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Notes on the revision process

Constitutional and Regulatory Structures

Constitution

The relevant articles of the IRSA Constitution are:

7.18 The Executive Committee shall have the power to make Regulations to carry out the purposes of the Constitution and/or amend any existing Regulations. Such Regulations shall not be in conflict with the Constitution and shall be reported to and reviewed by the General Assembly.

Regulations

The relevant article of the 2003 Regulations is provided below. For clarity and conformance with current terminology, "Executive Committee" replaces "Permanent Committee" from the original.

17 AMENDMENTS TO REGULATIONS

These Regulations may be amended by a resolution of the Executive Committee carried by a simple majority of votes cast, but any such amendment shall be subject to variation by the next General Assembly.

The Executive Committee shall consult member International Class Associations prior to making amendments that affect their rights or obligations.

Additional Processes

An early draft of the proposed revised regulations was brought to the Executive Committee in November 2014, and was referred to a working party of the EC Chairman, TC Chairman, and Acting Secretary. The working party consulted IOMICA on a number of points regarding the administration of IRSA classes.

Notes on the changes

The current Regulations date from October 2003, and the major reasons to revise them are:

- ISAF-RSD changed its name to IRSA, the Permanent Committee became known as the Executive Committee, and Division Members became known as Designated National Members.
- The Constitution was updated in 2014 and again in 2018 with some changes to committee names and functions.
- The way the Executive Committee undertakes its business has changed from e-mails, faxes, and telephone conversations to Internet discussion forums.
- The provisions for class management were very difficult to understand.

Accordingly, the regulatory changes correspond to these four main areas:

- Changes to terminology
- Changes to committee names and functions
- Changes to the administration of classes
- Changes to accommodate asynchronous electronic communications

Terminology

The opportunity was taken to provide a comprehensive table of definitions of words used in their technical and restricted meanings, and to introduce such defined words in order to make understanding and communication easier.

In particular, the change of terminology with regard to classes is significant, and is discussed below.

ISAF-RSD is now IRSA, the Permanent Committee is the Executive Committee, Division Members are Designated National Members, and ISAF is now World Sailing.

Committees

The 2014 Constitution introduced the "Racing Committee", while the 2003 Regulations referred to the "Racing Rules Committee". The 2018 Constitution refers to two committees

which now deal with racing, the Racing Rules Committee and the Events Committee. The 2018 Constitution removes the Organisation and Policy Committee.

The regulations have separate sections concerning the work of the Racing Rules Committee and the one hand, and the Events Committee on the other, and identifies their relevant activities and authority.

Because neither the Racing Rules Committee nor the Executive Committee has the authority to change or interpret a Racing Rule of Sailing, the wording regarding emergency or experimental changes to Racing Rules has been changed, and now refers to such changes in the Sailing Instructions or the Notice of Race.

Class Administration

Terminology

In earlier regulations, the term “International” could refer to the status of a class or could refer to the fact that a class was recognised by IRSA. To remove that source of potential confusion, a class recognised by IRSA is now called an “IRSA Class” which has received “Designation”:

IRSA Class: A class of boat which has received Designation.

Designation: “International”, “Recognised”, or “Classic”.

Similarly, in earlier regulations the word “status” could refer to the status of a class or the status of the class association. To remove that source of potential confusion, status is not mentioned, and class associations are granted either Provisional Membership or Associate Membership.

Associate Membership: Membership granted to an ICA that has received IRSA Designation for its class.

Provisional Membership: Membership granted to an ICA that has yet to receive IRSA Designation for its class.

Autonomous ICA: An ICA granted Associate or Provisional Membership.

Class Committees

For some time there has been confusion about IRSA’s role as the world authority for radio sailing, and its role acting as the class association for the current IRSA Classes (M, 10R, and A). The regulations make it clear that it is IRSA which acts as an ICA for the classes for which it has administrative responsibility.

Designated Classes

The regulations for acquiring class designation, administering designated classes, changing class rules, and interpreting class rules, have not changed materially in content, but have been thoroughly overhauled in terms of their presentation, coherence, and consistency.

The major consequence is the improved clarity regarding class rule changes and class rule interpretations when a class has an Autonomous ICA, and when it does not.

Working Practice

IRSA regulations originated in the pre-Internet period where meetings, to be effective, were invariably face to face meetings of a group of people physically located in the same room for a period of time. Where the people who needed to be involved in such meetings were geographically dispersed around the globe, careful and extensive planning was required over extended time-periods using written documentation and international postal services (and, rarely, telephones for matters of emergency). Such meetings were very expensive for the people who needed to travel, and it was customary for the Executive Committee (Permanent Committee as was) to meet once a year in London in the years when it did not meet after a General Assembly at the time and venue of a World Championship.

The 2003 regulations made some provision to suit the circumstances of globally-distributed officers, allowing e-mail, fax, and telephone meetings which had to be minuted and ratified annually.

The 2018 regulations continue to support face to face meetings and e-mail, fax, and telephone communication, but are overhauled to support the Internet age of specially structured discussion forums.

Meeting: A gathering, either physical or virtual. Some virtual meetings may be conducted with synchronous communications and supported by a form of electronic communication such as video conferencing or audio conferencing. Other virtual meetings may be conducted with asynchronous communications and supported by a form of electronic communication such as e-mail or a discussion board.

Great effort went into the construction of guidelines and rules to regulate meetings held on discussion forums, resulting in two sets of guidelines to regulate two types of formal meeting:

Committee Meeting: A Meeting regulated by the “IRSA Conduct of Committee Meetings”.

General Assembly: A Meeting defined by the IRSA Constitution and regulated by the “IRSA Conduct of a General Assembly”, whose business is specified by and limited to an agenda of previously notified proposals.

Associated with all IRSA meetings taking place in a structured discussion forum is a set of rules and guidelines to regulate the decorum and conduct expected in such meetings.

Other Changes

Matters dealing with fees and membership categories have been re-introduced into the regulations. Previously these details were distributed on the IRSA Web site in a variety of documents and proved difficult to maintain. It is expected that having them in one place will improve their communication.

Details

A conflict of interest is now a defined term, and refers to the latest published IRSA Guidelines for Committee Decorum.

The EC Vice Chairman runs a meeting in the absence of the EC Chairman, and if neither is available, the meeting elects a chair from its members.

The Chair of the EC may submit a proposal to the EC to replace an Officer who regularly fails to respond.

Review of class Designation is to be reported to a GA. This would be a 4-year cycle GA agenda item as specified in the 2018 Constitution.

Changes to the Regulations decided by the EC are to be reported to a GA. This is a GA agenda item under the 2018 Constitution.

An Office Holder shall license IRSA to use any works they produce in connection with their office.

Importantly, a meeting is defined to be either physical or virtual. This ensures that discussions in a forum, when correctly set up, are meetings. Meetings are regulated by guidelines.

“NOTICES AND SUBMISSIONS” becomes “Communications”.

A new section, “Code of Conduct”, brings together in one place various regulations previously somewhat scattered in different sections. It introduces guidelines for decorum in IRSA forums.

All the Officers report, rather than just the Officers who are Committee Chairs.

Definitions of Equipment Inspector and Official Measurer point to the ERS as defined terms.

“Contact and e-mail details of Members are those contained in the Members section of the IRSA web site. It is the responsibility of Members to ensure their contact details are up to date as their circumstances change.”

Definition is provided of the term “signed by a Senior Officer”, needed where communications are electronic.

In changing the Regulations, it is specified that any Autonomous ICAs shall be consulted.

The IRSA share of the entrance fee of World and Continental Championships and other International events, per competitor, is specified.

A new section, “Categories of Membership”, lists what was before, with the addition of Belarus, Chile, Czech Republic, Ukraine, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Russia, and Thailand.

A new category of membership is created, Category 0, comprising Autonomous ICAs.

It is noted that being listed in the table does not imply a Member is in good standing at any given time, and that not being listed in this table does not imply non-membership. The current list of Members in good standing at any given time may be obtained from the Secretary.

Appendix on class administration and Designation

The following table and figure show a summary of how classes are administered by IRSA or by Autonomous ICAs, how administration relates to the class Designation, how a class may receive interim or confirmed Designation, and how an ICA may be granted Provisional or Associate IRSA Membership.

ICA Status:	Class Designation:	
	Interim	Confirmed
IRSA acts as ICA	Yes, if no Autonomous ICA	Yes, if no Autonomous ICA
ICA is Provisional Member	Yes	No – if the ICA is provisional, the Class has an interim Designation
ICA is Associate Member	No – if the ICA is fully independent and an Associate Member, the Class has a confirmed Designation	Yes

As specified in the Regulations, criteria leading to Designation include an ICA constitution approved by IRSA, Class Rules approved by the IRSA Technical Committee, “actively racing” with sufficient boat numbers in sufficient countries across sufficient continents, and independent Class Officers elected by the class owners.

