

Mermaid Sailing Association

Constitution and Rules

1. Title and Object

The Association shall be called the Mermaid Sailing Association. Its objects shall be to promote and encourage Mermaid racing and sailing, to foster and protect the interests of owners and crews in all matters appertaining to the sport and to encourage friendly and social relationship between all Mermaid sailors.

2. Burgee

The Burgee of the Association shall be a white Mermaid on a royal blue background.

3. Membership

The following shall be classes of Membership of the Association:

- (a) **OWNER MEMBERS:** Persons who own or part own a Mermaid and have been elected to owner Membership by the Committee.
- (b) **CREW MEMBERS:** Who crew regularly in a Mermaid and have been elected to crew Membership by the Committee.
- (c) **ASSOCIATES:** Persons accepted by the Committee following application, or persons who are nominated to be Associates by an owner member but not exceeding two persons for each owner member in one season.
- (d) **UNIVERSITY ASSOCIATES:** Persons who are Members of the University Sailing Clubs which have subscribed to the Association.
- (e) **LIFE MEMBERS:** Persons who have been elected life members by the committee.

4. Committee and Officers:

- (a) The affairs of the Association shall be managed by a Committee composed of a President, Captain, Vice-Captain, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer and Official Measurer, together with two nominees each from the following club areas: Dun Laoghaire, Clontarf, Skerries, Rush, Malahide, Wexford, Foynes or any other area at the discretion of the Committee. Following the election to the office of Vice-Captain there will be progression to the offices of Captain and President. The term of each office will be two years.
- (b) All such nominees of the areas mentioned shall be owner Members. In addition the Committee may co-opt one member representing each Sailing Club of the Universities who sail Mermaids.
- (c) Each area referred to shall have the right to nominate a "deputy", who shall be a Mermaid Boat owner, to take the place of each selected member for that area should the Committee Member be unable to attend.
- (d) The Officers shall be elected each year at the Annual General Meeting of the Association and remain in office until the next Annual General Meeting. In the event of a member of the Committee failing to attend three consecutive meetings without sufficient reason (the remaining members of the Committee shall decide what is sufficient reason) this member will cease to hold office. Should any vacancy occur, the Committee shall have the power to co-opt another Mermaid owner.
- (e) The Committee shall manage all affairs of the Association and they shall have power also to make by-laws (not in contravention of these Rules) which shall have the effect of Rules until the next General Meeting. No such by-law, however, shall come into force until four days notice thereof has been posted to each member. Five shall form a quorum.
- (f) Should any case arise under these Rules or which may not be covered by these Rules, the matter shall be referred to the Committee whose decision thereon shall be final, subject, however, to an appeal to the General Meeting under Rule 5.
- (g) The Committee shall have power to appoint Sub-Committee and to confer upon them the powers necessary for the discharge of their functions. Such Sub-Committees shall retire annually or at the prior completion of their respective functions. The six Officers of the Association shall be ex-officio Members of all Sub-Committees.

- (h) The Committee shall appoint a National Sail Measurer to co-ordinate the activities of the Regional Sail Measurers and to maintain central records.

5. General Meetings

The Annual General Meeting shall take place not later than the third week in March each year, but the Hon. Secretary shall at any time, by circular, summon a Special General Meeting on a resolution of the Committee, or on a requisition signed by at least ten Owner Members. Ten day's notice shall be given of each Special General Meeting, the notice to state the object or objects of the Meeting and no other business shall be transacted thereat. Such Special General Meeting must be held within three weeks of the receipt by the Hon. Secretary of the resolution or requisition.

Ten Owner Members shall form a quorum at a General Meeting.

The Hon. Secretary's Report and Hon. Treasurer's Financial Statement (duly audited) shall be read at the Annual General Meeting.

The election by ballot of Officers (together with one Hon. Auditor, who shall not be a Member of the Committee) shall take place at the Annual General Meeting.

Each owner/life member attending a General Meeting shall be entitled to one vote on any matter. A Crew Member shall be entitled to one vote on any matter except those relating to the Constitution and Rules, Regulations, Plans and Specification. Associates, University Associates and Hon. Members shall not be entitled to vote.

6. Subscriptions

The rate of Subscription shall be fixed from time to time by the Committee, subject to ratification at the next Annual General Meeting.

The Subscription year shall commence on the 1st. April. No member or Associate who has not paid his subscription for the year shall be entitled to exercise any right of membership in that year including voting at Meetings and participation in events sponsored by the Association.

7. Plans, Specifications and Regulations

The Plans, Specifications and Regulations shall be those in force at the 1st of January 1973, together with such alterations as may be made subsequently in accordance with the Constitution and Rules.

8. Interpretation of Constitution and Rules, Plans, Specification and Regulations:

It shall be part of the powers of the Committee, at any time, on request to interpret the Constitution and Rules, Plans, Specification and Regulations. Such interpretation shall stand subject to confirmation at the next following General Meeting.

9. Alterations and additions to Constitution and Rules, Plans, Specification and Regulations:

Alterations shall require, firstly, a Resolution by the Committee and a subsequent ratification by a General Meeting. Notice of any such proposed alteration or addition shall be included in the notice of the General Meeting at which it is to be considered.

If, at a General Meeting, a Resolution is passed requesting an alteration or addition to the Constitution and Rules, Plans, Specification and Regulations, the Resolution shall be considered by the Committee who shall send a report to the next following General Meeting.

Resolutions for the alterations or additions, as above, will require passage by a simple majority, of those present and eligible to vote.

10. Racing flag and number:

Each Mermaid must have a distinguishing Flag and it must be hoisted for all races. He shall also carry on both sides of his sail, near the peak, a racing number, in numerals, which must be in figures of not less than ten inches long, and one inch wide.

11. Rule of measurement:

Every Mermaid Owner is required, before he competes in any Mermaid race, to obtain a Certificate from the Mermaid Sailing Association declaring his boat to be a D.B.S.C. Mermaid.

12. Sails:

All new sails including Spinnakers to be in accordance with the Revised Sail Plan dated 21st. March 1960, which includes four battens and maximum Cross Measurements and to be of approved materials as per Specification.

All new sails that are purchased by Members or sails that are borrowed by Members must be notified immediately to the Hon. Secretary or the Area Sail Measurer.

13. Association Trophies:

The Committee shall have power from time to time to make and alter bye laws in relation to the award of the Mermaid Championship Trophy and other Association Trophies.

The Mermaid Championship Trophy - Presented by Norman S. Hodgson at the foundation Meeting of the Association on the 13th October 1952, to maintain and increase competitive sailing of the Mermaids.

The Daphne Cup - Presented by K. D. M. Daniel to be competed for during the Mermaid Championship.

Skipper Clark Memorial Trophy - Presented by N. S. Hodgson for competition in the National Yacht Club Annual Regatta.

The Mavis Cup - Memorial to the Designer, J. B. Kearney - Presented to the Mermaid Sailing Association by Miss. M. Douglas for competition during the Malahide S. C. Mermaid Open Meeting.

The Designer's Tankard - Presented by J. B. Kearney in 1951 for competition in the Howth Sailing Club Annual Regatta.

Doreen Cup - Presented by Doreen Models to the Skerries Sailing Club for competition during Mermaid Championship Week.

Daniel Perpetual Memorial Trophy – Presented by Hal and Jane Bleakley.