**DF INTERNATIONAL CLASS ASSOCIATION**

# CONSTITUTION

Version 1.0

14th March 2021

## PREAMBLE

### The Founders' Statement

This *Founders' Statement* asserts the founding principles and values of the DF classes and acts as a reference point when considering future activities and directions the classes may take in their ongoing development. It shall always be considered and respected by owners and class officials to ensure those founding values are upheld.

For those involved in the sport of radio sailing, it has always been a serious form of sailboat racing, but not one that was effectively promoted to the wider sailing world. Perhaps seen as 'model' boat racing, but known by those within the sport as one the most intense and challenging racing disciplines available. Our founders, John Tushingham, Mike Weston and Mark Dicks, identified the need for a low-cost, readily available, restricted class boat featuring good sailing characteristics and designed to make use of modern mass production techniques. The opportunity to realise that ambition arose in 2011 and the boat that resulted, the DragonForce 65 went on to change the public face of radio sailing. The larger DragonFlite 95, developed by John Tushingham and Buzz Coleman appeared a few years later and these two boats gave radio sailing the equipment and opportunity to attract and develop the level of involvement the sport rightly deserves. The DF classes have succeeded in attracting many people to gain their first experience of sailboat racing and the social life that goes with it, as well as opening up a whole new world of racing to experienced sailors.

The DF classes were conceived and designed around the following key principles:

**Level Racing**
Racing with equal equipment, putting the emphasis solely on a skippers tuning and tactical ability.

**Low Cost Equipment**
Inexpensive, good quality equipment available worldwide through specialist distributors committed to excellent product support.
An 'out-of-the-box' sailboat racing experience with a focus on long term product consistency.

**Equipment and Rules Clarity**

Make the class approachable to all new and experienced sailors alike through publication of easily understandable instruction manuals, online publication of support material and a plain English set of class rules written on a 'Restricted One-Design' basis where no changes to the supplied equipment are permitted unless specifically detailed in the rules.

**Class Rules Ethos**
The Class Rules were conceived and written on the basis that any new owner, who correctly followed the manufacturer's Rigging Instructions Manual, would have a boat capable of winning any event. Any subsequent changes to these rules must always uphold this 'ethos'.

**Scope for Personalisation**
To inject life and colour into a restricted one-design fleet, there is scope, written into the rules, to allow an owner to personalise their boat through permitted decoration, accessory parts or replacement sails, none of which have any performance advantages.

**Friendly and Inclusive Community**
Class and owners work together to build a culture and community that's inclusive for all sailing abilities and ambitions. Fresh, new events, racing formats and structures should be explored to help build the global DF community with equal emphasis on low and high level racing. Above all, racing should be fun, inclusive of all ages as well as competitive.

The Founders hope that the DF classes remain true to these values, owners race and maintain their boats within the letter and spirit of the rules, and play an active part in their DF community. The growth of the DF classes will present as yet unforeseen opportunities for the development of radio sailing worldwide. It is hoped that those running the sport, DF classes and the sailors themselves embrace these opportunities and invest them with our core values.

## 1. ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|---|---|
| DNM | Designated National Member of the IRSA |
| ICA | International Class Association |
| DF | DF Classes |
| WS | World Sailing |
| MNA | Member National Authority of WS |
| NCA | National Class Association |
| NCS | National Class Secretary |
| IRSA | International Radio Sailing Association |

## 2. DEFINITIONS

Where the following words and phrases are used in their defined sense in this Constitution, they appear in an italic typeface.

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|---|---|
| *Boat* | A boat that shall comply with the DF *class rules*. |

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| DF | Collectively refers to an actual DF class boat as defined in the Regulation, a Registered Boat maintained in accordance with the DF Class Rules. |
| DF *Class Rules* | Collectively refers to an actual DF class boat as defined in the Regulation, a Registered Boat maintained in accordance with the DF Class Rules. |
| *The Founders' Statement* | The preamble statement in this constitution. |
| *Licenced Builder* | The manufacturer or manufacturers of the DF Classes. |
| *Member NCA or NCS* | A NCA or NCS which has been granted membership of the *World Council*. |
| *Membership Agreement* | A Membership Agreement drawn up between a NCS or DNM and the DF ICA Executive Committee which defines the duties of the NCS with regard to its representation of the *Owners* in its country, in regard to DF ICA matters. |
| *NCA Constitution* | A constitution of the NCA. |
| *Officer* | Officers are defined in Article 9 and are members of the Executive Committee pursuant to Article 10.1. |
| *Owner* | A person who owns at least one *Registered Boat*. |
| *Registered Boat* | A *Boat* issued with a sail/hull number by their national class association/authority. |
| *Registered Owner* | An *Owner* who is listed as being current and in good standing with their DNM and a DF NCA or DF NCS (if one exists). |
| *Regulations* | means the DF ICA Regulations |
| Shall/may | In this Constitution, the word “shall” specifies a mandatory action or procedure, while the word “may” is permissive. |
| *World Council* | The governing body of the DF ICA. |
| *World Council Member* | An *Officer*, a Representative of a *Member NCA*, or a *Member NCS*. |

## 3. NAME

3.1. The name of the Association shall be the "DF International Class Association".

## 4. OBJECTS

4.1. The objects of the governing body of DF ICA shall be:

4.1.1. To promote and develop DF class racing under uniform rules throughout the world.

4.1.2. To provide a structure for class management and for the exchange of information among DF sailors.

4.2. In furtherance of these objects the DF ICA shall:

4.2.1. Encourage the adherence to the principles outlined in *The Founders' Statement*.

4.2.2. Encourage the formation of DF National Class Associations in all countries where *Boat*s are raced, in association with the DNM (or MNA if no DNM exists).

4.2.3. To facilitate and share best practices between NCAs.

4.2.4. Assist event organisers to hold DF Global and Continental Championships and other events of International standing in appropriate locations.

4.2.5. Promulgate and review the DF *Class Rules*.

## 5. GOVERNANCE

5.1. The DF ICA shall be governed by the *World Council* and its affairs and property shall be managed and administered on an ongoing basis by its Executive Committee in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution and the DF ICA *Regulation*s.

## 6. WORLD COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

6.1. Any country may, upon application to the DF ICA Secretary, be granted membership of the *World Council*:

6.1.1. As a *Member NCA* provided that:

Its *NCA Constitution* has been accepted by the Executive Committee and is in compliance with any applicable *Regulation*s;

It has formed a duly constituted DF NCA with a duly elected committee, recognised by their DNM (or MNA if no DNM exists), for the development of DF racing within the country;

There are not less than (5) five DF *Registered Boats* who are members of the DF NCA in that country;

Any person or organization, previously granted membership in the World Council for the country in question, has agreed to withdraw their membership. .

6.1.2. As a *Member DNM NCA* provided that:

Its DNM NCA Membership Agreement has been accepted by the Executive Committee;

The DNM (or MNA if no DNM exists) acting as NCA agrees to be responsible for the development of DF racing within the country;

There are not less than (5) five DF Registered Boats who are listed with the DNM in that country;

Any person or organization, previously granted membership in the World Council for the country in question, has agreed to withdraw their membership.

6.1.3. As a *Member NCS* provided that:

His/her *NCS Membership Agreement* has been accepted by the Executive Committee;

It is recognised by or has applied to be recognised by his/her DNM for the development of DF racing within the country;

There are not less than (5) five DF *Registered Boats* who are listed with the DF NCS in that country;

Any person or organization, previously granted membership in the World Council for the country in question, has agreed to withdraw their membership.

6.2. The membership, recognition and/or accreditation of a NCA or NCS as a *Member NCA or NCS* may be withdrawn in accordance with the provisions of Article 15 REMOVAL FROM MEMBERSHIP.

## 7. WORLD COUNCIL

7.1. The *World Council* shall consist of the *Officers and* one Representative of each *Member NCA* or *NCS*.

7.2. The members of the *World Council* shall be bound by this Constitution and shall comply with all resolutions and *Regulation*s made in accordance with this Constitution. *Member NCAs or NCSs* shall use their best endeavours to ensure that their *Owners* also comply with such resolutions and *Regulation*s.

7.3. The work of the *World Council* may be conducted by *electronic communication*.

7.4. At least one meeting of the *World Council* shall be held annually.

7.5. A Special meeting of the *World Council* may be called according to the provisions of the *Regulation*s.

7.6. The number of votes to be cast by a *Member NCA or NCS* representative in any vote in meetings of the *World Council* shall be in accordance with the provisions of the *Regulation*s.

7.7. **World Council Resolutions**

7.7.1. Proposals for amending this Constitution, or the DF Class Rules, shall be by special resolution of the World Council. No Executive Committee members may vote on a special resolution in their capacity as Executive Committee members. All other resolutions of the World Council shall be ordinary resolutions.

7.7.2. A special resolution shall be passed only if 2/3rds or more of the votes cast are in its favour.

7.7.3. An ordinary resolution shall be passed if greater than 50% of the votes cast are in its favour.

7.7.4. A special resolution at the World Council requires each *Member NCA* or *Member NCS* to ballot their *Registered Owners* on that resolution. A *Member NCA* or *Member NCS* who is not able to demonstrate the results of their owner ballot on a Special resolution shall abstain from voting on that resolution.

7.7.5. The DF ICA *Regulations* may make provision for a ballot of *Registered Owners* to be required for certain classes of ordinary resolution. *Member NCAs* or *Member*

*NCSs* may otherwise put ordinary resolutions to a ballot of their *Registered Owners* at their discretion.

7.8. Emergency decisions taken by the Executive Committee shall be submitted as resolutions to the next meeting of the *World Council* for ratification.

## 8. DF ICA OFFICERS

8.1. The DF ICA shall have the following *Officers*:

8.1.1. Chairperson

8.1.2. Vice Chairperson

8.1.3. Secretary

8.1.4. Treasurer

8.1.5. Communications Officer

8.1.6. No more than 3 General Committee members.

8.2. The *Officers* shall be *Registered Owners* but need not be *World Council* members.

8.3. The *Regulation*s provide for the method of election of *Officers*.

8.4. The *Licenced Builder* shall be entitled to appoint a non-voting member to the Executive Committee, as their representative.

## 9. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

9.1. The Executive Committee shall comprise the Officers of the DF ICA.

9.2. Each *Officer* shall have one vote in any ballot that may take place in a meeting of the Executive Committee.

9.3. The *Regulation*s provide for the conduct of the Executive Committee.

## 10. CLASS RULES & CLASS RULES SUB-COMMITTEE

10.1. The *World Council* shall elect a Class Rules Sub-Committee Chairperson. The DF ICA Class Rules Sub-Committee shall consist of the Class Rules Sub-Committee Chairperson plus at least one *Officer* and at least 1 and no more than 2 other *Registered Owners* appointed by the Executive Committee.

10.2. The function of the DF ICA Class Rules Sub-Committee may involve, but is not limited to:

10.2.1. Recommending any interpretation of the DF *Class Rules*.

10.2.2. Considering and advising on any change in the DF *Class Rules* proposed to the *World Council*.

10.2.3. Proposing any change in the DF *Class Rules* to the *World Council*, and explain how they apply to the spirit of *The Founders' Statement*.

10.2.4. Helping to ensure that the *Boat*s used in International and Continental Championships and other International regattas comply with the DF *Class Rules* by providing technical assistance as required to the organising authority.

10.2.5. Investigating any query by a *Member NCA or NCS* regarding the specifications of *Boat*s.

10.2.6. Assisting suppliers with regard to the DF *Class Rules*.

10.2.7. Consulting with the *Licenced Builder* and suppliers on any development of the *Boat*, equipment, or DF *Class Rules* deemed to be desirable as a result of sailing experience.

10.3. The *Regulation*s provide for the conduct of the Class Rules Sub-committee.

10.4. Changes to the *DF Class Rules* affecting the manufacturing of the *Boats* may only be approved after consultation with, and agreement of, the *Licenced Builder* through their nominated representative.

## 11. OTHER SUB-COMMITTEES

11.1. The Executive Committee may establish such other Sub-committees as it deems necessary. Any such Sub-committee shall consist of an *Officer* as its Chairperson plus at least 2 and no more than 4 other *Registered Owners* appointed by the Executive Committee.

11.2. The *Regulation*s provide for the conduct of other Sub-committees.

## 12. FINANCES

12.1. The DF ICA may be funded by, but not limited to:

12.1.1. An approval fee for International Championships and other International events, negotiated between the Executive Committee and the organisers of the event.

12.1.2. A share of the entrance fee of International Championships, negotiated between the Executive Committee and the organisers of the event.

12.1.3. Subscriptions from *Member NCAs and NCSs*.

12.1.4. Commercial sponsorship and donations.

12.1.5. Fees for services rendered at International and Continental Championships and other International events.

12.2. The *Regulation*s provide for the conduct of DF finances including the payment of expenses and the maintenance of accounts.

## 13. ACCOUNTS

13.1. The Treasurer shall annually prepare financial statements for presentation to the World Council at the AGM, that consist, at minimum, of a balance sheet as at the previous year end and a statement of income and expenditure for the year then ended. The financial statements shall be approved by the Executive Committee before publication and their approval shall be evidenced by the signature of the Chair on the balance sheet..

13.2. The fiscal period of the *World Council* shall be 1 January to 31 December each year unless changed by resolution of the *World Council*.

13.3. A single copy of the accounts for the latest complete fiscal period shall be sent by the DF ICA Treasurer to each *World Council Member* with the notice of the Annual meeting of the *World Council*.

13.4. A digital copy of the accounts shall be published on the ICA Website.

## 14. REMOVAL FROM MEMBERSHIP

14.1. A *World Council Member* shall be removed from membership of the *World Council* by the Executive Committee only after a hearing protecting their rights to due process including a mutual exchange of evidence prior to the hearing.

14.2. A *World Council Member* may be removed for the following reasons:

14.2.1. Committing an unlawful act in relation to the DF ICA, the *World Council*, any NCA, DNM NCA, NCS, or *Owner*.

14.2.2. For any unsportsmanlike conduct contrary to the interest of the DF ICA, the *World Council*, any NCA, DNM NCA, NCS, or *Owner*.

14.2.3. For intentional violation of the DF *Class Rules.*

14.2.4. For intentional violation of the *The DF Classes Online Community Code of Conduct* as defined in the *Regulations*.

14.2.5. Any failure to uphold or follow the prescriptions of the DF ICA Constitution, the *Regulation*s, World Council resolutions, or in the case of a NCS their *NCS Membership Agreement*, or in the case of a NCA their Constitution or *DNM NCA Membership Agreement*.

14.3. A *World Council Member* shall be removed from membership

14.3.1. During any period in respect of which it has not paid its subscription or other monies due to the DF ICA. Such membership may be renewed with immediate effect by payment of outstanding dues or other monies owing.

14.3.2. Upon receipt of notice of its resignation by the Executive Committee.

14.3.3. Due to an inability to participate in *World Council* or Executive Committee or Sub-committee meetings conducted by *electronic communications*.

14.4. A *World Council Member* shall not be entitled to any return of any or any part of its subscription in respect of any period for which it is removed from membership.

## 15. AMENDMENTS

15.1. This Constitution shall only be amended by a special resolution of the *World Council*.

## 16. LIMITATIONS

16.1. In the execution of their powers and duties under this Constitution and the provisions of the *Regulation*s, no *Officer* or other Sub-committee member of the Executive Committee shall be liable for any loss to any of the members or former members of the *World Council* or to the assets of the *World Council* by reason of any mistake or omission made in good faith by him or any other *Officer* or sub-committee member of the Executive

Committee or for any other matter other than wilful and individual wrongdoing omission or fraud on the part of the person who is sought to be made liable.

## 17. DISSOLVING THE ASSOCIATION

17.1. If the total membership falls below 100 *Registered Owners* spread between any number of *Member NCAs or NCSs*, the DF ICA may be dissolved on a majority vote by the *World Council* acting alone.

17.2. In such circumstances the net funds of the DF ICA after payment of all outstanding amounts shall be divided between those *Member NCAs and NCSs* in good standing at the time and date of the vote, and in proportion to the number of their *Registered Owners*.

## 18. PROPER LAW AND JURISDICTION

18.1. The proper law of the DF ICA and *World Council* shall be English law and this Constitution shall be construed, take effect and be enforced accordingly.

18.2. If a provision of this document is or becomes illegal, invalid or unenforceable in any jurisdiction, that shall not affect:

18.2.1. the validity or enforceability in that jurisdiction of any other provision of this document; or

18.2.2. the validity or enforceability in other jurisdictions of that or any other provision of this document.

18.3. Any decisions of the Executive Committee shall be final in matters of the management of the DF ICA only if the actions or decisions of the Executive Committee are not disputed formally in writing by any member or group of members of the *World Council*. The decision of the *World Council* shall be final, subject to the judgement of a court of proper jurisdiction in the circumstances applying English law as provided in Article 17 LIMITATIONS.

## 19. TRANSLATION OF DOCUMENTS

19.1. All documents issued by the ICA may be translated into a local language unless expressly prohibited within the document.

19.2. In the event of a discrepancy between the local language translation and the original English document issued by the ICA, the original English version of the document shall take priority.