

**ARTICLES OF THE
NORDIC FOLKBOAT INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION**
Valid from August 1st, 2010



“N F I A”

Objects of the Association

1. THE NORDIC FOLKBOAT INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION was founded on 26.2.94 in Hamburg Germany.
2. The principal objects of the N F I A are:
 - [a] To further the interest of the Nordic Folkboat in all countries where Folkboats 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 and final approval by the Scandinavian Yacht Racing Union (SYRU). Such rule changes to be enforced on the 1st January following each Olympic Games. In exceptional circumstances the NFIA Board may introduce with SYRU approval amendments to take effect immediately on the receipt of SYRU approval and ratified at the next NFIA AGM.
 - [c] To ensure that the class retains its status by complying with the criteria adopted by the S.Y.R.U.
 - [d] To co-ordinate and select venues for the following international championships

The Gold Cup
The Sessan Cup
 - [e] To produce regular newsletters containing information about the class and the activities of the N.F.I.A. for distribution to all Folkboat sailors throughout the world. (To be distributed by the National Folkboat Associations).

MEMBERSHIP

3. Membership is open to all National Folkboat Associations for Full Membership and to Individuals as Single Members

Individual members are sought to support the Class Interest and shall be encouraged to make submissions to the Executive Committee accordingly. The Individual Membership shall not be available for a period of less than three years.

MANAGEMENT

4. [a] The affairs of the N.F.I.A. shall be conducted by the Association in a General Meeting. The preparation of the Agenda for General Meetings and the day to day management in accordance with the wishes of the N.F.I.A. in General Meetings shall be the responsibility of the Executive Committee (the officers of the N.F.I.A.) which shall comprise:-

1. Chairman
2. Vice-Chairman
3. Technical Chairman
4. Secretary
5. Treasurer (Who may also be the secretary)

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

[b] All correspondence effecting the Association shall be addressed to the Secretary.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

5. [a] The Vice-Chairman, Secretary, treasurer and Technical Chairman shall be elected a period of three years. All Officers shall be elected by a simple majority at the General Meeting.

[b] No Officer shall be eligible for election for more than three consecutive terms and shall have no commercial interests in the Folkboat Class

[c] At the Annual General Meeting held in each year one third of the elected officers shall become subject to retirement and subject to rule 5[b] be eligible for re-election. The elected member to retire shall be the one who has been longest in office since his/her last appointment. If a choice is necessary between members eligible for retirement on the same date, the meeting shall decide by ballot.

[d] The Chairman is eligible for election for a three year period, after which he/she would be unable to stand for a period of three years unless he/she be re-elected by a unanimous vote of all the countries eligible to vote at the Annual general meeting.

[e] At the end of the chairman's period in office the chairmanship should pass to another country.

[f] Postal votes shall be acceptable.

GENERAL MEETINGS

6. The Annual general meeting shall take place during the Gold Cup or at a date which precedes the Annual general meetings of the S.Y.R.U. Unless otherwise agreed at the preceding Annual General meeting, the meeting shall take place where the Gold Cup is organised.
7. Other general meetings may be called by the Executive Committee or following representations by representatives of 3 National Associations.
8. At a General Meeting
 - [a] The accredited representatives of three the National Associations shall form a quorum.
 - [b] Each National Association represented at the meeting shall have 1 vote + 1 vote per each 100 yachts registered in their National Folkboat Association, rounded to the nearest multiple of 100.
 - [c] The Secretaries of National Associations shall nominate in writing to the Secretary of the N.F.I.A. the person who shall represent them at the meeting.
 - [d] No decision affecting the rules of the Association or recommendations for changing the Class rules may be taken unless there is a two thirds voting majority. All other matters shall be decided by a straight vote.
 - [e] When a National Association is not represented at the meeting, it shall be entitled to vote on the Agenda by proxy - such proxy forms to be sent with the notice of meeting. In the event of a National association not be present nor having submitted a proxy form it shall be deemed to have abstained.
 - [f] No decision may be taken concerning the rules of the Class unless included on the Agenda.
9. The Agenda for General Meetings shall be sent to each National Association at the latest one month before the date of the meeting.
10. Items for the Agenda at general Meetings shall only be accepted from the Secretary of a National Association, and shall be in the hands of the Secretary of the N.F.I.A. Not later than six weeks before the date of the meeting.
11. Minutes of meetings shall be prepared by the Secretary and circulated to all members of the Association within one month after the General Meeting.

INFORMAL MEETINGS OF MEMBERS

12. At its Annual Meeting, the N.F.I.A. 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 N.I.F.A. or its Executive Committee.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

13. A Technical Committee shall be appointed by the Executive Committee and will be responsible for:

- (a) Considering all technical matters concerning the class rules.
- (b) Putting forward proposals for class rules amendments.
- (c) Monitoring and supervising the work of the Technical Chairman.
- (d) Arranging and monitoring measurement checks at the Sessan Cup and the Gold Cup.
- (e) Monitoring the performance of class measurers throughout the world with a view to ensuring that all Folkboats comply strictly with the class rules.

14. (a) The committee shall comprise a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 6 persons, who have no commercial interest in the Folkboat Class and who shall be allowed to claim for reimbursement of expenses incurred in attending specific meetings of the Technical Committee which the Executive Committee has approved: it shall include:

N.F.I.A. Chairman (or Vice-Chairman)
N.F.I.A. Technical Chairman
Technical Lawyer

The committee may also invite 1 or 2 boatbuilders as well as 1 or 2 sailmakers as consultants only without any voting right at their own expense.

14. (b) The Executive Committee shall appoint members to the Technical Committee for a period of three years after which they may be eligible for re-appointment subject to a unanimous vote.

15. The Chairman may invite other boatbuilders, sailmakers, sparmakers and measurers to attend one meeting per year at their expense.

TECHNICAL CHAIRMAN

16. The N.F.I.A. Technical Chairman's responsibilities shall 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. Attending at the Gold Cup in order to carry out measurement checks.
- d. Advising the Technical committee on matters regarding the class rules.

INCOME

17. The income of the N.F.I.A. shall be derived from:
- a. Subscriptions charged annually to National Folkboat Class Associations based on the number of registered Folkboats in each National Association, the subscription to be due on the 1st of January each year and the amount to be determined at the immediately preceding annual general meeting.
 - b. A building fee received from Registered Builders, such amount to be agreed from time to time by the Officers of the N.F.I.A.
 - c. The sale of N.F.I.A. labels which must be attached to all sails measured after 1st January 1994, the priced charged for each label to be determined in advance at the preceding Annual General Meeting.
 - d. The sale of class rules, drawings, newsletters, other publications and articles associated with the N.F.I.A.
 - e. The Secretary shall open such Bank Current or deposit Accounts as shall be necessary for conducting the affairs of the Association.
 - f. The Secretary shall on the instructions of the Board invest the associations funds, as they feel appropriate. Any such investment to be approved at a meeting of the Board by a unanimous vote.

In 1994/95 the income shall be generated from 17c only

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

18. a. The financial year shall be July 1st to June 30th.
- b. An annual statement of the accounts shall be made available by 30th April 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 for balance sheet and appropriate notes to the accounts.
19. The accounts shall be the subject of an independent audit.

GENERAL

20. The official language of the N.F.I.A. shall be English.
21. All communications with N.F.I.A or its Technical committee shall be directed through the Secretary
22. Recommendations. Any Member Association or Member of the Board may suggest to the Board a recommendation. The Board will decide if the recommendation should be put in force. It may be in force until cancelled by the Board or until included in the Class Rules. It will be filed by the Secretary and published in the homepage and in the newsletters of National Associations.

Amendments..

AGM 1996 8(a) amended, 8(e) renumbered 8(f), new 8(f) added
AGM 1998 17(f) added
AGM 2001 8(b) amended, 8(e) amended, 14 renumbered 14 (a) amended and
new 14(b) added.
AGM 2003 1(b) amended, new article 22 inserted
AGM 2007 2(b) amended
AGM 2008 5(b) amended, 5(e) amended
AGM 2009 5(d) amended, 6 amended
AGM 2010 18(a) amended

Signed.....Position.....

On Behalf of.....Date.....