

# CONSTITUTION AND RULES OF THE: INTERNATIONAL MELGES 24 CLASS ASSOCIATION.

## OBJECTS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

1. The International Melges 24 Class Association (IMCA) was founded on 8th October 1996 with London as its headquarters.
2. The principal objects of the IMCA are:-
  - a. To further the interests of the International Melges 24 class in all countries where Melges 24 are sailed and to introduce the Class to new countries.
  - b. To be responsible for the administration of the class rules and co-ordinating proposals for rule amendments for consideration by the International Sailing Federation (ISAF).
  - c. To ensure that the class retains its "International" status by complying with the criteria adopted by the ISAF.
  - d. To co-ordinate and select venues for the following International Championships and to work with any sponsors involved:-
    - (i) World Championships.
    - (ii) European Championships.
    - (iii) Gold Cups.
  - e. To produce regular newsletters containing information about the class and the activities of the IMCA for distribution to all Melges 24 sailors throughout the world (to be distributed by National Melges 24 Class Associations).
  - F. Only for the promotion of the class and the assessment and organisation of major regattas after approval by the IMCA, there may be 3 Sub-committees formed.
    - (i) Europe.
    - (ii) North and South America.
    - (iii) Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific.

## MEMBERSHIP.

3. Membership is open to National Melges 24 Class Associations.

## MANAGEMENT.

4. The affairs of the IMCA shall be conducted by the Association in general meeting. The preparation of the agenda for general meetings and the day to day management in accordance with the wishes of the IMCA in general meeting shall be the responsibility of an Executive Committee (the Officers of the IMCA) which shall comprise:-

Chairman  
1 or 2 Vice-Chairmen  
Secretary  
Treasurer (who may also be the Secretary).

The officers shall be entitled to reimbursement of expenses reasonably incurred in the performance of their duties.

### ELECTIONS OF OFFICERS.

5. The Chairman and Vice-Chairmen shall be elected for a period of 2 years and the Secretary and Treasurer for a period of 4 years. Officers may be elected for a second and final period.

### PRESIDENTS AND VICE-PRESIDENTS.

6. The IMCA may elect a President and may, at its discretion, elect Vice-Presidents. The Officers of President and Vice-President shall be reserved for those whom the IMCA especially wishes to honour by reason of interest in the class.

### GENERAL MEETINGS.

7. The Annual General Meeting shall take place in October or November at a date which precedes the annual meetings of the ISAF. Unless otherwise agreed at the preceding Annual General Meeting, the meeting shall take place in London.
8. Other general meetings may be called by the Executive Committee of following representations by representatives of 5 National Associations.
9. At a General Meeting:-
  - a. The accredited representatives of 5 National Associations shall form a quorum.
  - b. Each Officer and National Association represented at the meeting shall have one vote. In the event of equality of votes the Chairman shall have a casting vote.
  - c. The Secretaries of National Associations shall nominate in writing to the Secretary of IMCA the person who shall represent them at a meeting.
  - d. No decision affecting the rules of the Association of recommendation for change in the Melges 24 rules may be taken unless there is a two-thirds voting majority. All other matters shall be decided by a straight vote.
  - e. No decision may be taken concerning the rules of the Class unless included on the agenda.
10. The agenda for general meetings shall be sent to each National Association one month before the date of the meeting.

11. Items for the agenda at general meetings shall be only accepted from the Secretary of a National Association, and shall be in the hands of the Secretary of the International Melges 24 Class Association six weeks before the date of the meeting.
12. Minutes of meetings shall be prepared by the Secretary and circulated to all members of the Association.

#### INFORMAL MEETINGS OF MEMBERS.

13. At its meetings, the IMCA shall decide venues and dates for one or more informal meetings to be held at major regattas in the following calendar year. Such meetings shall be open to all members of National Associations, the main purpose being to provide a forum for individual members to express their views and opinions. No decisions made at such meetings shall be binding on the IMCA or its Executive Committee.

#### TECHNICAL COMMITTEE.

14. A Technical Committee shall be appointed by the Executive Committee and will be responsible for:-
  - a. Considering all technical matters concerning class rules.
  - b. Putting forward proposals for class rule amendments.
  - c. Monitoring and supervising the work of the Class Chief Measurer (if appointed).
  - d. Arranging and monitoring measurement checks at the world and European Championships and the Gold Cup and any other regattas deemed necessary.
  - e. Monitoring the performance of class measurer throughout the world with a view to ensuring that all Melges 24 comply strictly with the class rules.
15. The Committee (Inner Circle) shall comprise a minimum of 6 and a maximum of 10 persons and shall not include anyone with a commercial interest in the class (e.g. boat-builders, sailmakers). The Chairman shall be appointed by the Executive Committee.
16. The Chairman may invite boat-builders, sailmakers, sparmakers and measurers to attend meetings of the Technical Committee Outer Circle.

#### CHIEF MEASURER.

17. The IMCA may appoint a Chief Measurer who will report to the Chairman of the Technical Committee and whose responsibilities may include:-
  - a. Overseeing class measurement throughout the world including liaison with all class measurers.

- b. Monitoring the standard of registered builders throughout the world.
- c. Attendance at World and European Championships and the Gold Cup in order to carry out measurement checks.
- d. Advising the Technical Committees on matters regarding the class rules.

If no Chief Measurer is appointed the above matters are to be the responsibility of a "working group" of the Technical Committee.

#### INCOME.

- 18. The income of the IMCA shall be derived from:-
  - a. Subscriptions charged annually to National Melges 24 Class Associations based on the number of registered Melges 24 in each National Association; the subscriptions to be due on 1st January each year and the amount to be determined at the immediately preceding Annual General Meeting.
  - b. The ISAF in the form of a percentage of building fees received from registered builders, such amount to be agreed from time to time by the Officers of the IMCA.
  - c. The sale of IMCA labels which must be attached to all sails measured after 1st January 1997, the price charged for each label to be determined in advance at the preceding Annual General Meeting of the IMCA.
  - d. The sale of class rules, drawings, newsletters, other publications and articles associated with the IMCA.

#### ANNUAL ACCOUNTS.

- 19. An annual statement of account shall be made up to 31st August in each year and submitted for approval to the Annual General Meeting. The accounts shall comprise an income and expenditure account, a statement of funds (or balance sheet) and appropriate notes to the accounts.
- 20. The accounts shall be subject to independent audit.

#### GENERAL.

- 21. The official language of the IMCA shall be English.
- 22. All communications with the IMCA or its Technical Committee shall be directed through the Secretary.