

Constitution of the Laser SB3 Ireland Class Association

1 Title

1.1 The full title of the class association shall be "The Laser SB3 Ireland Class Association" (herein after known as the "Class Association")

2 Objectives

2.1 The objects of the Class Association are to:

- Enhance the enjoyment of Laser SB3 sailboats
- To organise high quality regional and national racing events
- To grow local fleets and support local racing
- To train and encourage crew of all standards
- To monitor Laser SB3 class rules and changes to protect owners investments
- To promote good inclusive social programmes
- To equally reward results in 2nd and 3rd fleets at regional and national events
- To promote and protect Corinthian values
- To maintain the Laser SB3 as a strict one design class of sailboat

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 SB3 Class throughout the island of Ireland, and its powers shall be vested in and carried out by the elected officers of the Class Association Committee as provided in this Constitution, but subject to and in accordance with the General Rules and By-Laws of the International Sailing Federation

3.2 SB3 Ireland is represented by the following local fleets:

- Northern Fleet
- Southern Fleet
- Midwest and Western Fleet
- South East Fleet
- North East Fleet

4 Class Association Committee

4.1 The Class Association Committee (herein after known as the "committee") shall be comprised of the following personnel, having been elected by majority vote at the Class Association's Annual General Meeting:

- Chairman
- Vice Chairman/Treasurer
- Local Area Representatives from each of the local fleets

The local area representatives shall take on the roles of Measurer, Secretary, Sponsorship, Training & Social rep. This is to be decided by the Committee

4.3 The Class Association 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.

4.4 The term of office for each member of the Class Association Committee shall be not more than 12 months without being re-elected.

4.5 One person may hold more than one position on the committee

5 Committee Roles

The Chairman shall be responsible for the following:

- liaison between the Class Association and the SB3 World Council
- liaison between the Class Association and all other National sailing authorities
- the co-ordination of all inter-fleet activities, regional and national events and Annual General Meeting
- general advice and assistance to the local area fleet representatives
- running the class according to the class objectives and in the best interest of the members

The Vice-Chairman/Treasurer shall be responsible for the following:

- Deputise for the Chairman in the event of his absence
- Collecting Class dues from members
- Maintaining accounts for the class
- Accounting for Class Association expenditure that is in the best interest of the membership

The Secretary shall be responsible for the following:

- Maintaining records for the class
- Maintaining minutes at the committee meetings and AGM
- Communications from the committee to the members
- Communications from the committee to external bodies such as press

The Measurer shall be responsible for the following:

- Ensuring that the class rules are being upheld at SB3I events
- The Measurer shall rule on all questions and challenges relating to the Class Measurement Rules and shall issue interpretations thereof deemed necessary by him
- Liaise with the World Council Chief measurer

The Local Area Fleet Representative shall be responsible for the following:

- Promoting local racing and membership
- Representing local issues to the Committee
- Organising a regional championship event in their region

6 Membership

6.1 The following classes of Membership shall be recognised:

- Full Membership;
- Associate Membership.

6.2 Full Membership of the Class Association shall be open to any owner of a Laser SB3, or in the case of joint owners to not more than one of them, or in the case of a Laser SB3 owned by an organisation, to a nominated representative of that organisation.

6.3 Associate Membership shall be open to any joint owner of a Laser SB3 not being a Full Member or to any individuals or organisations interested in the Laser SB3.

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

6.5 Membership requires members pay annual subscription of an amount to be agreed at the AGM.

6.6 Each Full Member shall be entitled to one vote at the General Meeting. Associate Members shall be entitled to attend and speak at a General Meeting, but shall not be entitled to vote.

6.7 Only fully paid up members of SB3I may enter a boat in SB3I regional or national events

7 Conduct of Meetings

7.1 The SB3I Class Association Committee shall meet from time to time at the request of the Chairman or three other elected committee members of the Committee and in any case not less than once every twelve months at a venue to be agreed by the Chairman. 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 Committee, unless all members shall have waived this notice period.

7.2 At meetings of the SB3I Committee, one third of the elected committee shall form a quorum and decisions shall be reached by a majority of votes of those present, each elected having one vote and the Chairman a casting vote in the event of there being no majority.

8 World Council

8.1 The Chairman of the Committee will represent SB3I on the World Council

9 Local Fleets

9.1 Each Local Fleet is responsible for running its own local racing

9.2 Each Local Fleet shall manage those affairs of the Class Association that may be delegated to it by the Committee.

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

9.4 Each Local Fleet is responsible for running a ranking or national championship event as decided at the AGM

10 Suspension

10.1 A member of the Class Association may be suspended by the Committee, 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 Committee 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 Committee member may be removed from office by the Committee 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 Class Association shall be decided by the AGM

12 Racing and Championships

12.1 The Class Association shall annually organise a series of Regional Championships and a National Championship event which shall be open to any member of the World Class Association.

12.2 The outgoing committee of any one year shall arrange dates and locations of these events which shall be sailed the following year

12.3 The class undertake to rotate the location of the national championships between local fleets.

12.4 The region that hosts the National Championships shall not have a regional event in the same year

12.4 Any racing as sanctioned by the Class or District Associations shall be undertaken in accordance with 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 Committee 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 members, where at least two thirds of Members, voting in the manner prescribed in paragraph 15.2, have approved the proposed amendment.

15.2 Votes shall be collected by either of the following methods as directed by the Committee:

- at General Meetings providing not less than fourteen days notice of such a proposed amendment has been given in each case
- Full Members replying to the Secretary of the Committee in response to a postal/email vote published by the Class. Only votes returned to the Secretary within 10 days from the date of publication of the rule change shall be valid.

16 Annual General Meeting

15.1 The Chairman shall call a General Meeting of the members and in any case not less than once every twelve months at a venue to be agreed by the Chairman. 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 Class Association, unless a majority of members shall have waived this notice period.

15.2 At an AGM, one third of the membership shall form a quorum and decisions shall be reached by a majority of votes of those present, each full member having one vote and the Chairman a casting vote in the event of there being no majority.

15.3 The Chairman will endeavour to hold the AGM at the National Championships unless exceptional circumstances prevent or early timing of the National Championships prevents this.