

The Constitution of the International OK Dinghy Association

SECTION 1 Name and Objects

1 Title The full title of the Association will be
'THE OK DINGHY INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION'

2 Insignia The insignia of the Class shall be as shown on the sail plan for the Class.

3 Objects The objects of the Association shall be:

To **promote, manage** and maintain the one design character of the International OK Dinghy, including but not limited to, collaborating with World Sailing and National Authorities in the allotment and issue of World Sailing Building Plaques, World Sailing Building Fee Receipts, serial sail numbers and measurement certificates, and in the keeping of Class Registers.

To promote international racing in the Class.

To ensure the development of the Class in all countries.

To co-ordinate and manage the affairs and the rules of the Class.

To make recommendations on the control of such matters to World Sailing.

To serve the interests of owners in the Class by co-ordinating the activities of the National OK Dinghy Class Associations and by maintaining close co-operation with other National Associations and yachting organisations.

4 Terms and Definitions

Throughout these rules the following terms will be used:

- a) 'OKDIA' shall mean the OK Dinghy International Association. **The 'Association' shall mean OKDIA, the OK Dinghy International Association.**
- b) A 'National Association' shall mean the International OK Class National Association organised in individual countries and officially recognised by the Association and normally by the relevant National Authority.
- c) 'The National Authority' shall mean the World Sailing recognised Member National authority or organisation controlling and organising the sport of yachting and sailing on a national basis in any country.
- d) 'The Committee' shall mean the Committee of OKDIA consisting of duly elected office bearers and other representatives who are members of a National Association.
- e) **'The Association Rules' shall mean the documents governing the conduct of OKDIA. These include this Constitution, the Major Championship Event Manual and other documents relevant from time to time governing the operation of OKDIA.**

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- f) A Register of Members of OKDIA will be kept to maintain a current record of membership.
- g) 'The Class' shall mean the class of sailing dinghies designed by Knud Olsen and made in accordance with his drawings and specifications now held by World Sailing and known under the name 'International OK Dinghy Class'.
- h) 'The Class Rules' shall mean the current version of the Class Rules produced by World Sailing relating to measurement and construction (and racing conditions forming an appendix to the Association Rules) governing the official building of each International OK Dinghy and its rating as a recognised boat within the Class (for Class racing purposes).
- i) 'The Class Register' shall mean the Register of International OK Dinghies and their owners to be kept by each National Association and/or each National Authority.
- j) 'The Registered Sail Number' shall mean the sail number allocated to each International OK Dinghy.
- k) 'The Class Secretary' shall mean the duly elected Secretary of OKDIA.
- l) A valid 'Measurement Certificate' shall mean a certificate issued, ratified and endorsed as hereinafter provided and recording:
 - (i) The registered sail number and ownership of an International OK Dinghy.
 - (ii) The fact that such International OK Dinghy originally complies with the Class Rules on completion of measurement, together with such particulars as may be required by the Class Rules.
 - (iii) the particulars of ownership are up to date and entered on the Class Register and any endorsement required by the Class Rules has been duly entered.
- n) 'Owner' shall mean any person or persons, corporation or association entered on the measurement certificate as owner or joint owner of an International OK Dinghy. Acceptance of a measurement certificate by an Owner shall render them subject to the jurisdiction of OKDIA in any matter pertaining to the Class Rules.
- o) 'Copyright Holder' shall mean the person or persons or corporation or association for the time being in possession of the copyright on the drawings and specifications of the International OK Dinghy.

SECTION 2 Officers

5 The Office Bearers of the Association shall be the President, Class Secretary, and Treasurer, who shall be elected every two years at a General Meeting of the Association.

6 The duties of the Office Bearers

The President shall chair all meetings of the Association and represent the association as required. The President will oversee all functions of the association and along with the office bearers conduct the business of the association, including the approval of all payments and receipts.

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The Class Secretary shall keep all records of OKDIA and be responsible for communicating all decisions of the Committee to members of OKDIA and where directed by the Committee, to owners not being members of a National Association in such terms as the Committee may prescribe. The Class Secretary shall be responsible for any interpretation of the Association Rules for the conduct and functioning of the association.

The Treasurer shall have charge of the funds of OKDIA, make such disbursements as the Committee shall direct, cause such books of account to be kept as are necessary to give a true and fair view of the state of finances of the OKDIA, and prepare an annual balance sheet as at the 1st January in each year and cause such balance sheet (and accounts as are necessary) to be audited at least once annually. Authority to make payments and receipt of monies shall be validly evidenced only by the signature of the Treasurer or his or her deputy as appointed by the Committee.

The Hon Auditor, who is not an office bearer, shall be appointed at an AGM in each year who shall certify the annual balance sheet and if unable or unwilling to act inform the Committee who shall appoint a substitute to hold office until the termination of the next AGM.

SECTION 3 Membership

7 Membership

The Association shall consist of National OK Dinghy Class Associations approved by the Committee and who have been elected to membership.

Candidates for membership shall apply in writing to the Class Secretary for election, which will take place at an ensuing AGM. Members will be entitled to send a nominated representative to AGMs who are entitled to vote and, in the case of a poll vote, exercise either 1 vote for up to 30 paying members, 2 votes for 31 to 100 paying members, and 3 votes for over 100 paying members of their national association.

A National Association unable to send a representative to a General Meeting may authorise in writing the Secretary of OKDIA to vote on its behalf and in the manner which it directs. Such authorisation must be presented in writing at the Annual General Meeting.

Only owners who are members of a National Association which is a financial member of OKDIA can participate in international events, propose candidates for election to the OKDIA Committee and obtain a full newsletter service and annual stickers.

The membership fee (subscription) shall be proposed by the Committee to the Members at an AGM in each year. The subscription rate for each member will be determined based on a census and annual enquiry as to the number of National Association owners of the member. Subscription rates will be determined by the actual number of owners with a minimum rate set at 5 owners. National Associations with less than 5 owners will be required to pay the minimum fee based on 5 owners.

Any changes to the membership fee shall be approved by a majority vote and it shall become operative on the 1st day of January in the year following and must be paid by 31st March of that current year. If not paid in time the privileges and benefits of membership may be lost. All members will be notified of the current rates of subscription each year.

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SECTION 4 Management Committee

8 The Committee

The Committee shall consist of not more than 9 representatives including the office bearers and consist of President, Class Secretary, Treasurer, three Vice Presidents, including at least one from the Northern Hemisphere and one from the Southern Hemisphere, and up to 3 other members to form the Committee

They shall be elected every two years at an AGM of members or by postal vote and as elected members hold office until the conclusion of the appropriate AGM. The retiring officers and representatives shall be eligible for re-election. No National Association shall have more than 3 representatives at any one time serving on the Committee.

The Chairman of the Rules and Technical Sub-Committee shall be an ex-officio member of the Committee and will be deemed not to represent any one member of the Association.

9 Powers of the Committee

- a) The Committee shall have the power to co-opt not more than 2 representatives to fill casual vacancies. The Committee need not fill a vacancy arising in the Committee unless the total number of Committee members has dropped below the minimum of 4. Co-opted members shall hold office only until such time when the subsequent and next AGM takes place.
- b) Subject to the provision of these rules and in particular to the objects of the Association the Committee shall be empowered to perform all functions of management and administration.
- c) The Committee shall have the power to make recommendations to the Members in General Meeting or by email for alterations in or additions to the Association Rules.
- d) The Committee shall arrange an annual World Championship of the Class and the Class Secretary shall co-ordinate such National and Regional Championships as may be required and all matters pertaining to International Championships shall be settled by the Committee in consultation with the sponsoring clubs or club and/or the relevant National Authority.

11 Meetings of the Committee

Business will mainly be conducted by correspondence through the Class Secretary. All communications shall be sent by email. Any Committee member not answering a motion communicated in writing within three weeks, of the date of sending shall be deemed to have agreed to the motion.

In the event of a postal vote all returns shall be made to the Secretariat within three weeks of the emailing of the voting paper.

If a meeting is to be held then the Class Secretary will give at least 2 weeks notice of the date, place and time, including the agenda, in writing to each Committee Member. Agreement will normally be by consensus, but if not, simple majority will rule, or the matter will be referred to the AGM. At meetings of the Committee 4 of the elected members shall form a quorum.

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SECTION 5 Meetings of the Association

12 Annual General Meetings

- a) The Annual General Meeting of OKDIA shall be held each year at the World Championship. In case there is no World Championship, the AGM will be held at the time of the European Championship. In the event of neither a World or a European Championship in a year, the Committee shall call an AGM at a place considered convenient to the majority of members, the precise date, time and place being at the Committee's discretion.
- b) At least 8 weeks notice in writing of any general meeting including agendas and supporting papers shall be given to members.
- c) Written responses and postal votes from National Associations must be received at the latest by the beginning of the AGM.
- d) Voting will be by show of hands unless a poll vote is demanded by not fewer than 3 of the nominated representatives of the National Associations present. In the case of a poll vote being taken, the votes will be allocated in accordance with the entitlement based on the number of members of the National Association.

e)

Membership numbers	Number of poll votes
5 - 30	1
31 - 100	2
101+	3

- e) Voting will be by a simple majority of the nominated representatives of the National Associations except for those decisions concerned with the either the Association Rules or the Class Rules. A decision to change the Association Rules or a decision to recommend to World Sailing a change in or addition to the class rules shall require a majority of two-thirds.
- f) At any meeting the President, or Chairman, in the absence of the President, shall have a casting vote.
- g) In the event the Committee decides to obtain a decision of members outside a General Meeting, the Committee can request a decision of members by Postal Ballot. In the event of a postal ballot, all ballot papers and supporting material will be sent by the Class Secretary and all returns shall be made to the Class Secretary. A postal ballot shall only be conducted via email and be returned within 3 weeks of the date of posting the ballot paper.
- h) At any AGM of OKDIA 5 Members shall be present to form a quorum.

13 Business at an AGM

The AGM of OKDIA shall elect a President, Class Secretary, Treasurer, three Vice Presidents, including at least one from the Northern Hemisphere and one from the Southern Hemisphere, and up to 3 other members to form the Committee. It will appoint an auditor and elect a technical sub-committee which will be responsible for advising the Committee and OKDIA members upon the

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interpretations, proposed amendments or additions to the Class Rules and for making recommendations to the Committee.

13.1 Election of officers

Nominations for available positions must be sent to the Secretary at least 4 weeks before the AGM.

14 Special General Meetings

A Special General Meeting may be called by the President or Class Secretary upon receipt by the Class Secretary of a request in writing from not fewer than four members. The rules governing the calling and conduct for such meetings shall be as for the AGM except for the time and place.

15. Class Rule changes

- (a) All Class Rule proposals must be submitted to the Technical Committee (TC) at least 4 weeks before the deadline for the AGM Agenda.
- (b) The TC can modify the proposal where needed and shall vote on whether to recommend the proposal to the AGM.
- (c) If the TC votes against the proposal it may still be submitted to the AGM but with a 'not-recommended' note from the TC.

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ADDENDA

A International Championship Races

Except as otherwise provided by these by-laws the conduct of the International Championships shall follow the current World Sailing *Racing Rules of Sailing* and the *OKDIA Major Championship Event Manual*.

B Subscriptions

The annual subscription for Members shall be as agreed at a preceding General Meeting of the Association. A member can change its level of membership and therefore subscription rate from year to year by answering the annual query form.

C Hall of Fame

Nominations to the Hall of Fame may be submitted to the OKDIA Committee by the Secretary of a National Association or a member of the OKDIA Committee. A short report justifying the nomination shall be submitted with the name. A Hall of Fame plaque will be presented to the successful nominee. The final decision on successful entry to the OK Dinghy Hall of Fame will lie with the current OKDIA Committee.