

# CONSTITUTION

## **Section 1. *Name***

The organization shall be known as the Snipe Class International Racing Association. It is a non-profit corporation under the laws of the State of Ohio, U.S.A.

## **Section 2. *Insignia and Emblem***

The insignia of the International Snipe Class shall be a silhouette of a flying Snipe as illustrated on page 41 of this Rule Book, and the crest of the Class, both which are trademarks of the Association that are registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

## **Section 3. *Object***

To promote racing of sailboats of the International Snipe Class properly regulated to insure that all boats have identical racing capabilities to as great a degree as possible.

## **Section 4. *Jurisdiction***

The Association shall have jurisdiction over all Snipe activities, and these shall include: (a) establishment of a proper constitution and by-laws (b) regulation of all rules and restrictions established to insure the above stated purpose (c) the collection of necessary fees from the members to insure supervision of the class and the execution of proper supervision.

## **Section 5. *Eligibility***

Membership is open to all those who sail Snipe Class sailboats that have been properly measured and are currently registered, displaying the decal of the current year and in compliance with the requirements of the Snipe Class.

## **Section 6. *Organization***

The Association shall consist of members usually organized into Fleets. These may be members of one Yacht Club or where more practical, from several yacht clubs in an area. A member may be unattached to a regular Snipe Fleet where formation of an official Fleet is impracticable.

## **Section 7. *Charters***

A new Fleet may be granted a charter and Fleet number from the Association upon application to the Executive Director through the National Secretary. Such application can only be made after the Fleet has been provisionally organized and the necessary Fleet officers and measurer elected to office in accordance with the SCIRA Rule Book. A charter may be refused by the Association.

## **Section 8. *Charter Renewal***

Each Fleet number shall be assigned according to the order of application and the charter shall be automatically renewed from year to year until revoked by the Association.

## **Section 9. *Fleet Formation***

Whenever there are five or more boats of the Class, all built to conform to the rules, a Fleet may be formed. Such fleets shall be headed by a Fleet Captain, elected by the members. There shall be a Measurer or Measurement Committee for each Fleet, also elected by the members. Meetings may be called by the Fleet Captain either at regular intervals or at the request of three or more members of such Fleets. A quorum shall consist of at least 50% plus one of the members that have paid dues for the current year. Vacancies occurring among the officers of a Fleet shall be filled by an election as soon as possible after the vacancy. In other respects each Fleet shall be entirely self-governing except in matters conflicting with the rules of the Class. It is recommended that Fleet officers be elected for a 2-year term, taking office January 1<sup>st</sup> of each even-numbered year.

A new Fleet may organize with a three-boat minimum under a temporary charter for one year; the second year, they can have an official fleet with only four boats; the third year, five boats or no fleet; the charter to be granted by the Association.

## **Section 10. *Fleets Within Yacht Clubs***

In cases where a Fleet is formed within the membership of a yacht club, the Fleet Captain and Measurer shall function according to the Class rules and the Fleet shall live up to the Class rules in every way.

## **Section 11. *Activities***

Each Fleet is encouraged to subdivide according to age and skill. A Junior Fleet should be enthusiastically encouraged, trained, supported, and promoted. A sailor is considered a Junior until the year of his/her twenty-second birthday. The Junior Fleet shall come under jurisdiction of its Senior Fleet but may elect its own officer and hold its own meetings and point-score races exactly like any other Fleet

but shall not be recognized as a Fleet by the Association. Junior Fleets shall be fully amenable to the Class rules, restriction etc. Some Fleets may find it wise to divide the Senior Fleet into Class A and Class B skippers for the sake of more interesting competition.

**Section 12. *Fleet Reports***

Each Fleet Captain should be responsible for the filing with the National Secretary of complete results of at least five Point Scoring Races (see page 102) each year upon the form approved by the Association.

**Section 13. *Revocation of Charter***

A charter may be revoked after it has been issued for failure to maintain a good standing, falling below the minimum quota of boats, or for violation of the Class Constitution, By-Laws or Restrictions. Fleets which permit non-measured and non-paid-up boats to race may have their charters revoked.

**Section 14. *Suspended Fleets***

Fleets which have been suspended from membership in the Association shall have no right to file race results with the Executive Director and the members of such Fleets shall have no right to compete in any regattas held for boats of the Class or in any open regattas in which the boats of regularly chartered Fleets take part. Suspended Fleets shall have no rights whatever in the Association and cannot be reinstated into membership until proof is submitted that they will comply with all the Class rules. Suspended fleets wishing to be reinstated must have five registered boats and five registered senior members to be reinstated.

**Section 15. *Classes of Membership and Ownership***

The Association shall recognize the following classes of Membership and Ownership:

- Senior Member:** Members who will be at least 22 years old in the membership year and who are authorized by the Association to skipper or crew registered Snipe Class sailboats;
- Junior Member:** Members who will not be 22 years old in the membership year and who are authorized by the Association to skipper or crew registered Snipe Class sailboats;
- Owner:** Members who own registered Snipe Class sailboats that conform to the restrictions of the Class.
- Non-Owner:** Members who do not own registered Snipe Class sailboats that conform to the restrictions of the Class.
- Entity Owner:** Entities that own registered Snipe Class sailboats that conform to the restrictions of the Class and that Members of the Association may sail.

**Section 16. *Obligations of Membership***

Application for membership in the Association either by owners, non-owners, entity owners or by Fleets implies that the applicants agree to abide by all Class rules.

**Section 17. *Privileges of Membership***

Senior and Junior members of the Association in good standing, shall be entitled to the Class identification card signifying that they are authorized to participate as skippers (or crews) in races held by the Fleet of which they are members, and in such other regattas held under the jurisdiction of the Association as they may qualify to enter, and to enjoy the advantages to Snipe skippers (and crews) afforded by the organization and management of the Association.

Individual Owners and Entity Owners of registered Snipe Class sailboats that conform to the requirements of the Snipe Class and who are members of the Association in good standing, shall be entitled to a Class emblem signifying that their registered boats are authorized to participate in races held by the Fleet of which the owners are members, and in such other regattas held under the jurisdiction of the Association as their boats may be entered, and the advantages to Snipe owners afforded by the organization and management of the Association.

**Section 18. *[Reserved]***

**Section 19. *Dues***

Each member of the Association and each owner of a Snipe Class boat, shall pay to the Association dues applicable to his/her country, the amount being determined by agreement between the National Secretary and the Board of Governors. Dues are to be paid by the owners of boats already holding measurement certificates within thirty days after the start of their local Fleet's racing season

**Section 20. *Non-payment of Dues***

If the owner of a measured boat of the Class shall fail to pay his dues within one month of the start of his Fleet's official racing season, such boat shall become ineligible to race. Such an owner shall lose his membership in the Association and all rights connected therewith. In the case of new boats launched after

the expiration of the thirty days of grace, the owner may have his boat registered and measured and take part in the remaining point score races. If such procedure is not followed, the boat may not race in any open or closed races unless special permission is granted by the Fleet and approved by the National Secretary.

### **Section 21. Reinstatement**

A member suspended for non-payment of dues may be reinstated when current dues have been paid in full.

### **Section 22. Officers**

The officers of the Association shall be a Commodore, a Vice Commodore, and an Executive Director.

**22.1 Commodore:** Duties of the Commodore include: bi-annually appointing a Nominating Committee, a chairman of the Long Range Planning Committee and other standing committees. The Commodore shall be the chief executive officer of the Association and shall enforce its laws and execute the orders and policies promulgated by the Board of Governors.

**22.2 Vice Commodore:** The Vice Commodore shall be the chairman of the Promotion Committee and shall take over the duties of Commodore if the Commodore becomes incapacitated. The Vice Commodore will also oversee the location of future World championship regattas.

#### **22.3 Executive Director**

The Executive Director shall be elected by an absolute majority of the Board of Governors. The Executive Director shall serve until discharged by an absolute majority of the Board of Governors. The duties of the Executive Director are to maintain the files and correspondence of the Association; to edit and cause to be published the Official Rule Book and *Snipe Bulletin* and such other publications as the Board of Governors shall from time to time prescribe; and such other duties as the Board of Governors or the Commodore may from time to time prescribe. The Executive Director shall not serve as a voting member of the Board of Governors. The Executive Director shall receive compensation at a rate which the Board of Governors shall from time to time prescribe. It will be Board policy to give a thorough annual review of the Executive Director by a Board of 3 people selected by the Commodore. The Executive Director shall attend the World Championships and should attend the European and Western Hemisphere & Orient Championship at the Commodore's discretion.

### **Section 23. Board of Governors**

**23.1 Voting Members:** The Association shall be governed in all matters except as provided herein by a Board of Governors comprised of the Commodore, Vice Commodore, Chairman of the International Rules Committee, the General Secretary for Europe and the General Secretary for the Western Hemisphere & Orient, the Secretary and Treasurer. All shall be voting members of the Association's Board of Governors and all elected officers of the Association shall be Senior Members of the Class.

**23.1a Treasurer:** The Treasurer is responsible for the financial affairs of the Association. The Treasurer shall oversee the Executive Director's maintenance of the Association's books, financial records, securities and shall place funds in a depository approved by the Board of Governors. The Treasurer shall also review financial statements for presentation to the Board of Governors and thereafter prepare a summary of these statements for publication in the *Snipe Bulletin* for the information of members.

**23.1b Secretary:** The Secretary shall keep the minutes of meetings and supervise the Association's system of forms and records for all members. The Secretary will oversee membership trends and patterns and report to the Board. The Secretary will serve 2 years, with the possibility to be reelected, but cannot serve more than 2 consecutive terms. The ISAF Representative will report to the Secretary.

**23.2 Non-Voting Members:** There shall be three (3) additional members comprised of Legal Counsel, ISAF Representative, and Executive Director.

**23.2a Conflict of Interest:** No member of the Board of Governors (voting or non-voting) shall be engaged in building Snipes or sails professionally.

**23.2b Legal Counsel:** He shall advise on legal matters as pertains to the Association.

**23.2c ISAF Representative:** The ISAF Representative is charged with attending the ISAF meetings and representing the Snipe Class in all matters that arise with ISAF and providing an annual report to the Board of Governors. The term of office for the ISAF Representative shall begin January 1, 2009 for 4 years to end in Olympic years. SCIRA shall fund the expenses of the ISAF Representative to the Annual ISAF meetings; said

funding to include coach class airfare to two ISAF meetings per year (if necessary) and expenses not to exceed \$500 per meeting.

**Section 23.3 Board Meetings:** Bi-annual meetings shall be held in conjunction with the absolute World Championship to facilitate attendance. A quorum shall be an absolute majority of the voting Board of Governors in attendance. The Commodore, when petitioned by an absolute majority of the members of the Board of Governors, shall call an official meeting of the Board of Governors. The Commodore shall choose a time and place for the meeting, which shall be held within three months if petitioned, and the Executive Director shall give notice to all members of the Board of Governors at least thirty days in advance. For all meetings, the Executive Director shall present the current agenda for consideration at the meeting. Except as provided herein, items may be added and voted upon provided each receives an absolute majority of votes of the entire Board of Governors. Items already on the agenda may be amended and voted upon by a majority of those present. Any item as amended by the meeting, which fails to receive a majority vote of those present but mathematically could receive a majority of the whole Board of Governors must be retained on the agenda at the request of any member present at the meeting. The Executive Director shall publish an accurate and fair summary of the agenda of the Board of Governors in the *Snipe Bulletin* and shall report the status and disposition of all items. The Executive Director shall report a summary of the Board of Governors deliberations to the membership as accurately as possible.

**Section 23.4 Meeting Agenda:** The Executive Director shall maintain an agenda for the Board of Governors. Members of the Board of Governors may place items on the agenda by submission to the Executive Director. The Executive Director shall place on the agenda as tentative items those actions necessary for the administration of the Class. Any National Secretary shall have the right to place tentative items on the agenda. Any five fleet captains may, with a signed petition, have the right to place tentative items on the agenda. All motions placed for action before the Board of Governors, and whose enactment or implementation shall impact the Constitution and or the By-laws of the Corporation, shall require the motion maker to attach as part of that motion a complete schedule of those specific sections of the Constitution or By-Laws which would be affected by the passage of the motion. Any motion so considered without the required section citing may be either rejected by the Board of Governors or tabled until the required information is attached to the motion.

All proposals related to the Class Measurement Rules and Restrictions must first be referred to the International Rules Committee, which shall report out the proposal and its advice. This proposal shall become an item of the next agenda.

**Section 23.5 Ballots:** The Executive Director shall prepare for distribution and forward to each member of the Board of Governors a ballot on matters before the Board of Governors as necessary for a timely decision, either for the bi-annual meeting or for ballots to be done via mail, fax or e-mail. The Ballot shall make provision for a "yes", a "no" and a "table" vote. The Executive Director shall count as officially cast all ballots signed by a Board of Governors member and received by the Executive Director by mail, fax or e-mail within 30 days after the date of the ballot. Agenda items shall be considered passed when the Executive Director has received "yes" votes on officially cast ballots from an absolute majority of the Board of Governors. Tentative items (proposed by National Secretaries or five fleet captains), shall be so designated on the accompanying ballot and provision made for a "yes", a "no", and an "amend" and include for the next agenda, or a drop from consideration position. Tentative items receiving unanimous "yes" or "no" votes without any amendments shall be considered enacted or defeated, respectively.

#### **Section 24. General Secretaries**

The General Secretaries designated in Section 23 shall be elected every two years, to take office on even-numbered years at a meeting of National Secretaries at the European or Western Hemisphere & Orient Championship regattas. The chairman of these meetings shall be the current Hemisphere General Secretary, or if he is not present, the National Secretary of the country where the Championship is held. Designated representatives may represent Secretaries not present from their countries who may vote for them but otherwise, proxy voting shall not be allowed. Voting by mail, e-mail or fax shall be permitted. The individual receiving the most votes shall serve as Hemisphere Secretary for the next two years.

#### **Section 25. Election of Officers**

The Board of Governors shall have the sole power to nominate and elect the Officers of the Association for the ensuing term, such election to take place as soon as feasible after the general meeting held at the World Championship races.

By August first of each year, the Commodore shall appoint a Nominating Committee for the nomination of members for office. The Chairman of the Nominating Committee, or the Executive Director, shall promptly notify each voting member of the Board of Governors of said appointments and shall call for nominations to be received by October first. Nominations of the Nominating Committee may be supplemented by nominations by any member of the Board of

Governors. If more than one name is placed in nomination for a given position, all names shall be shown on the ballot. The Executive Director shall mail, fax or e-mail ballots to each voting member by November first. They shall be completed and returned to the Executive Director by December first.

Officers shall be elected as follows or until their successors are duly elected. Commodore will be elected for a 2 year term and cannot serve more than 2 consecutive terms. Vice Commodore will be elected for a 2 year term and cannot serve more than 2 consecutive terms. Chairman of the International Rules Committee will serve a 4 year term. The Treasurer will serve a 4 year term, re-electable only once consecutively. The General Secretaries shall be elected every two years to take office on even-numbered years at a meeting of National Secretaries at the European and Western Hemisphere & Orient Championship regattas. The Secretary shall be elected for a 2 year term. Generally, they will assume office as of January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.

### **Section 26. Life Membership**

Any Commodore or Executive Director, unless removed from office for due cause, shall upon completion of his full term become a member of the Association for life.

### **Section 27. Removal from Office**

In cases where officers of this Association or of a Fleet have been proven to be remiss in their duties, they may be removed from office upon vote of the Board of Governors.

### **Section 28. Technical Committee**

The Board of Governors shall appoint a Technical Committee consisting of the Chairman of the International Rules Committee, Vice Chairman, Chief Measurer, Rules Committee members and the Chief Information Officer. The Rules Committee shall maintain, study and make recommendations on all Class measurement rules and restrictions. This Committee shall have power to record or clarify any measurement rule or restriction whenever its meaning is deemed not clear or unfair. Proposed changes shall be circulated to all members of the International Rules Committee for comments and recommendations, and these shall be submitted to the Board of Governors for action. Measurement rules changes may take effect only on January 1 of each leap year (2000, 2004, 2008, etc.) and then only if submitted to the Board as agenda items by June 1 of the preceding year. Each proposed measurement rules change must appear on at least two agendas, with amendments offer able on the first circulation, and a vote on the amendments on the second or final vote on the change if no amendments were offered. Consideration at a properly called meeting of the Board may count as the second or third agenda appearance. Changes can be made at times other than the specified four-year intervals where the Board considers them to be of extreme urgency. An absolute majority of the Board is required for final passage.

Whenever a "circular Letter" from the International Rules Committee over the signature of the Chairman appears in the *Snipe Bulletin*, the corrections, interpretations or simplifications appearing therein shall become a part of the current Official Rulebook. Such corrections, interpretations or simplifications will also be posted on the Snipe web site, Rules section.

### **Section 29. Chief Measurer**

The Board of Governors shall appoint a Chief Measurer. He shall serve a four year term with re-election possible after the first term. He shall be responsible for managing the Class Measurers worldwide. He shall be a member of the Rules Committee and shall advise that Committee on Measuring Rules problems.

**29.1 Chief Information Officer:** The Chief Information Officer shall be a member of the Technical Committee and of the Rules Committee. Duties include maintaining web site, Internet requirements and e-mail requirements of the Association. Review of all technology used or to be used by the Association, including but not limited to telephone, computer, hardware, software, measurement and rules. He supports the Rules Committee on technical issues by doing research on new technology for old methods. He supports the Association's Board of Governors on technical issues by explaining details on complex technology issues.

### **Section 30. Amendments**

Proposed amendments to Constitution or By-Laws, Rule Changes, etc. must be submitted to the Executive Director not later than June 1<sup>st</sup> of each year for consideration by the Board of Governors and Rules Committee.

### **Section 31. Districts**

Large countries may be divided into districts for more effective promotion of the Snipe Class, if considered desirable by the National and General Secretary.

### **Section 32. National Secretaries**

Each nation shall elect a National Secretary. Each National Secretary will serve for two years and is eligible for re-election. New officers will begin January 1<sup>st</sup> of even numbered years. The National Secretary shall be the official representative of the Association in his country and will act as direct liaison between the General Secretary of the pertinent hemisphere, the Board of Governors, Executive Director and the fleets of his country. All correspondence, dues, race results and other Association matters are to be

handled through the National Secretary. The National Secretary shall not have powers to interpret the restrictions of the Class, such work to be entirely done by the International Rules Committee, but it shall be the duty of the National secretary to submit such problems to the Rules Committee for settlement. However, the National Secretary does have authority to approve or disapprove the appointment of measurers in his country. National Secretaries, being direct representatives of the Association, shall promote more Snipe racing, aid the growth of new fleets, promote inter-fleet and inter-country racing and shall in general have full charge of Snipe activities in the countries that they represent. They shall, in cooperation with the General Secretary, approve or disapprove of applications for fleet charters and regatta sanctions.

A National Secretary may establish procedural rules for the administration of the Class within his country. Such procedures may be reviewed by the Board of Governors and modified by the Board if deemed appropriate. A National Secretary may also establish and maintain a distinct legal entity of the Class within his or her own country. Such corporation's, or legal entity's governing documents and all changes thereto shall be reviewed by the Board of Governors and modified if deemed appropriate.

**Section 33. *Standing Committees***

The Commodore shall appoint members to serve on the following standing committees: Long Range Planning, and Promotion.

**Section 34 *Continental Officers***

Each continent may choose to create continental officers that report to the General Secretary for their respective continent. These may include: for Europe; Secretaries for North, South and East as well as Vice Secretary and for the Western Hemisphere & Orient; Secretaries for North America, South America and the Orient as well as Vice Secretary.