

IRISH CRUISER RACING ASSOCIATION [ICRA]

INTERIM CONSTITUTION

RATIFIED AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE/ EGM IN MALDRON HOTEL, PORTLAOISE 21ST MARCH 2018.

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 for either this or the previous year.
3. Members shall pay such annual subscription in such manner as is determined by the Executive committee from time to time.

MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE AND MEETINGS

4. The management structure of the association shall consist of:
 - a. A Commodore and a Vice-Commodore.
 - b. An Annual Conference
 - c. An Executive Committee of 14 people including the Commodore and Vice Commodore, broadly representative of membership distribution.
5. The business of the Association shall be managed by the Executive Committee.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. Meetings of the executive 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.
9. For any decision where a vote is required by the executive committee, a minimum of eight (8) committee members shall constitute a quorum. In the event of a split vote the decision of the Commodore (or Vice Commodore should the Commodore not be present) shall constitute the deciding vote.
10. The Commodore, Vice Commodore, Treasurer and Secretary shall be appointed by the Executive Committee.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE/AGM

11. An Annual Conference, incorporating an AGM, open to all members, shall be held each year before the [30th November].
12. Any member who wishes to stand for the Executive Committee may put forward their candidacy by completing the form on the ICRA website and submitting the form no later than 1 week before the Annual Conference/AGM meeting.
13. Any member putting their candidacy forward for the Executive Committee needs to be proposed and seconded by two other members.
14. The completed form signed by proposer and seconder, plus a copy of the boat they represent current or past year IRC or ECHO cert need to be brought to the EGM.
15. The executive committee will endeavour to make list of candidates that have put themselves forward made available on the website 3 days before the Annual Conference/AGM.

16. In order to ensure a broad representation of executive committee members, limits to executive committee membership will apply by region, based on an audit of boats with IRC and ECHO certs provided by the ISA.
17. The current limits, based on an analysis of 2017 certs, is as follows
 - a. Leinster – maximum of 7 members
 - b. Munster – maximum of 6 members
 - c. Connaught/Ulster – maximum of 3 members
18. No more than 3 committee members shall be allowed from any one club.
19. Should more members be elected from any region than the maximum stated at 17a-d, then the number of votes received for each member shall be taken into account to determine who shall sit on the executive committee.
20. An audit of boats with certs as supplied by the ISA will be completed on an annual basis by the executive committee, in order to ensure that the above maximums should still apply. The executive committee will propose amendments at the AGM should changes to the limits be required.

MINUTES AND REPORTS

21. 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, including a survey of members, which will also be published on the ICRA website.
22. The Executive Committee shall cause minutes to be made, of all meetings of the association and its committees.
23. Copies of the Annual Accounts and the Income and Expenditure Account shall be sent to the ISA each year, and will be delivered at the Annual Conference/AGM to all members.

ASSOCIATION FLAG AND CREST

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

AMENDMENTS

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