

CONSTITUTION

1. INTRODUCTION

- a. The Laser Class is a dinghy sailing association, representing and supporting Laser sailors around the globe.
- b. The Laser dinghy is a One Design sailboat and is the most popular racing single-handed dinghy in the world.
- c. The Laser dinghy's One Design principles are defined in the Laser Construction Manual.
- d. The Laser dinghy boat is trademarked with the Laser™ name and Sunburst™ logo, visible on the boat hull, sails, rigging, foils and other parts of the boat.
- e. The Laser™ can be rigged with different sized rigs: Standard, Radial and 4.7.

2. THE ASSOCIATION DENOMINATION, TRADEMARK AND LOGO

- a. The Association of the Laser™ Dinghy is called: The Laser Class. The Association was constituted according to Article 60 and following of Swiss Civil Code, on March 9, 2020.
- b. The Laser Class and its headquarters are located at the address as part of § 10/b/ii, By-Law number 2.
- c. The emblem of The Laser Class is incorporated into the recognized Laser™ logo and Sunburst™.

3. OBJECTIVES

- a. Association objectives are:
 - i. Develop and maintain the Laser sailboat as the most popular single-handed racing and recreational dinghy in the world, regardless of age, income, gender, or ability.
 - ii. Create and support a global community of enthusiastic Laser sailors.
 - iii. Ensure the Laser sailboat is a safe, accessible and cost effective One Design dinghy.
- b. The Laser Class is to achieve its objectives by:
 - i. Undertaking responsibilities in full accountability and in a transparent manner.
 - ii. Ensuring that the Laser remains a One Design boat class.
 - iii. Organizing and supporting initiatives and events that bring Laser sailors together.
 - iv. Organizing world and regional championships in cooperation with Districts, sailing clubs, and national sailing associations/federations and local authorities.
 - v. Establishing and supporting development paths for Laser sailing and sailors regardless of geography, age, gender, income or ability.
 - vi. Ensuring Laser dinghy accessibility by keeping boat and parts costs low and widely available.
 - vii. Ensuring that Laser boats meet quality and safety standards, without compromising One Design principles.
 - viii. Promoting the Laser dinghy and the Laser community through social media and other media channels.
 - ix. Representing the Laser Class in international and regional organization such as World Sailing.

4. JURISDICTION

- a. The Association has authority over all activities as defined by the Constitution of The Laser Class throughout the world.
- b. Its powers shall be vested in and carried out by the Laser Council, which approves policies and programs at the Annual General Meeting (AGM), and the Laser Council Executive Committee (LCEC), working in agreement and in cooperation with District Associations and in conformity with this Constitution.
- c. All sailing activities will be subject to and in accordance with the General Rules and By-Laws of World Sailing.

5. DURATION

The Laser Class duration is unlimited.

6. LEGAL FRAMEWORK

- a. The Laser Class is registered as a nonprofit organization and will strictly refrain from commercial activities.
- b. The Laser Class is authorized to:
 - i. Enter license agreements with Laser trademark owners
 - ii. Appoint builders
 - iii. Enter into event agreements with parties organizing events for The Laser Class races and regattas
 - iv. Enter into sponsorship agreements for events
 - v. Other authorizations to be authorized by majority vote of the Laser Council
- c. The Laser Class will enter into licensing agreements with Laser trademark owners in their respective territories. These agreements will define the types of non-commercial activities that the trademark can be applied to or used for. The Laser Class cannot register any intellectual property or trademark for the purposes of licensing or supply of products, including the Laser Trademark.

7. MEMBERSHIP

Individual Member

- a. The Laser Class members are individual Laser sailors who pay annual membership dues and agree to be bound by the Constitution and By-Laws of the Association upon being accepted as a member.
- b. The participation to every kind of event organized or recognized by the Laser Class is reserved only to the Individual members.
- c. Members rights and access to all services are subject to member being in good standing and up to date with payment of dues.
- d. Only adult (greater than 18 years in age) Class members are eligible to stand for elected positions.

Honorary Member

- a. The Laser Council may grant honorary life membership to any person who, through special contribution or through special relationship to the Class, is considered meritorious.
- b. An honorary life member is entitled to full privileges of membership but is not required to pay the annual dues.

8. ANNUAL FEE

The Laser Class annual membership fee shall be determined by the Laser Council and confirmed at the Annual General Meeting and shall be transferred to the Laser Class bank accounts within the time set out by By-Law 2.

9. DISTRICTS

- a. A District may be a single country or region(s) within a country or multiple countries.
- b. The Laser Council Executive Committee of The Laser Class may grant a charter to a District to become a National Laser Class Association, upon satisfying the following requirements:
 - i. There are not less than 5 members registered.
 - ii. A duly elected committee has been established with designated officers as necessary.
 - iii. The submission of an application for charter which includes a copy of the National Laser Class Association rules and a current list of members.
 - iv. Confirmation that the National Laser Class Association rules are in conformity with the regulations and guidelines for District administration in By-Law 3 of The Laser Class.
 - v. An appointed or elected District member who will represent the National Association in the Laser Council.
- c. An existing district association of Laser sailors based in a District, constituted as an association according to the laws of said country, may be recognized as a National Laser Class Association by the Laser Council. This Association must be compliant with The Laser Class mandatory requirements for Charter recognition.
- d. The boundaries of Districts may be varied by the Laser Council by the application of any District concerned, and one or more Districts may be amalgamated, or any District may be subdivided into one or more Districts with the approval of the District Associations concerned.

10. ASSOCIATION REGULATIONS

The Laser Class is regulated by the following:

- a. The Laser Class Constitution;
- b. The Laser Class By-Laws:
 - i. By-Law 1 - Class Rules: technical parameters and measurements for class legal Laser boat and different types of rigging, which are derived from the Laser Construction Manual.
 - ii. By-Law 2 - Standard Operating Procedures to manage The Laser Class.
 - iii. By-Law 3 - District mandatory regulations and management guidelines.
 - iv. By-Law 4 - Championships and events supported by The Laser Class and race management.
 - v. By-Law 5 - Ethics and Standards of Conduct.
 - vi. By-Law 6 - Guidance on the use of The Laser Class brand image including a book available for any image, color code needs. Policy for the Social media and website management.
 - vii. By-Law 7 - Process for introducing, changing or updating By-Laws, including introducing changes to One Design boat and its variations.

11. AMENDMENTS

- a. Constitution amendments require the vote of 66% of the members. Voting period may be done in writing or electronically and must be received four months before deadline from the date of publication of proposed changes. Electronic voting must be verified by third party independent auditors recommended by World Sailing and results published on the website. Members can be called to vote using a certified (third party, or internal) internet based system.
- b. By-Law amendments will be submitted to the Laser Council AGM for vote as prescribed below:
 - i. By-Law 1 amendments must be proposed by the Technical Committee by majority vote and approved by 66% of the voting members of the Laser Council.
 - ii. The remaining By-Laws 2,3,4,5,6 and 7 can be amended or augmented by the Laser Council by majority vote based on recommendations and reports submitted by the Laser Executive Council Committee.

12. LASER COUNCIL (LC)

- a. Laser Council is the governing body of the Class and is composed of District representatives and the Laser Council Executive Committee.
- b. The Laser Council meets at least once a year at the Annual General Meeting in conjunction with a major racing event. Forty percent of LC attendance (physically or electronically) or proxy is required to achieve a quorum. Decisions are made by majority vote of those present (physically or electronically) or through proxy vote.
- c. Each District representative has one vote at the AGM. District representatives are selected by their districts as defined by their own By-Laws.
- d. All submissions for consideration at the LC must be received by the Laser Council Executive Committee at least 60 days in advance of the LC AGM date. The documentation and agenda for the LC will be circulated 14 days before the AGM and will be available on the Class website.
- e. The Laser Council will:
 - i. Approve the minutes of the previous meeting.
 - ii. Receive reports with respect to matters that impact the Class.
 - iii. Review and approve a statement of accounts for the preceding accounting year, forecast accounts for the current year and a budget for the next year.
 - iv. Vote on submitted resolutions.
 - v. Release, on a 12 Month basis all Laser Council Executive Committee members, where applicable, from their liabilities to the association
 - vi. Elect and/or re-elect by a majority vote the Laser Council Executive Committee members, where applicable, for a further 12 months (until the next AGM)
 - vii. Determine and delegate areas of authority and decision-making to the Laser Council Executive Committee.

13. THE LASER COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (LCEC)

- a. The LCEC is responsible for implementing plans and operations. It is accountable to the Laser Council. It will establish working groups and committees as required. All members are elected by the AGM. The LCEC will be composed of the following officers:
 - i. Chairman
 - ii. Vice-Chair
 - iii. Executive Secretary
 - iv. Technical and Measurement Officer
 - v. Finance Officer
 - vi. Communications and Events Officer
- b. With the approval of the LC and with exception of Trademark/Builder representative, LCEC members can be paid salaries and stipends for time-limited work for the Association and within the limits of the budget.
- c. The Laser Council will make every endeavor to ensure that at least three of the total seven voting LCEC members will be women. LCEC members except the Chairman & Executive Secretary will serve for a term of twelve months from their election. The Chairman & Executive Secretary will serve for a Term of 48 months from their election. The levels and types of authorizations delegated to the Chairman and Executive Secretary

are defined in the By-Laws. Consecutive terms for any LCEC members will be limited to a maximum of 96 months.

- d. Should one or more LCEC positions under § 13/a/i-vii become vacant, the LCEC can designate these officers as interim positions until the next AGM
- e. The LCEC also has the following non-voting representatives:
 - i. Past Chairman
- f. The LCEC also has the following voting representative:
 - i. One representative of the Trademark Owner(s) and/or Builder(s)

14. EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

- a. An Extraordinary General Meeting discuss specific concerns may be called by:
 - i. Majority vote of the Laser Council Executive Committee; or
 - ii. Majority vote of the District representatives.
- b. The calling of an Extraordinary General Meeting shall be notified to Districts and Members at least 30 days before the date of the meeting. The meeting can be held electronically.
- c. An Extraordinary General Meeting will not interfere with the 12 Month responsibilities & liabilities of the Laser Council Executive Committee

15. TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

- a. The Technical Committee consists of a Chairman, the Technical and Measurement Officer, Chief measurer and second measure, 2 Trademark owner/builder representatives and other members required to fulfill functions as approved by the LCEC. Recommendations are made by majority vote.
- b. The function of the Technical Committee is to:
 - i. Ensure that the One Design controls and processes are properly exercised by the builders and suppliers in accordance with the Construction Manual.
 - ii. Evaluate proposals for change or improvements in Laser equipment and recommend their adoption or advise the Laser Council on any technical matters relevant to the Association
 - iii. Ensure proper measurement takes place at The Laser Class-sponsored events and to act as final judge for measurement disputes.
 - iv. Evaluate applications for new builders and report their recommendation to the LC AGM.
 - v. Maintain the Laser Construction Manual.
 - vi. Respond to any query by a member regarding the One Design or specification of Laser boats and to report to the LCEC.
 - vii. Identify and recommend ways and means the One Design principles can be made more sustainable and environment friendly.

16. FINANCES

- a. As a non-profit organization requiring resources for its operations, the LCEC will have access to revenues and resources from the following sources:
 - i. Share of plaque and sail fees
 - ii. Membership fees, to be determined by the Laser Council
 - iii. Fees for championships applications, approved by the LCEM, for each competitor who participates in international regattas recognized by The Laser Class
 - iv. Sponsorship and patronage (financial and value-in-kind)
 - v. Any other resources approved by the Laser Council to support activities in support of the Constitution's Objectives
- b. The LCEC will prepare annual accounts each year which show the Association's true capital, income and expenditures of the previous year and year-to-date. The reporting year will be the calendar year. Income and expenditures will be reported bi-annually. A budget detailing revenues and expenses shall be agreed each year by the Laser Council and details of all expenses will be provided.

17. AUDITORS

- a. The LC will elect two internal auditors that are Class members. They will annually audit the financial reports submitted of the Class, including the loss and profit accounts and balance sheets and present their report to the AGM.
- b. The internal auditors are to receive all accounts and supporting documents of the previous year and year-to-date at least two months before the AGM.
- c. The mandate for the Auditors will be two years and they may be re-elected without restrictions.
- d. By majority vote, the LC may exceptionally request for independent external auditors to undertake financial or other forensic audits. External financial audits will be made public and available on the Class website.

18. SUSPENSION AND REMOVAL FROM MEMBERSHIP

- a. A National Laser Class Association or individual member may be suspended or terminated from membership by the LC through majority vote based on the recommendation of a member of the LC or District Association, for gross violation of the Constitution or By-Laws or for unsportsmanlike conduct as defined in paragraph 19.c.
- b. Only after the LCEC undertakes a hearing and protects the individual's rights to due process, including a mutual exchange of evidence prior to the hearing, can an individual be recommended to the LC for suspension or termination.
- c. A member may be suspended or terminated for the following:
 - i. Committing an unlawful act in relation to the Class or one of its members;
 - ii. For any unsportsmanlike conduct contrary to the interest of the members of the Class; or
 - iii. For intentional violation of the Constitution and Class By-Laws.
- d. The duration of a suspension shall be recommended by the Chairman and voted on by the LC.
- e. A suspended member shall be precluded from racing or enjoying any other rights of membership during the period of suspension.
- f. A suspended or removed member who is an Officer of the LCEC will also be suspended or removed from their position on the LCEC.

19. APPEAL

Any dispute arising in relation to districts, eligibility and race disputes, measurements, the interpretation of this Constitution or the By-Laws, may be made to the Laser Council Executive Committee whose decision shall be based on majority vote, and is final and binding. Ethics violations. Ethics violations leading to suspension or removal from membership or office are decided by the Laser Council whose decision shall be based on majority vote and is final and binding. All other matters are governed by statutes in the By-Laws. All Association communication including legal matters or matters of arbitration will be made in the English language. In the event of interpretation discrepancies by correspondence the English language interpretation will prevail.

20. DISSOLUTION

- a. The dissolution of The Laser Class may not be decided without 80% of votes of the quorum at the Laser Class AGM.
- b. In the case of dissolution of The Laser Class, the assets will be entirely assigned to a non-profit institution with similar public interest goals.

The Laser Class Constitution - November 2020