relation to Fleets, Districts, eligibility to race, the interpretation of this Constitution and By-Laws or similar matter, other than any dispute as to the interpretation of the International Sailing Federation Rules or any protest within the jurisdiction of a race committee, may be referred, together with all relevant facts, to the World Council whose decision shall be final and binding.

14 By-Laws

14.1 The World Council may make By-Laws for the purpose of carrying out the objects of this Constitution. The creation and amendment of these will be controlled as if an amendment to the Constitution itself

15 Amendments

15.1 This Constitution shall only be amended by the World Council, where at least two thirds of Members, voting in the manner prescribed in paragraph 15.2, have approved the proposed amendment, and the Advisory Council have approved the proposed amendment.

15.2 Votes may collected by either of the following methods as directed by the World Council:

- at District General Meetings providing not less than fourteen days notice of such a proposed amendment has been given in each case.
- membership replying to the International Office of the Class in response to a postal/email vote published by the International Office of the Class. Only those postal votes returned to the International Office within sixty days from the date of publication of the rule change shall be valid.

15.3 Proposed amendments to the Constitution shall be submitted for the vote of each District by:

- direction of the World Council; or
- direction of the Executive Secretary where notice of a motion signed by at least twenty Full Members has been submitted to, and approved by, a District Association.