INTERNATIONAL FINN ASSOCIATION, Inc.

IFA Constitution
2017 Edition

President of Honour - Gerardo Seeliger
Life Honorary Member - Nikos Kouklelis (1921-1995)

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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 60 years. Originally designed in 1949 by Rickard Sarby for the 1952 Olympic Games in Helsinki, Finland, the Finn remains the Olympic heavyweight men’s one person 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 document.

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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

2015 - The Finn Junior titles were changed into U23 World and European titles

2016 - Giles Scott won the gold at the Rio 2016 Olympics making it five gold medals in a row for Great Britain
### OLYMPIC MEDAL WINNERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Winners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1952 | Helsinki, Finland | Paul Elvström, Denmark  
Charles Currey, Great Britain  
Rickard Sarby, Sweden |
| 1992 | Barcelona, Spain   | Jose Maria van der Ploeg, Spain  
Brian Ledbetter, USA  
Craig Monk, New Zealand |
| 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    | Valentín 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 Recherdt, 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 |
| 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 | Ben Ainslie, Great Britain  
Jonas Høgh-Christensen, Denmark  
Jonathan Lobert, France |
| 2016 | Rio de Janeiro, Brazil | Giles Scott, Great Britain  
Vasilij Zbogar, Slovenia  
Caleb Paine, USA |
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 Class Rule G.1.4 (b)
1.3 The object of IFA shall be:
   a) To promote International Racing in the Class.
   b) To maintain the one-design character of the Class.
   c) To co-ordinate the activities of National Finn Class Associations.
   d) To maintain close co-operation with National Authorities, National Finn Associations and World Sailing.

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. For countries with less than 10 active sailors the Executive Committee may apply reduced membership dues.

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 an Official IFA Championship, preferably during the Finn Gold Cup 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:
   a) The Treasurer's statement of the National Class Association representatives' voting powers, based on the IFA dues received.
   b) Approval of the Minutes of the last AGM.
   c) Reports of the Executive Committee members and of each Subcommittee.
   d) Approval of the Summary of the Accounts of the previous year and of a Budget for the next year.
   e) Election of the members of the Executive Committee, Technical and other Committees, IFA Measurers and IFA Advisors, Approval of venues and dates of IFA Championships (in accordance with the IFA Event Manual).
   f) Any item presented to the Executive Director in writing at least two calendar months before the Meeting.
3.4.1 Except for Constitution amendments, all matters presented for voting shall be approved by a simple majority of the votes present. The AGM may, by a simple majority, decide whether any other business should be added to the Agenda.
3.4.2 Matters deemed urgent by the IFA Executive Committee may be decided by electronic voting. Submissions shall be communicated to Council at least 30 days before the voting deadline.
Except for Constitution amendments, all matters presented for electronic vote shall be approved by a simple majority of all Council votes. The result of the electronic vote shall be communicated to Council within 10 days of the voting deadline.

3.4.3 The Executive Committee has the sole right to approve increased national quotas for entry to IFA championships as allowed in exceptional circumstances.

3.5 There shall be the following Executive Officers who shall form the "Executive Committee".
   a) President
   b) Vice-President (Sailing)
   c) Vice-President (Development)
   d) Vice-President (Masters)
   e) Treasurer
   f) Chairman of the Technical Committee
   g) Executive Director

3.5.1 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.

3.5.2 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.

3.8.1 The Finn Class Technical Committee shall consist of the Chairman, a Vice-Chairman (if needed), all Finn Class appointed International Measurers and any other interested person(s) with a non-commercial interest in the Finn Class. This shall be the decision making body. A sub-committee shall also be formed consisting of all interested manufacturers and dealers and those with a commercial interest in the Finn Class. This sub-committee shall advise the Technical Committee but shall not vote on matters leading to changes to the Class Rules or interpretations.

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.

3.11 For an AGM to have a quorum at least 15 National Class Associations (NCAs) must be represented.

3.12 Proxy votes are allowed and must be with the Executive Director at least before the start of the AGM.

3.13 All IFA Championships shall be organised in accordance with the IFA Event Manual.

4. NATIONAL CLASS ASSOCIATIONS

4.1 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 2.3. NCAs 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 U23 European Championship, the U23 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 votes present at the Annual General Meeting. Amendments to the Constitution deemed urgent by the IFA Executive Committee may be decided by electronic voting. Submissions shall be communicated to Council at least 30 days before the voting deadline. All matters presented for electronic vote shall be approved by a by a two-third majority of all Council votes. The result of the electronic vote shall be communicated to Council within 10 days of the voting deadline.

PART B – DUTIES AND RIGHTS OF IFA OFFICERS AND REPRESENTATIVES

1. IFA EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

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, World Sailing 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 World Sailing, 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.

### 2. CHIEF MEASURER

Coordinates Event Equipment Checks at Finn Class Major Championships, coordinates the Class International Measurers, manages the location and transport of the IFA Measurement Equipment, oversees the inspection of new moulds, oversees the management of the Boats Database, and maintains a list of all National Finn Class Measurers. He shall report to the Chairman of Technical Committee and the IFA Executive Director any problems or discrepancies with equipment checked at events or equipment undergoing factory checking or fundamental measurement. He enjoys the lifetime right to enter the Gold Cup and the European Championship above the quota of his country. All builders’ inspection related costs shall be reimbursed by the given builder to IFA.

### 3. 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.

* Throughout the text "or she" is implied

PART C – ENTRY SYSTEM FOR IFA OFFICIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

All competitors must be paid up members of an IFA recognized National Finn Association.

1. The Gold Cup and European Championship

The National Finn Association (NFA) must have paid the following dues:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dues paid to IFA by NFA in current year:</th>
<th>Entries allowed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 (= minimum per country)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>260</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>310</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>360</td>
<td>11 ... etc.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to any country's normal quota:

1. One "rookie" per country who has never sailed a Gold Cup or European Championship before.
2. The 10 top individual finishers of the previous Gold Cup (or European Championship, if applicable).
3. The National Finn Secretaries.
4. The former and present members of the IFA Executive Committee.
5. The three medallists from the previous Olympics.
6. The entry quota for U23 sailors is based on the above numbers, except that the entries allowed may be increased by 2.
7. The host nation of a Gold Cup or European Championship is entitled to an increased entry quota as agreed from time to time with the Executive Committee.

2. U23 Finn World and European Championships

At U23 events that are held independently from senior championships, entry is open to all paid up NCA members.

To qualify for the U23 Finn World Championship and the U23 Finn Europeans, entrants must not have reached their 23rd birthday prior to the 1st of January in the year of the Championship.