

BY LAWS of the MULTIHULL Council of the Gulf Yachting Association

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of the organization is the Multihull Council (hereafter, the "Council") of the Gulf Yachting Association (hereafter, "GYA").

ARTICLE II – DEFINITION

1. "Multihull" shall refer to yachts of two or more hulls. It shall include but not be limited to catamarans, trimarans, and proas.
2. "Council" shall refer to the organizing body for GYA yacht clubs and the US Sailing Association.

ARTICLE III – PURPOSE

1. To promote and support the interests of those who sail multihulls.
2. To advise and coordinate with the GYA's committees, councils, directors and staff in matters which affect member clubs and organizations.
3. To develop and maintain handicap rating systems for multihulls.
4. To formulate and promulgate safety programs for multihulls.
5. To establish and promote sailing and race training programs which, in part, introduce and expose GYA members, prospective GYA members and youth to multihull sailing and/or multihull racing.

ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP

1. All yacht clubs recognized by the GYA, dedicated to the interests of organized multihull sailing and racing shall be entitled to membership in the Council.
2. Each member club of the Council shall be entitled to appoint from its membership one representative to the Council and an alternate for such representative if it so chooses.
3. Individuals who are GYA and US SAILING members, and are identified as multihull sailors, shall automatically be Associate members of the Council.

ARTICLE V – OFFICERS

The officers of the Council shall be a Chairman, Vice Chairman, Rating Chairman, and a Secretary who shall be elected at the annual meeting of the Council.

ARTICLE VI – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. The Executive Committee shall consist of the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Rating Chairman, and Secretary of the Council.
2. The Executive Committee may act on all matters that do not require a vote of the Council. The Executive Committee will report all votes to the Council at its next meeting. Action may be accomplished by a majority vote of the entire Executive Committee by means of e-mail, telephone, fax or a special meeting.
3. The term of office for Council officers shall be one year or until the election of their successor. They shall be elected by a majority vote of the Council members at the annual meeting.
4. The Executive Committee shall appoint a Chairman and/or Vice Chairman, should these offices become vacant between annual meetings.
5. The chairman of the Executive Committee is the Chief Operating Officer of the Council. He shall appoint, with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee, chairmen and committeemen to carry out specific assignments.

ARTICLE VII – NOMINATING COMMITTEE

1. The Chairman of the Council shall appoint a Nominating Committee consisting of a Chairman and three members, all of whom shall represent separate clubs. In addition, the current Council Chairman shall be an ex-officio member of the Nominating Committee.
2. The duties of the Nominating Committee shall be to prepare and distribute to members of the Council slates for the following to be elected at the annual meeting:

Chairman of the Council

Vice Chairman of the Council

Rating Chairman of the Council

Secretary of the Council

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3. The Nominating Committee shall select one nominee for Club Representative from any club member of the Council. If no nominees are submitted by the member clubs, the Nominating Committee shall select the candidate.
4. The report of the Nominating Committee shall accompany the notice of the annual meeting.
5. Independent nominations of candidates meeting the same qualifications may be made from the floor at the annual meeting, with evidence of consent from the nominee.

ARTICLE VIII – MEETINGS

1. The annual meeting of the Council shall be held at the time of the annual meeting of the GYA.
2. The semi-annual meeting of the Council shall be held at the time of the semi-annual meeting of the GYA or no later that calendar year.
3. Special meetings of the Committee may be called by the Executive Committee.
4. Special meetings of the Executive Committee may be called by the Chairman.

ARTICLE IX – NOTICES

Notices of the Annual, semi-annual and special meetings shall be sent out at least 60 days in advance of the date of the meeting and shall contain the place, date and time of the meeting. An agenda of the matters to be considered at the meeting shall be sent at least 30 days prior to such meeting.

ARTICLE X – QUORUMS

1. Representatives from at least five members shall constitute a quorum for meetings of the Committee. Action shall be by a majority vote of members whose representatives are present.
2. A majority of the members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum for meetings of the Executive Committee. Action shall be by a majority vote of those present.

ARTICLE XI – VOTING

1. Each member of the Executive Committee shall have one vote at Executive Committee and Council meetings.
2. Each member of the Council shall have one vote at meetings.
3. Associate members are not entitled to voting rights.

ARTICLE XII – DUTIES OF OFFICERS

1. The Chairman or, in his absence, the Vice Chairman shall preside at all meetings of the Council and the Executive Committee. The Chairman and Vice Chairman shall serve as Council delegates to the Annual General Meeting of the GYA. In the absence of either, the other shall appoint a delegate.
2. The Secretary shall keep a record of all proceedings at all meetings. Minutes of all meetings shall be distributed to all Executive Committee and Council members.

ARTICLE XIII – AMENDMENTS

1. Any member of the Council may initiate bylaw amendments.
2. Any amendment to these bylaws shall be approved by a majority of the entire Executive Committee and shall be circulated to all Council members at least 60 days prior to the Council's annual meeting or any special meeting called for the purpose of ratifying such proposed amendment.

ARTICLE XIV – DUES

Dues, if any, shall be set by the Council at a later date.