

INTERNATIONAL FINN ASSOCIATION, Inc.

Constitution

2012 Edition

President of Honour - Gerardo Seeliger

Life Honorary Member - Nikos Kouklelis (1921-1995)

HALL OF FAME

Rickard Sarby

Jorg Bruder

Paul Elvström

Gilbert Lamboley

Willy Kuhweide

Hubert Raudaschl

John Bertrand

Lasse Hjortnaes

Jose Luis Doreste

Fredrik Lööf

Jose-Maria van der Ploeg

August Miller

Mateusz Kusznierewicz

Ben Ainslie

INTERNATIONAL FINN CLASS

OLYMPIC MEDAL WINNERS

1952, Helsinki, Finland

Paul Elvström, Denmark
Charles Currey, Great Britain
Rickard Sarby, Sweden

1956, Melbourne, Australia

Paul Elvström, Denmark
Andre Nelis, Belgium
John Marvin, United States

1960, Naples, Italy

Paul Elvström, Denmark
A. Chuchelov, USSR
Andre Nelis, Belgium

1964, Enoshima, Japan

Willy Kuhweide, Germany
Peter Barrett, United States
Henning Wind, Denmark

1968, Acapulco, Mexico

Valentin Mankin, USSR
Hubert Raudaschl, Austria
Fabio Albarelli, Italy

1972, Kiel, West Germany

Serge Maury, France
Elias Hatzipavlis, Greece
Victor Potapov, USSR

1976, Kingston, Canada

Jochen Schumann, DDR
Andrei Balashov, USSR
John Bertrand, Australia

1980, Tallinn, USSR

Esko Rechardt, Finland
Wolfgang Mayrhofer, Austria
Andrei Balashov, USSR

1984, Long Beach, USA

Russell Coutts, New Zealand
John Bertrand, United States
Terry Neilson, Canada

1988, Pusan, Korea

Jose Luis Doreste, Spain
Peter Holmberg, US Virgin Islands
John Cutler, New Zealand

1992, Barcelona, Spain

Jose Maria van der Ploeg, Spain
Brian Ledbetter, USA
Craig Monk, New Zealand

1996, Savannah, USA

Mateusz Kusznierewicz, Poland
Sebastien Godefroid, Belgium
Roy Heiner, The Netherlands

2000, Sydney, Australia

Iain Percy, Great Britain
Luca Devoti, Italy
Fredrik Lööf, Sweden

2004, Athens, Greece

Ben Ainslie, Great Britain
Rafael Trujillo Villar, Spain
Mateusz Kusznierewicz, Poland

2008, Qingdao, China

Ben Ainslie, Great Britain
Zach Railey, USA
Guillaume Florent, France

2012, Weymouth, Great Britain

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2016, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

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PREFACE

The International Finn dinghy is a 4.5 m long single-handed dinghy that has been sailed in over 80 countries by thousands of sailors for over 50 years.

Originally designed for the 1952 Olympic Games in Helsinki, Finland, the Finn remains the Olympic men's singlehanded dinghy.

The Finn's simple, unstayed mast and single sail offer a challenge to sailors all over the world, testing their skills, stamina and mental strength.

The Finn has a long history of development of rules and administration and has a heritage of people who have enjoyed the competition and friendship of the Class.

Many have successfully moved on into other Olympic Classes, the America's Cup Class, etc.

The essence of the Class is its rules and practices and these are outlined in this book.

INTERNATIONAL FINN HISTORY

JANUARY 1949 - The Finnish Yachting Association organizes a design competition for the single-handed dinghy to be used in the Olympic Games at Helsinki in 1952. Rickard SARBY not only produces the full-size drawings of what will become the FINN, but also builds the first prototype.

MAY 1949 - First FINN is launched.

JUNE 1949 - The result of the design competition is that the FINN is not selected. Examples of the best designs are built.

SEPTEMBER 1949 - Trial races are held in FINLAND in light winds. The FINN is also invited. The FINN and Pricken are the fastest.

OCTOBER 1949 - Further trials are announced for MAY 1950. The FINN becomes popular in Sweden; twenty-five boats are built. The two-wave emblem is chosen and the leech of the sail is shortened by 150 mm to lift the boom.

MAY 1950 - New trials in heavy weather. The FINN wins five races and comes in second in the sixth.

1952 - Helsinki, Finland - the FINN Class is first used in the Olympic Games.

1956 - The FINN GOLD CUP is presented to the Class by the late F. G. MITCHELL, esq., of England. The INTERNATIONAL FINN ASSOCIATION is founded.

1959 - Synthetic cloth is authorized for making sails.

1961 - The USA magazine "FINNFARE" develops into the official organ of the IFA. Reinforced polyester is authorized for building hulls.

1964 - The FINN Class develops a precise method of controlling hulls worldwide.

1969 - Aluminium alloy and reinforced polyester are authorized for building spars.

1973 - The FINN Class adopts the Lamboley pendulum test to control the distribution of weight of hulls.

1974 - Building materials for hulls are set free. The double bottom is accepted. A minimum weight is fixed for booms and rudders.

1984 - Any flexible material is authorized for making sails. A standard jig for the definition of station points is required for world and continental championships. The first FINN clinic is held for sailors from developing nations, as part of a long-term development programme of the class.

1986 - Publication of FINNLOG 1. This book contains both the history of the Class and many technical articles written by experts.

1993 - Carbon fibre is authorized for building spars.

1994 - The mast weight is reduced to 8 kg.

1995 - The first wing mast appears and is used to win the FINN GOLD CUP in Melbourne, Australia.

1996 - The hull weight is reduced by 5 kg to 120 kg.

1998 - The 100th edition of FINNFARE is published.

1998 - Reinforced plastic sails come into widespread use.

1999 - Publication of FINNatics - The History and Techniques of Finn Sailing, to celebrate 50 years of the Finn.

2000 - For the first time ever, competitors at the Olympics are allowed to bring their own FINNS.

2002 - IFA becomes incorporated.

2005 – Complete rewrite and standardisation of the class rules

2005 –Ben Ainslie wins his fourth consecutive Finn Gold Cup and set a new record

2007 –The first independent Junior World Championship is held in Moscow with 50 sailors attending

2009 –The Finn class celebrates its 60th anniversary

2009 –Publication of 'Photo FINNish – 60 Years of Finn Sailing'

2012 –The Finn class makes its 16th consecutive appearance at the Olympic Games in Weymouth, Great Britain

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Part A INTERNATIONAL FINN ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION

1. General
2. Membership and Dues
3. Management
4. National Class Associations
5. Finn Gold Cup
6. Other Official IFA Championships
7. Amendments

Part B DUTIES AND RIGHTS OF IFA EXECUTIVE OFFICERS (formerly Part E)

Part A

INTERNATIONAL FINN ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION

1. GENERAL

1.1 The organization shall be called the International Finn Association (IFA).

1.2 The emblem of the Class shall be two blue waves, as prescribed in measurement Rule 4.8.4.1.

1.3 The object of IFA shall be:

- To promote International Racing in the Class.
- To maintain the one-design character of the Class.
- To co-ordinate the activities of National Finn Class Associations.
- To maintain close co-operation with National Authorities, National Finn Associations and the International Sailing Federation (ISAF).

2. MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

2.1 Membership shall be open to anyone interested in Finn sailing upon payment of dues fixed by the Council.

2.2 The Council may award Honorary Life Membership to Finn sailors of particular distinction.

2.3 Membership dues shall be revised by the Council from time to time. Membership dues shall be paid through National Class Associations to IFA by May 1st in each calendar year, or - in case the Gold Cup or the European Championships are scheduled earlier - 10 days before the starting date of said events. No rights or privileges of membership shall be enjoyed by anyone after that date whilst his dues remain unpaid. If the payment is received after the deadline date, an additional fee of 25% of the dues may be charged.

2.4 The minimum number of dues per National Class Association is 10 per year.

3. MANAGEMENT

3.1 The Members of IFA delegate general jurisdiction and control over all proper Finn Class activities to the Council of IFA (the COUNCIL). The Council shall in turn delegate the management of IFA to the Executive Committee.

3.2 The Council shall consist of the representatives (properly appointed in writing) of each National Class Association and the Executive Officers.

3.3 Each National Class Association representative shall have one vote plus one extra vote for every 100 paid-up memberships; 100 memberships gives 2 votes, with a maximum of 5 votes.

Executive Officers shall have one vote each, unless they are also National Class Association Representatives, in which event they shall vote as such.

3.4 An Annual General Meeting of the Council shall be held during the Finn Gold Cup Week at the time and place to be fixed by the Executive Director, who shall circulate to members of the Council, at least one month before the Meeting, an Agenda which must include imperatively:

- The Treasurer's statement of the National Class Association representatives' voting powers, based on the IFA dues received.
- Approval of the Minutes of the last AGM.
- Reports of the Executive Committee members and of each Subcommittee.
- Approval of the Summary of the Accounts of the previous year and of a Budget for the next year.
- Election of the members of the Executive Committee, Technical and other Committees, IFA Measurers, IFA Advisors, IFA Delegates to the ISAF November Meeting, to the IOC, and the IFA Liaison Officer to the ISAF for the next Olympic Games.
- Approval of venues and dates of IFA Championships.
- Any item presented to the Executive Director in writing at least two calendar months before the Meeting.

The AGM may, by a simple majority, decide whether any other business should be added to the Agenda.

The Council has the sole right to approve increased national quotas for entry to IFA championships as allowed in exceptional circumstances (see Championship Rules Point 26).

3.5 There shall be the following Executive Officers:

- President
- Vice-President (Sailing)
- Vice-President (Development)

- Vice-President (Masters)
- Treasurer
- Chairman of the Technical Committee
- Executive Director

who shall form the "Executive Committee". The Executive Officers for each year, with the exception of the Executive Director, shall be elected by the Council at its Annual General Meeting and nomination for the appointments of the Executive Officers shall be notified in writing to the Executive Director two months prior to the Annual General Meeting. The Executive Committee is responsible for implementing the policy of the Council as expressed at its AGM, and is responsible to the Council.

3.6 The Executive Officers' term of office shall take effect immediately upon election.

3.7 The Executive Committee shall be empowered to designate the country in which the funds will be kept for the ensuing year.

3.8 A Technical Committee shall be responsible for control and enforcement of the Measurement Rule and design of the Class in general. There shall be no limitation as to the number of members of the Technical Committee. Its members shall be elected each year by the Council at its Annual General Meeting.

3.9 Interpretation of the Class Rules shall be proposed by the Technical Committee to the Council, or when an immediate interpretation is required at IFA events, to the Executive Committee. This interpretation shall be ratified or altered by the Council or the Executive Committee and thereafter submitted to the ISAF for final decision at its next meeting.

3.10 The Executive Committee shall appoint a Finance and Marketing Committee, consisting of the Executive Director, the Treasurer, and not more than three others, who shall act in an advisory capacity to the Executive Committee on IFA finances, advertising and the production of FINNFARE.

4. NATIONAL CLASS ASSOCIATIONS

4.1 National Class Associations (NCAs) may be set up to have the jurisdiction over their members and Finn Class activities within their own national boundaries and shall be autonomous.

4.2 The Executive Committee may lay down rules for the recognition of NCAs for the purpose of IFA activities (e.g., for the right to take part in IFA-sponsored regattas). Such rules, which shall be subject to ratification by the Council, may provide for minimum paid-up membership fees, the payment of royalties, and any other matters considered relevant by the Executive Committee.

4.3 NCAs shall be responsible to IFA for enforcement of the Measurement rules and for promoting the objectives of IFA within their national boundaries.

4.4 NCAs shall be responsible for collecting IFA dues from their members and for remitting such dues annually to IFA by the date specified in Section 2.2. NCA's shall be responsible for the issue of sail numbers, Measurement and Registration Certificates, and annual Membership Stickers to their members, also for keeping copies of the Measurement Forms, but may delegate these responsibilities to their National Sailing Authorities. Each NCA shall be responsible for duly appointing its representative to the Council.

5. FINN GOLD CUP

5.1 Every year one week's racing (not less than four races) will be scheduled for the Finn Gold Cup which will be the official World Championship of the Class. Subject to compliance with the Deed of Gift of this Trophy, and to ratification by the Council, the Executive Committee shall lay down rules to apply to the sailing for the Finn Gold Cup.

5.2 In laying down such rules, the Executive Committee shall take into account that it is desirable to organise the event so that the maximum feasible number of Finn sailors from as many countries as possible may be gathered together for the week of racing. Any limitation on the number of entries should also allow proportional representation according to the numbers of members of each individual NCA.

6. OTHER OFFICIAL IFA CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Executive Committee may arrange other official IFA championships such as the Open European Championship, the European Junior Championship, the Junior World Championship for the Jorg Bruder Silver Cup, and the Masters World Championship, subject to approval of the Council as specified in Section 3.4. The Executive Committee may lay down rules for the organization of such events.

7. AMENDMENTS

No amendment may be made to this Constitution except by a two-third majority of the Council at its Annual General Meeting.

Part B

DUTIES AND RIGHTS OF IFA EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

(Formerly Part E of Class Rules)

President

A representative and operational function. He* makes the final decisions in all important matters after consultation with the members of the Executive Committee, and all decisions in cases of emergency. He coordinates the relationship between IFA, the ISAF and the IOC, and represents IFA at official functions. He takes the chair in the Annual General Meeting.

He enjoys the lifetime right to enter the Gold Cup and the European Championship above the quota of his country

Vice-President Sailing

Responsible for all race management matters, such as the international calendar, the venues for major championships, approval of the documents for IFA events (Notices of Race, Sailing Instructions, etc.) Through the Executive Director he maintains contact with the National Finn Associations and individual Finn sailors. By attending as many regattas as possible he is able to express the sailors' opinions on all racing matters. In case of any emergencies he has all the rights and duties of the President. He enjoys the lifetime right to enter the Gold Cup and the European Championship above the quota of his country.

Vice-President Development

Responsible for development of new Finn sailors and Finn fleets. He organizes clinics, and coaches with the aim to develop sailing in isolated areas and to bring sailors from those areas to Olympic level. He maintains relations with National Authorities, National Olympic Committees, etc.

He enjoys the lifetime right to enter the Gold Cup and the European Championship above the quota of his country.

Vice-President Masters

Responsible for all Masters race management matters, such as the international calendar, the venues for major Masters championships, approval of the documents for Masters Finn events (Notices of Race, Sailing Instructions, etc.) Through the Executive Director he maintains contact with the National Finn Associations and individual Master Finn sailors. By attending as many regattas as possible he is able to express the Master sailors' opinions on all racing matters.

He enjoys the lifetime right to enter the Gold Cup and the European Championship above the quota of his country.

Chairman of the Technical Committee

Takes the chair at the meetings of the Technical Committee. He maintains contact with the members of the Technical Committee, circulates information, collects advice and makes the final decision in technical matters.

He advises the organizers of IFA events on measurement problems. He prepares submissions of the Technical Committee to the Annual General Meeting. When required by the IFA Council, he prepares and presents submissions regarding the Measurement Rules to the ISAF.

He enjoys the lifetime right to enter the Gold Cup and the European Championship above the quota of his country.

Honorary Treasurer

Responsible for the source and use of funds and the accounts and budget of IFA. He has to approve expense items and is responsible for the collection of dues and fees. He checks the quotas of each nation at IFA events and states the voting power at the AGM. He enjoys the lifetime right to enter the Gold Cup and the European Championship above the quota of his country.

Executive Director

He takes care of the day-to-day business of the class, including all finances and correspondence. He circulates all documents to members of the different committees, and is responsible for organizing and documenting the IFA Annual General Meeting in accordance with item 3.4 of the Constitution. He maintains official contact with outside parties, such as ISAF, National Finn Associations, National Sailing Authorities, Olympic Committees, Major Championship organizers, boat builders, sailmakers, sparmakers, etc.

The Executive Director is also responsible for the publication and distribution of FINNFARE and the running of the Finn Shop.

He enjoys the lifetime right to enter the Gold Cup and the European Championship above the quota of his country.

Other Executive Committee members (as directed by the IFA AGM)

He shall carry out his assigned duties under the direction of the President and Executive Director.

He enjoys the lifetime right to enter the Gold Cup and the European Championship above the quota of his country.

II. Duties and Rights of the National Finn Secretary

Maintains contact with the members of the IFA Executive Committee, with the National Sailing Authority in his country and with its individual sailors. He has to inform the Executive Director about who will represent his National Finn Association at the IFA Annual General Meeting. During his term of office he enjoys the right to enter the Gold Cup and the European Championship above the quota of his country.