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Status: Approved by the EC 2017-09-20

Notes on the revision process

Constitutional Structures

In order to allow the election of the new IRSA Executive Committee at the next General Assembly, the constitution must be changed beforehand. This is an exceptional circumstance and has been agreed and requested by the Executive Committee on 3 October 2017.

10.1 The Constitution may be amended only:

- (i) by a resolution of the General Assembly or;
- (ii) in exceptional circumstances by a postal or electronic mail vote of Association Members requested by the Executive Committee

Notes on the changes

The following notes list the proposed changes which are material and significant.

These changes deal principally with the establishment of Class Committees as part of the IRSA Executive Committee, the division of the Racing Committee into an "Events Committee" and a "Racing Rules Committee", and the retirement of the Regional Officers and the OPC Chair. An important principle in restructuring the Executive Committee was to avoid any significant increase, or decrease, in the number of Officers. Accordingly, four Officers have been added, and four retired.

Other changes clarify or improve the intent of the Constitution, or are housekeeping matters due to name changes and the like. A number of minor editorial changes are not listed, for example, the systematic provision of a list of definitions which are not provided in the current

version, and the restructuring of the Articles and paragraphs with consistent numbering and sub-paragraphs.

Abbreviations

While the national members of IRSA are, strictly, either the WS MNA or a body delegated by the WS MNA, both are referred to as “DNM”s. This is stated explicitly in Article 5.1 (i).

DNM Designated National Member of IRSA

All references to ISAF are replaced by references to WS.

WS World Sailing (previously ISAF, International Sailing Federation)

Definitions

A meeting may be physical, or may be electronic.

Meeting A gathering, either physical or virtual

“Commercial interest” is extended to an Officer’s immediate family and relatives.

Commercial Interest A commercial interest in radio sailing and related activities, if any, on the part of the person as well as those of any of their immediate family and/or their immediate relatives.

The terms “International”, “Recognised”, and “Classic” when applied to a class are now called “Designations”, to deal with the confusion that was caused by some references to the “status” of a class and the corresponding confusion of whether a class was an International class if it was not called that.

Designation “International”, “Recognised”, or “Classic”.

The nature of an IRSA Class is now defined.

IRSA Class A class of boat which has received Designation.

Article 6 General Assembly

The authority of the GA was described in two different places. The first mention is deleted, and its intent integrated into the second mention.

~~Except as in Article 2.2 and 8.3, a General Assembly acts as the final authority of the Association on all matters relating to International Radio Sailing.~~

Directives and decisions made by the Executive Committee shall be binding on all Members. Except for directives and decisions as in Articles 2.2 and 8.3, the next General Assembly may amend Executive Committee directives and decisions.

Provision is made to permit a GA to be held as a physical meeting or as an electronic meeting.

The business of the General Assembly shall be conducted ~~electronically~~ by a meeting.

It is now required that a DNM representative to a GA shall be a member of that DNM as well as a national or a resident of the country concerned.

Provision for proxies is made explicit here.

A Member shall give written notice of its appointed representative, or of the proxy appointed to vote on its behalf

Approval of the GA agenda is not a sensible item that can be proposed at a GA, because the GA agenda is a given, and the mention of such approval is deleted. Objections to the agenda at a GA may be handled by normal committee procedures.

Two kinds of report are added to the GA agenda. One concerns changes to the Regulations, if any, made by the EC. The other, for every second GA, concerns reports about the EC review of IRSA Classes.

The Agenda for a General Assembly shall include the following items:

~~() Approval of the Agenda.~~

() To receive a report of changes to the Regulations (if any).

At every second General Assembly,

() To receive the report, for each IRSA Class, of the EC review of that class.

Article 7 Executive Committee

The major constitutional changes are that Class Committees are established as part of the IRSA Executive Committee, and that the Regional Officers and the Organisation and Policy Committee Chairman are retired. As a minor matter, it is made clear that the office of Treasurer is an independent office that is not combined with some other office.

The Executive Committee shall consist of the Officers who are:

~~() The Treasurer (this position may be combined with The General Secretary)~~

~~() The Chairman of the Organisation and Policy Committee.~~

~~() The Regional Officers for Europe, the Americas and Oceania~~

~~() The Chair of the Racing Committee~~

() The Chair of the Racing Rules Committee.

() The Chair of the Events Committee.

() The Chairs of the Class Committees of IRSA Classes where the class does not have an independent ICA

A candidate for an Office cannot have held that position for more than eight years:

[...] except that no individual shall be eligible for nomination as a candidate for election to one of the positions listed in Article 7.1 if they have held that position for the immediate preceding continuous period of eight years or more.

In the current age of electronic communications, there seems no need to specify a "first meeting" of the EC, and no need to specify an annual meeting.

~~There shall be a meeting of the Executive Committee at the conclusion of every General Assembly. There shall be an annual Executive Committee meeting and at such other time or times as a meeting may be convened. Discussion Forums may be ongoing throughout the year but decisions from those Forums shall be ratified at a formal meeting of the Executive Committee~~

Article 8 Committees Established By The Executive Committee

The roles of and relationships between the new Class Committees, the existing Technical Committee, and the new Racing Rules and Events Committees are clarified.

() The Racing Rules Committee, which shall deal with matters relating to the Racing Rules of Sailing, and shall consult as appropriate with the Class Committees concerned.

() The Events Committee, which shall deal with matters relating to Championship and other Events, and shall consult as appropriate with the Class Committees concerned.

() The Technical Committee, which shall deal with matters relating to Class Rules and Measurement, and as appropriate shall consult with the Class Committees concerned.

() The IRSA Class Committees, established for each class which does not have an independent ICA, which shall deal with matters relating to their class, in consultation as appropriate with the other committees.

In turn, decisions of committees require EC ratification before they are binding, with the exception of interpretations which are immediately binding while awaiting EC ratification.

Decisions of committees shall not be binding until ratified or amended, and may be rejected, by the Executive Committee with the exceptions stated in Article 8.5.

Interpretations of the racing rules issued by the Racing Rules Committee and interpretations of Class Rules issued by the Technical Committee shall be binding while awaiting ratification or amendment by the Executive Committee, and shall cease to be binding if rejected by the Executive Committee.

The OP Committee is retired.

~~() The Organisation and Policy Committee~~

The key phrase, "When voting", is added to the start of this Article, making its intention and purpose clearer.

When voting, a decision of a committee shall be taken by a simple majority of votes cast.