

# **International Nite Ice Yacht Association**

## **Constitution**

Revisions Approved: May 1, 2009

Revisions Prepared by: Mark Wilfert & Don Sanford 2008

### **Article I: Name and Emblem**

The name of this organization shall be the International Nite Ice Yacht Association. Its emblem shall be the symbol as presented in Exhibit #1, placed on the sail in contrasting color.

### **Article II: Purpose and Policy**

The Association's purpose shall be to promote one-design ice yacht racing and sailing in this class, in boats built to the Official Specifications, and to sponsor an Annual Championship Regatta. It shall be the policy of the Association to maintain the Nite Ice Yacht as the epitome of a strict one-design class of Ice Yachts.

### **Article III: Organization and Fiscal Year**

The Association is one of individual members, acting through general membership meetings, and through Officers, Technical Committee and Board of Directors. The fiscal year shall be May 1 through April 30.

### **Article IV: Dues and Fees**

Association dues, entrance fee to the Annual Championship Regatta, and any other fees or royalties, shall be fixed by the By-Laws.

### **Article V: Membership**

The power to accept or reject applications for membership is vested in the Board of Directors. There shall be three classes of membership as follows:

- A. Active: Any owner or part-owner of a Nite in good standing. Privileges are to sail in the Annual Championship Regatta, vote on the Association's affairs, receive all Association communications, and hold office.
- B. Associate: Any non-Nite owner interested in the affairs of the Association, in good standing. Privileges are to receive all Association communications.
- C. Inactive: Any Active or Associate member who has not paid dues for the current year by the time of the Annual Championship Regatta will no longer be considered a member in good standing, and will be transferred to Inactive status. There are no privileges.

### **Article VI: Election Duties of Officers**

A Commodore, Vice Commodore, and Secretary-Treasurer shall be elected at the Annual Meeting. Officers shall take office on May 1. Terms of office expire the following April 30. Each shall be nominated and voted upon in the order named above. The candidate receiving the greatest number of votes shall be considered elected. Duties are as follows:

- A. Commodore: To be chief executive, preside at all meetings; be chairman of the Board of Directors; rule on procedure and jurisdiction; summarize decisions; appoint special committees; authorize payment of bills; appoint from the general membership a replacement to serve for the balance of the term of office in the instance where any elected officer, Director or Technical Committee member can no longer serve.

- B. Vice Commodore: To officiate in the absence of the Commodore, and be in charge of trophies and class equipment.
- C. Secretary–Treasurer: To handle system of forms; keep minutes and all other Association records, including membership and yacht registration; award numbers; publish an annual directory; maintain Association funds in a checking account; disburse funds on order of the Commodore; send reports and notices to the membership; bring all records up to date, complete business pending from the Annual Meeting; complete an annual financial report as of April 30; and transmit all Association records to his/her successor as soon as possible after April 30.

**Article VII: Election and Duties of Director/Technical Committee Chair and Director at Large**

Following the election of Officers under Article VI at the Annual Meeting, two additional directors shall be elected: a Technical Committee Chair and a Director-at-Large. Both shall take office May 1. Terms of office will expire the following April 30. Each shall be nominated and voted upon in the order named above. The candidate receiving the greatest number of votes shall be considered elected. Duties are as follows:

- A. Director/Technical Committee Chair:
  - 1. to serve as a member of the Board of Directors as set forth in Article IX.
  - 2. to serve as Chair of the Technical Committee and a member of such Committee as set forth in Article X.
- B. Director-at-Large: to serve as a member of the Board of Directors as set forth in Article IX.

**Article VIII: Technical Committee Members: Election and permanent member**

- A. Following the election of Officers under Article VI, and the Technical Committee Chair and a Director At Large under Article VII, there shall be elected a Technical Committee Member to take office on May 1. Term of office will expire the following April 30. The candidate receiving the greatest number of votes shall be considered elected.
- B. A third Technical Committee Member with permanent appointment status shall be the Nite Ice Yacht Builder/Designer of the Nite Class, his appointed agent, or the successor to such Builder/Designer rights and interests by way of assignment or sale.
- C. Duties of such technical Committee Members shall be as set forth in Article X.

## **Article IX: Board of Directors**

- A. The Board of Directors consists of the three Officers, the Technical Committee Chair and the Director at Large. The five-person Board shall act as a group. Its powers are to render final decisions on appeal, sanction or prohibit races in the Annual Championship Regatta, accept or reject membership applications, approve the Race Committee for the Annual Championship Regatta, and perform other duties mentioned by the By-Laws.
- B. The Board of Directors may initiate changes in the Constitution, By-Laws, Official Specifications, or Racing Rules by proposing such changes to the entire membership at the Annual Meeting, or by mail and posting on the official website of the association. A General Membership vote is required for enactment of all changes or modifications to any of the above documents.

## **ARTICLE X: TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

- A. The Technical Committee shall consist of three members. The Chair shall report to the Board of Directors on all recommendations and interpretations of the Technical Committee.
- B. The Committee may initiate changes in the Official Specifications by proposing such changes to the Board of Directors, who shall submit them to the General Membership on a mail ballot requiring two-thirds majority of active members for approval.
- C. The Committee shall, upon the request of any member, or at the direction of the Board of Directors, provide interpretation of the Official Specifications. All interpretations shall be published in Association Newsletters or on the official Nite Class Association website. Such interpretations shall prevail as Supplements to the Official Specifications unless and until voided by a two-thirds majority of active members via mail ballot.
- D. The Technical Committee shall have sole discretion in making rulings interpreting the Official Specifications. The Board of Directors shall only have discretion to determine that certain Technical Committee action in fact is a fundamental change in the Official Specifications. In such an instance, the above General Membership vote must approve the change as described in Article X.
- E. Any changes in the Official Specification shall become effective for the following season only if approved and published in an Association Newsletter distributed to the General Membership prior to August 1. Otherwise such change shall become effective on the next following August 1.
- F. The Technical Committee shall have such further duties as set forth in the By-Laws and as called upon to perform by the Board of Directors.

## **ARTICLE XI: MEETING, QUORUM, AND VOTING**

- A. The Annual Meeting shall be held during and in the vicinity of the Annual Championship Regatta, if possible, or otherwise if called by the Board of Directors. Special meetings may be called on the order of the Board of Directors or upon demand in writing by twenty-five percent of the membership. Exact time and place of all meetings shall be fixed by the Board of Directors. If a special meeting is called the purpose thereof must be stated in such form as to permit voting by mail, and no other business may be transacted.
- B. A quorum at a meeting is any number present. However, if less than twenty percent of the then-paid membership is present; all action must be ratified by a mail vote. In addition, any action such as amendments to Constitution or By-Laws, or changes in the Official Specification or Racing Rules shall be put to a mail vote, requiring two-thirds majority of active members for approval regardless of the number present at the Annual Meeting.
- C. All other meetings of the Board of Directors or the Technical Committee shall first require reasonable notice. A quorum shall be a majority of such Board or Committee and a majority vote of total membership is required to take any action at such meetings. A majority of the votes cast shall be determining on all questions not otherwise stipulated, and the chair (if in the meeting) shall cast the deciding vote in case of a tie. The chair also has the power to fix a time limit on speakers and discussion of motions.
- D. All meetings shall be conducted according to Roberts' Rules of Order.

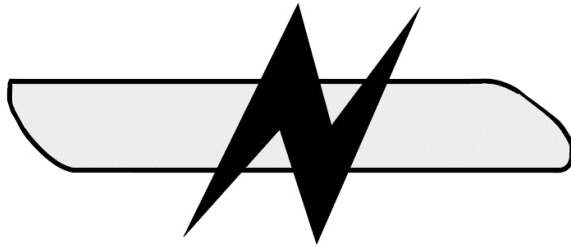
## **ARTICLE XII: OFFICIAL SPECIFICATIONS**

- A. Requirements for the yacht, sail, and attached equipment shall be set in the Official Specifications of the Nite Ice Yacht. Official specifications are attached at Exhibit II. They are the sole rules for meeting equipment specifications. The Official Specifications shall be enforced in two ways. First, any contestant, or a Judge or Race Committee member at the Annual Championship Regatta or any other event may file a protest against any competing yacht. Second, the Race Committee may measure or inspect any yacht at any time.
- B. The Technical Committee in interpreting the Official Specifications shall have the burden to make strict and not liberal interpretations which will:
  - 1. maintain the low cost, true one-design concept of the Nite Ice Yacht;
  - 2. rule against variations not covered by the Official Specifications which give a Yacht an advantage in speed or handling, or increase cost;
  - 3. prevent the Nite Ice Yacht Association from becoming a development class;
- C. Members contemplating any changes should first write the Technical Committee Chair for an advance interpretation before modifying their boats. Upon determination by the Technical Committee that an owner has deliberately circumvented the rules with the intention of gaining an advantage over his/her competitors, the Technical Committee shall request that the board expel such an owner from the Class for a period of up to five years. A simple majority vote by the Board is required for action.

**ARTICLE XIII: AMENDMENTS AND CHANGES TO OFFICIAL SPECIFICATIONS**

Amendments to the Constitution or By-Laws, and changes to the Official Specifications or Racing Rules, may be made only after approval of the membership by a mail vote. A two-thirds majority of the votes cast is required.

**Exhibit I: Class Logo:**



**Exhibit II:**

Official Construction Plan.

A copy of the Official Construction Plans for the Nite Ice Yacht are posted on the class website.