

FYCA Constitution - 2023



1 NAME

The Association shall be called 'THE FORTH YACHT CLUBS ASSOCIATION', hereinafter referred to as the 'Association'.

2 OBJECTS

The objects of the Association shall be as follows:

- a) To promote in any way possible the sport of sailing and other water based sports on the Forth and in the East of Scotland and, with that end in view, to receive and discuss any suggestions put forward by any of the Constituent Clubs.
- b) Without in any way interfering with the individual functions of Constituent Clubs, to co-ordinate fixtures, programmes, arrangement of classes and other matters connected with sailing.
- c) To assist in the formation of new Classes, or to recommend the discontinuance, division or amalgamation of existing classes as may be necessary.
- d) To encourage the young to take part in sailing.
- e) To act as a link with the Press with a view to the publication of items of interest to Constituent Clubs.
- f) To represent the interests of the Association to the Royal Yachting Association.
- g) To represent the Constituent Clubs at any inquiry held under the auspices of any Government Department or Planning Authority or on any other Body if the interests of sailors on the Forth or in the East of Scotland appear to be affected.
- h) Generally to do anything that will tend to assist our member clubs to develop and improve yachting, sailing and the practice of good seamanship.
- i) To act along with other organisations in representing the interests of sailing in Scotland.

3 MEMBERSHIP

The Membership of the Association shall consist of Sailing Clubs recognised by the Royal Yachting Association, and other water-sports related clubs, based on the Firth of Forth or in the East of Scotland. These Clubs are referred to herein as 'Constituent Clubs'.

4 ADMISSION OF CLUBS

Clubs, qualified for admission in terms of paragraph 3 hereof, shall be admitted as Constituent Clubs at the discretion of the Association's Executive Committee and ratified at the next Annual General Meeting (AGM).

5 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The affairs of the Association shall be managed by an Executive Committee consisting of the Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Handicap Convener and three Ordinary Members who shall hold office for one year, but shall be eligible for re-election. The Executive Committee shall have power at any time to co-opt to the said Executive Committee or to appoint to ad hoc committees as may be constituted by the Executive Committee from time to time, such other persons as may be required.

Co-opted members shall have no voting powers, and shall withdraw from Executive Committee meetings if so requested by a majority of elected members of that Committee.

6 ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS AND COMMITTEE

The Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Handicap Convener and three Ordinary Members shall be elected annually at the AGM to hold office until the following AGM. The Chair may only hold office for a maximum of five consecutive years, and thereafter shall not be eligible for re-election to the same office for a period of one year after retiring.

Committee members must be members of Constituent Clubs. If alternative nominations exist, not more than one person from each Constituent Club may be elected as an Ordinary Member to the Executive Committee, which, as a whole, must comprise representation from at least four Clubs.

7 CASUAL VACANCIES

The Executive Committee shall have power at any time to appoint an Ordinary Member to fill a casual vacancy provided that such appointment meets the minimum representation requirements of para 6 above. Any person so co-opted shall hold office only until the next AGM and shall then be eligible for election.

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8 SECRETARY

The Secretary shall keep minutes of Executive Committee Meetings and make them available to Constituent Clubs on request. The Secretary shall send notice of the AGM, including the agenda, to Constituent Clubs in reasonable time for review by their Club Committees. The Secretary shall keep minutes of the AGM and send them to all Constituent Clubs.

9 TREASURER

The Treasurer shall keep a record showing the Income, Expenditure and Reserves of the Association and shall report a Statement of the Finances of the Association to the AGM. The Annual Accounts shall be reviewed by an Independent Examiner appointed by the Association, who shall not be a member of the Executive Committee, and the Examiner's comments shall be reported by the Treasurer to the AGM.

10 DELEGATES

The Sailing Secretary (or equivalent) of each Constituent Club shall be their nominated delegate at the AGM, unless an alternative person is nominated by the club. Only nominated delegates may vote on behalf of Constituent Clubs.

11 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS & SPECIAL DELEGATE MEETINGS

The Association's AGM shall be held in Autumn each year. Six Delegates shall form a quorum. Any business which is competent under this Constitution may be considered at an AGM. In addition, the Executive Committee may call a Special Delegate Meeting at any time they think fit and shall do so if requested in writing by not less than two of the Constituent Clubs.

12 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

This Committee shall meet from time to time as required. The quorum shall be four committee members.

13 SUBSCRIPTIONS

Each Constituent Club shall pay, by 1st May, an annual subscription determined by the delegates at the previous AGM.

14 ABNORMAL EXPENDITURE

Constituent Clubs may apply for a grant from the Association's reserves in support of a project or activity in line with the Association's Objects as stated in para 2. The Executive Committee is empowered to agree grants of up to £500. Larger grants will be subject to majority approval by the Constituent Clubs, by consultation or Special Delegates Meeting.

15 APPOINTMENT OF HANDICAP COMMITTEE

The Handicap Convener, elected at the AGM, shall recommend persons to be appointed by the Executive Committee to the Handicap Committee for the following year. The Handicap Committee shall regulate and publish yacht handicaps for the guidance of Constituent Clubs.

16 WITHDRAWAL FROM MEMBERSHIP

Any Club may withdraw from membership of the Association by giving notice in writing, provided their subscription is fully paid up.

17 ALTERATION OF THE RULES

No alteration or addition to these Rules shall be made except with the consent of a two-thirds majority of all Delegates present at an AGM or Special Delegate Meeting, duly convened, and then only when notice of the proposed alterations or additions have been circulated to the Constituent Clubs at least 21 days previous to the date of the meeting.

Ratified at FYCA Special Delegates Meeting on 8th June 2023