

**The Constitution
of the
British Finn Association**

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Constitution agreed at AGM 2021 Royal Torbay Yacht Club July 10th 2021

1.NAME AND PURPOSE

1. The name of the Association shall be the British Finn Association (BFA).
2. The purpose for which the association was formed is to promote and facilitate participation in sailing the International Finn dinghy in the United Kingdom. The association is a member of the International Finn Association (IFA) and shall work in cooperation with the IFA and the Royal Yachting Association (RYA) to support Finn sailing. The BFA will support the work of the IFA in promoting effective measurement and equipment control for the Finn class.

2. TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

3. Throughout these Rules the following defined terms will be used:
 - a. the BFA shall mean the British Finn Association;
 - b. the IFA shall mean the International Finn Association;
 - c. the Committee shall mean the committee of the BFA, consisting of elected committee members;
 - d. the BFA rules shall mean the IFA Rules governing the conduct of Finn sailing, and any additional BFA UK rules;
 - e. the BFA register shall mean the register of owners of the Finn Class with their addresses, sail number of boat, personal sail numbers, to be kept as hereafter provided;
 - f. Finn shall mean the class of sailing boat designed by Rickard Sarby and built in accordance with the current International Finn Association measurement form/rules, and known under the name: The Finn;
 - g. the Class Rules shall mean the rules relating to specification; construction and measurement controls of the IFA as defined in the IFA measurement rules to enable each Finn so measured to be a recognised boat within the Finn class for class racing purposes;
 - h. the sail number shall mean the sail number allocated to the boat;
 - i. the Hon. Secretary shall mean the elected or appointed Hon. Secretary of the BFA;
 - j. Measurement certificate shall mean a certificate as defined in the IFA class rules issued, ratified and endorsed by the BFA.

3. OBJECTIVES

4. The objectives of the BFA are to promote and further the interests of Finn sailing and to represent the interest of owners of the Finn racing dinghy as follows:
 - a. to keep members informed of developments concerning the Finn class and any proposals concerning Finn class rules.
 - b. to organise Championships and to co-ordinate the programme of races for the Finn class in the UK
 - c. to encourage National and International competition
 - d. to ensure and govern conformity on any matters relating to the Finn class measurement rules for anyone sailing a Finn.

4. MEMBERSHIP AND VOTING RIGHTS

5. The following classes of membership shall be recognised:
- a. Full Membership
 - b. Under 23 Membership
 - c. Associate Membership
 - d. Honorary Membership
6. Full membership shall, upon payment of the prescribed annual subscription be open to anyone owning and/or sailing a Finn, a joint owner, or in the case of a boat owned by a corporation or association, to a nominated representative of that organisation.
7. Under 23 membership shall, on payment of the prescribed annual subscription be open to any sailor providing they have not reached the age of 23 on the 1st January of the year the subscription is being paid for. An under 23 member shall be considered a full member of the BFA. After that age they shall become full or associate members on payment of the appropriate fee.
8. Honorary Membership shall be open to any person having an interest in the BFA who is proposed by a full member and seconded by at least one member of the BFA committee and is elected by members of the association at any General Meeting of the BFA. Honorary membership is gifted for life and has the same voting rights as a full member, for as long as they continue to show an interest in Finn sailing.
9. Associate membership is open to owners of classic Finns (built before 1985) and entitles them to participate in BFA Open meetings. Any sailor who borrows a Finn to participate in BFA events is entitled to do so as an Associate member for a maximum of three events. Associate members are not entitled to vote, and shall not become members of the committee
10. Members shall be bound by the National and International Finn Association Rules and the international measurement rules.
11. The helm of a boat must be a full member of the BFA or International class association to sail in the any national championships, but must be a BFA member for their results to count to qualify for the Travellers Trophy.
12. Only full and honorary members of the BFA shall be entitled to vote at a general meeting of the BFA, or participate in a postal or digital ballot.
13. Digital voting by email or other means may be used at the discretion of the Hon Secretary.

5. MANAGEMENT AND OFFICERS

14. The BFA shall control the affairs of the International Finn class dinghy in the UK which shall be managed by the BFA Committee. The committee shall be the only body empowered to make recommendations to the BFA for changes in the national association rules or the class rules.
15. The committee shall consist of not less than six, and not more than ten, full members of the BFA, elected annually at the AGM (subject to (26) below), or by postal/digital vote, as committee members.

16. Elected committee members (other than the Chairman, Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Secretary see (28) below) shall stand for re-election at each AGM.
17. The committee need not fill a vacancy arising in the committee unless the total number of committee members has dropped below the minimum of six. Committee members appointed to fill vacancies shall remain in office until the expiry of the term of office of the person whose position they have filled.
18. The Chairman, Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer shall serve for a term of three years subject to resignation and thereafter may continue to serve in the same capacity only if elected at the AGM. The AGM is empowered to vote to insist on the resignation of the Chairman, Hon. Secretary or Hon. Treasurer should it become necessary.
19. The committee shall meet at least three times per year in addition to the AGM. At meetings of the committee, fifty percent of the elected members shall form a quorum. All meetings must be recorded and made available for interested parties.
20. The committee shall have power to make recommendations to the members in general meetings, for amendments to the BFA rules.
21. The committee may arrange an annual national championship of the BFA and will make every attempt to hold the AGM at the annual national championship. The Hon. Secretary will notify members of the AGM one month prior to the event.
22. At least three weeks notice of the date, place and agenda for any committee meeting must be given in writing, either by post or electronically, by the Hon. Secretary to each committee member. Any business conducted by correspondence shall always be circulated through the Hon. Secretary and any committee member not answering a motion communicated to him in writing within three weeks of the date of sending shall be deemed to have agreed to such a motion.

6. POWER OF THE COMMITTEE

23. Subject to the provision of these Rules, and in particular to the objectives of the BFA, as expressed in Rule 3, the committee shall be empowered to perform all functions of management and administration.
24. The committee shall have powers to co-opt any person to assist it, whether a full member of the BFA or not, but such persons shall have no vote in committee.
25. The committee shall have powers to appoint sub-committees and delegate them such powers as it deems fit.
26. The making of payments shall be validly evidenced by the joint signatures or digital contact from any two of the Chairman, Hon. Treasurer or Hon. Secretary.

7. MEETINGS OF THE BFA

27. The AGM of the BFA shall be held, unless the committee otherwise determines, at the venue of the National Championship. If the AGM is held at any other time or place, six weeks written notice thereof shall be given to each member of the BFA.

28. A Special general meeting shall be called by the Chairman or Hon. Secretary upon receipt by the Hon. Secretary of a written request, signed by not fewer than fifteen full members of the BFA. Such meeting shall be held within eight weeks of a valid request having been received. Only that business for which the meeting has been called shall be transacted.
29. At least four weeks written notice shall be given to members of any AGM.
30. At general meetings and committee meetings decisions shall be limited to matters on the agenda, and shall be carried by a majority vote. Voting shall be by a show of hands, unless a poll is demanded by not fewer than three of the full members present. At any meeting the Chairman shall have a casting vote. The Hon. Secretary shall be responsible for circulating all members, or in the case of committee meetings, all committee members, with the result of any voting. In the event of a postal/digital ballot, all returns shall be made to the Hon. Secretary within two weeks of the date of posting the ballot paper.
31. At any general meeting of the BFA, eleven full members shall form a quorum.
32. At the AGM of the BFA, the membership shall:
- a. Elect a Chairman of the BFA. The Chairman must be a full member of the BFA. The Chairman shall be counted as one Member of the BFA committee.
 - b. Elect a Hon. Secretary. The Hon. Secretary shall be counted as one member of the committee. The Hon. Secretary shall
 - i. keep correct minutes and records of all committee and general meetings, and shall be responsible for communicating the decisions of the committee to members of the BFA;
 - ii. establish an annual calendar of sailing events and organise and manage series results for the Travellers Trophy, Spring Series Travellers Trophy, Inland Championships and National Championships;
 - iii. work with the IFA on matters of international events, measurement, rule changes, equipment registration, acting to pass information between the BFA and IFA;
 - iv. liaise with the RYA in confirming measurers;
 - v. Acts as GDPR compliance officer.
 - c. Elect an Hon. Treasurer. The Hon. Treasurer shall:
 - i. control the funds of the BFA:
 - ii. make such disbursements, as the committee shall direct;
 - iii. provide regular financial statements to meetings of the committee;
 - iv. present an annual financial statement at each AGM;
 - v. The Hon. Secretary may act as Hon. Treasurer. If the Hon. Treasurer is a different person from the Hon. Secretary, then the Hon. Treasurer will also count as one of the committee members.

- d. Elect a Membership Secretary. The Membership Secretary shall be responsible for managing all aspects of personal, full, honorary and associate membership including GDPR compliance of the BFA membership database, maintain membership related communications with the BFA membership. They shall control the issue and payment of Personal Sail Numbers, ' or this can be passed to a dedicated Committee member elected for that purpose.
- e. Elect a Classic Finn Officer. The Classic Finn Officer shall organise classic Finn events and work to enhance and develop the fleet of classic Finns across the UK.
- f. Elect a Boat Registrations Officer. The Boat Registrations Officer shall act as the certifying officer for all Finns in the UK. They will manage and maintain a record of all new and existing boat registrations, hold and confirm copies of certificates for all UK registered boats.
- g. Elect a Training Officer as deemed necessary. The Training Officer shall organise training events to enhance and develop the Finn fleet across the UK.

8. SUBSCRIPTION AND REGISTRATION FEES

- 33. (a) Subscriptions payable for all classes of membership of the BFA shall be payable annually. Subscriptions will be decided at the AGM and shall become due on 1st January of the following year. A member joining the BFA after 1st October, whose subscription has been paid for that year, shall not be liable to pay a subscription for the ensuing calendar year.
- 34. (b) Any member whose subscription has not been paid within three months of the date due may have his name removed from the list of members of the BFA by the Committee. A member's name may be restored to the BFA membership register, at the discretion of the committee, on payment of any subscription due.

9. ACCOUNTS

- 35. (a) The committee shall make sure true accounts are kept in accordance with consistent accounting policies applicable to non-profit making organisations giving particulars of:
 - a. all monies, assets and liabilities of the BFA,
 - b. all monies received and expended by the BFA and the reasons for such receipts and expenditure,
 - c. the committee shall cause the annual financial statement to be prepared and presented at every AGM of the BFA,
 - d. a copy of the annual financial statement, verified by two independent members of the BFA, as being in accordance with the BFA's accounting and other records, prepared for presentation at an AGM.

10. ALTERATION OF THE BFA RULES OR CONSTITUTION

- 36. Any alteration to the BFA rules shall be passed at the AGM by a majority of at least two-thirds of those members present and entitled to vote. Notice of any alteration of

the BFA's rules shall be, received by the Hon. Secretary, in writing at least four weeks before an AGM, and any notice thereof shall be given by the Hon. Secretary to each member in writing at least twenty-one days before such meeting.

12. DISSOLUTION OF THE BFA

37. It shall be necessary to give notice as aforesaid, in Rule 7 of the BFA rules, of any motion to dissolve the BFA and such motion must be passed by a majority of at least three-quarters of those present and entitled to vote. On such dissolution, the assets of the BFA shall be paid or transferred to such person or body as the meeting decides. This must be passed by a majority of at least three-quarters of those present and entitled to vote. If the meeting is in default of agreement assets will be dispersed initially to the IFA then to the RYA.

This constitution was adopted at the AGM held at Royal Torbay Yacht Club on 10th July 2021 as signed by:

Chairman.....Name.....

Hon Secretary.....Name.....

Hon Treasurer.....Name.....

Member.....Name.....

Member.....Name.....