

i550 Class Association Constitution

Version 1 - Proposed

1 Name

- 1.1 The i550 Class Association shall be known and referred to as the “i550 Class”.

2 Objective

- 2.1 The i550 Class shall encourage, promote and support the i550 Class Yachts through sailing, building guidance and fellowship.
- 2.2 The i550 Class shall coordinate and manage the affairs and the rules of the i550 Class, shall provide a structure of management, and shall cooperate with the i550 Fleets and the recognized design owner (RDO).
- 2.3 The i550 Class shall coordinate and work with any sponsors and management bodies involved in any officially sanctioned i550 Class event.

3 Other Terms and Definitions

- 3.1 **The Class Rules** shall mean the rules relating to measurement, equipment, racing condition of an i550 yacht, and the practices of its crew.
- 3.2 **The Board** shall mean the governing body of the i550 Class Association, the composition of which is defined in Article 8.
- 3.3 **Fleet** shall mean any group of at least three (3) sailing i550 yachts recognized by the i550 Class to control and organize sailing within a geographic area. It shall be self-organized and responsible for its own affairs.
- 3.4 **At-large Fleet** shall mean a fleet for all i550 sailing yachts not otherwise part of a fleet for a specific geographic area.
- 3.5 The official language of the i550 Class shall be English. All measurements shall be specified in Imperial and Metric units of measure.
- 3.6 **Class Sanctioned Event** shall mean those regattas approved by the board and organized by the i550 Class or an approved Fleet.
- 3.7 An **i550 yacht** shall be defined as a vessel in sailing or substantially completed condition which conforms to all i550 Class Rules, was built to the i550 specifications as published by the RDO, for which a legitimate hull license has been purchased from the RDO. "Substantially completed" is to mean that hull panels, internal frames and decking have been permanently joined.
- 3.8 **Recognized Design Owner (RDO)** shall be defined as “Tim Reiter of Watershed Sailboats, or any future successor to ownership of the design”.
- 3.9 A **Measurement Certificate** shall be defined as a document issued by the Chief Measurer certifying compliance to the then current i550 Class rules.

4 Jurisdiction

- 4.1 The i550 Class Constitution, the i550 Class Rules and other associated regulations are binding on all members.
- 4.2 Participation in class sanctioned events may be contingent upon compliance with additional criteria as defined by the i550 Class.
- 4.3 To participate in class sanctioned events, the skipper of a yacht must be a class member as defined in section 5.1.

5 Membership and Voting

- 5.1 A **Full Member** shall be an owner of an i550 yacht who has paid the i550 Class Full Membership dues. Only Full Members are entitled to vote or hold office.
- 5.2 An **Associate Member** (or Junior Member when under 21 years of age) shall be one not included in 5.1, who has an interest in the class, and who has paid the i550 Class Associate Membership dues, which shall be 50% of the Full Membership dues. Associate Members shall not be entitled to vote nor be eligible to hold office.
 - 5.2.1 If a Junior Member is eligible for Full Membership under 5.1, they shall nevertheless continue to be eligible for Junior Member level events.
 - 5.2.2 The Board may waive membership dues for an Associate Member when it feels that such member has made an extraordinary contribution to the i550 Class.

6 Annual Subscriptions and Fees

- 6.1 Dues will be paid annually to the i550 Class.
- 6.2 Dues amounts shall be determined at the Annual General Meeting(AGM).

7 Disciplinary Action

- 7.1 Should any member of the i550 Class, or a competitor on a i550 yacht owned by a member of the i550 Class, having acted in a manner that could bring the i550 Class into disrepute, the i550 Class reserves the right to take disciplinary action, up to, and including revocation of i550 Class membership and all privileges associated with such membership.
- 7.2 There shall be not less than 30 day notice given to an i550 Class member preceding a hearing under this section.
- 7.3 Expulsion of an i550 Class member shall require a two thirds majority vote of the Board.

8 Governing Board

- 8.1 **The Governing Board shall consist of the following officers.**
 - 8.1.1 Class President, shall be responsible for day to day operations of the i550 Class.

- 8.1.2** Chief Measurer, shall serve as the Chairman of the Technical Committee, officiate in the absence of the Class President.
- 8.1.3** Class Secretary, shall serve as primary point of contact for all i550 Class business, and maintain an accurate record of all i550 Class and Board business and records.
- 8.1.4** Class Treasurer, shall be responsible for the financial management of the i550 Class.
- 8.1.5** Each Fleet shall be represented by one Board Member casting 1 vote for every five i550 yachts in his/her fleet, but in no case less than 1 vote.
- 8.1.6** A Fleet that fails to participate in two consecutive AGM's, or whose membership falls below 3 sailing yachts at the time of any AGM, must re-apply to the Board for recognition.

8.2 Duties and obligations of class officers

- 8.2.1** The President shall review and certify the association financial records before each Annual General Meeting.
- 8.2.2** Governing Board members shall recuse themselves from issues where there is a financial conflict of interest.
- 8.2.3** The President shall authorize any expenditure by the class. The Chief Measurer may do so in the President's absence.
- 8.2.4** The Chief Measurer shall oversee all official measurements of the i550 Class.
- 8.2.6** The Chief Measurer is responsible for the training of official i550 Class measurers.
- 8.2.7 Rule Interpretations.**
 - 8.2.7.1** The Chief Measurer may write Rule Interpretations. There shall be a 30 day comment and appeal period after they are issued and published to the class website before they become binding.
 - 8.2.7.2** Any rule interpretation may be appealed to the full Board at any time. Such appeal shall be promptly scheduled and reviewed by the Board, in accordance with section 8.6.1. Interpretation appeals shall be decided by a majority vote of the board.
 - 8.2.7.3** All current Interpretations shall be published to the Class website.
 - 8.2.7.4** In deciding any question the intended meaning of the rules shall be considered rather than any technical misconstruction that might be derived from the wording. Extenuating circumstances may be taken into consideration for i550 Class rules if the wording requires interpretation and no deliberate attempt to gain an unfair advantage has been practiced. Precedent and the established policy of the i550 Class shall be taken into consideration in interpreting any rule of obscure meaning or not covered at all.

8.3 Elections

- 8.3.1** Nominations for Class President, Chief Measurer, Secretary and Treasurer may be submitted by any full member. A Call for Nominations shall be made by the Class Secretary 60 days prior to the AGM.
- 8.3.2** Each full member may submit one nomination for each position. A minimum of two (2) nominations is required for inclusion on the ballot.
- 8.3.3** A nominee must be a full member at the time of nomination.
- 8.3.4** Nominations shall be submitted to the Secretary no later than 30 days prior to the AGM.
- 8.3.5** Election of class officers shall take place during the AGM according to section 9.1.2.1.

8.4 Term Limits

- 8.4.1** Each board member shall serve a two (2) year term.
- 8.4.2** In the event that a board member is unable to complete his/her term, the position shall remain vacant until the next AGM when the position shall be filled by election.
- 8.4.2** The Class President, Chief Measurer, Secretary and Treasurer shall serve no more than two (2) consecutive terms in the same position.

8.5 Technical Committee

8.5.1 Technical Committee Structure

- 8.5.1.1** The Technical Committee shall be chaired by the Chief Measurer.
- 8.5.1.2** The Technical Committee shall serve at the pleasure of the Chief Measurer; all appointments shall be approved by simple majority vote of the Board.
- 8.5.1.3** The Technical Committee and its members do not have a vote on the Board.
- 8.5.1.4** Each Technical Committee member is appointed to serve a 2 year term.
- 8.5.1.5** There shall be no term limit for members of the technical committee.
- 8.5.1.6** The Technical Committee is limited to three (3) members in addition to the Chief Measurer.

8.5.2 Technical Committee Purpose

- 8.5.2.1** The Technical Committee shall consider all technical matters concerning class rules.
- 8.5.2.2** The Technical Committee shall put forward proposals for amendments to class rules, building specifications and measurement form.
- 8.5.2.3** The Technical Committee shall be responsible for arranging and monitoring measurement checks at any officially sanctioned i550 Class regatta.
- 8.5.2.4** The Technical Committee, in the conduct of its business, may seek the views and opinions of outside expertise as necessary.

8.6 Announcement of Meetings

- 8.6.1** The Board may meet to conduct i550 Class business at any time. The meeting and agenda shall be announced to all class members at least two (2) weeks prior to the scheduled meeting date.
- 8.6.2** The Board may not use section 8.6.1 to address business otherwise reserved for the AGM.

9 Annual General Meeting (AGM)

9.1 Purpose

- 9.1.1** The AGM will be conducted annually in conjunction with the largest i550 Class sanctioned event occurring during that year.
- 9.1.2** The following business shall be conducted at the AGM
 - 9.1.2.1** Election of Class Officers by simple majority.
 - 9.1.2.2** Approve an annual financial statements and annual budget for the i550 Class by simple majority.
 - 9.1.2.3** Approve any proposed i550 Class Rule changes, requires a two thirds majority vote.
 - 9.1.2.4** Approve any proposed i550 Constitution changes, requires a two thirds majority vote.
 - 9.1.2.5** Select the location and date of the following year's i550 Class Epoxy Cup Championship regatta and AGM.
- 9.2** A quorum shall be declared upon the attendance of at least 60% of full members..
 - 9.2.1** If a quorum exists at roll call, it exists throughout the meeting.
 - 9.2.2** If a quorum is not present, voting will be conducted by email ballot sent to all full members two (2) days after the AGM. The outcome of such voting shall be determined by a majority of all votes received by the i550 Class Secretary within fourteen (14) days of the date of notification.
 - 9.2.3** Attendance via electronic means is permissible.
- 9.3.1** All new business must be submitted to the secretary no later than thirty (30) days prior to the date of the AGM.
- 9.3.2** Any member of the Board may submit new business to the agenda.
- 9.3.3** Class members shall submit new business to the agenda through their Fleet board member.
- 9.3.4** The Secretary shall publish the AGM agenda, and associated supporting documentation, to the i550 Class website, no later than 3 weeks prior to the AGM.
- 9.4.1** Each full member shall have one (1) vote.
- 9.4.2** Any full member may submit their vote via proxy through another full member.

10 i550 Builder Protection

- 10.1** A valid i550 Yacht Measurement Certificate shall not be invalidated by any Class Rule change regarding hull and mast. Any other rule changes shall be binding to all class members.
- 10.2** Any changes to the official i550 plan set or specifications as published by the RDO shall be voted upon as a "rule change" under section 9.1.2.3 before inclusion as an i550 Class document.