

**BY-LAWS**  
of the  
**IVY OPEN RACING FLEET (I.O.R.F.)**

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As approved March 12, 2011

**Illinois Valley Yacht and Canoe Club**

**Article I - Membership and Dues**

- A. There will be three classes of membership in the I.O.R.F., Regular, Social, and Sponsored Organization.
1. A Regular member must have ownership of a boat type normally recognized as racing/cruising or cruising and be an IVY Club member.
  2. A Social member must be an IVY Club member and have interest in the racing fleet.
  3. A Sponsored Organization is described and must meet the requirements listed following.
    - i. A “Sponsored Organization” is one sponsored by the IVY Club through its board of directors. The IVY Club board of directors must approve the Organization’s participation in I.O.R.F.
    - ii. The Organization must use boats and related sailing equipment owned by the Organization itself, the IVY Club or an IVY Club member for I.O.R.F. events.
    - iii. Legal liability documentation and insurance acceptable to the IVY Club board of directors must be in place for the Organization, its equipment, and its members.
    - iv. The I.O.R.F. at each annual business meeting must approve participation of the Sponsored Organization for the ensuing season by majority vote of regular members present. The I.O.R.F. by majority vote may impose restrictions on the participation of the Sponsored Organization in I.O.R.F. events.
    - v. The leader of the Sponsored Organization or his designate, but only one person, shall represent the Sponsored Organization within I.O.R.F.
    - vi. Membership of a Sponsored Organization extends to each of its members who are in good standing within the Sponsored Organization.
- B. Annual dues for each class of membership shall be as set from time to time at the annual business meeting by a majority vote of Regular members in good standing.
- C. Regular members shall be voting members and be eligible for any office. Social members shall be non-voting members and while not eligible for elected offices, may serve on the various committees as designated by the Fleet Captain. Sponsored Organizations shall be non-voting and while not eligible for elected offices, its members may serve on the various committees as designated by the Fleet Captain.
- D. A Regular, Social, or Sponsored Organization member in good standing is anyone who qualifies pursuant to Article I, Section A, (1) or (2) above and who has paid the annual dues for the year.

**Article II - Officers**

- A. There shall be three elected officers of the I.O.R.F.: Fleet Captain, Fleet Vice-Captain, and Fleet Secretary-Treasurer. A separate document is available which lists the duties of each office.
- B. The term of office for each elected officer shall be one year.
- C. No elected officer may serve more than two consecutive terms in any one office. After being out of office for two years, a member may again serve two consecutive terms. This requirement may be waived for any officer upon an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the regular members in good standing present or represented by proxy at the meeting. Such waiver lasts only one year but may be repeated.
- D. Election shall be held at the annual business meeting each winter by a vote of Regular members in good standing.

**Article III - Committees**

- A. The Fleet Captain shall appoint chairpersons of the following standing committees within one month of being elected to office:
  - 1. Social
  - 2. Regatta
  - 3. Handicap

In addition the Fleet Captain shall appoint a person to be scorekeeper, to score races and tabulate overall series results as described in Article V following.

- B. In addition to the above committees, the Fleet Vice-Captain shall serve as chairperson of the Protest Committee.
- C. Each chairperson may select other regular or social members to serve on his committee as needed.
- D. Committee chairpersons shall serve no longer than two consecutive years. After being out of the chairpersonship for two years, a member may again serve as chairperson for two years. This requirement may be waived for any chairperson upon an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the regular members in good standing present or represented by proxy at the meeting. Such waiver lasts only one year but may be repeated.
- E. There shall be established a standing handicap committee which shall, to the extent possible, consist of an equal number of members from each Fleet, as hereinafter established. There shall initially be appointed to this committee four members by the Fleet Captain. Current members of the handicap committee shall serve on that committee until the next annual business meeting. Thereafter, the Fleet Captain shall appoint two members for a two year term. At the expiration of such initial terms of office, all newly appointed members to the handicap committee thereafter shall serve a two year term. If a member of the handicap committee changes fleets while in office, he shall remain on the committee but the Fleet Captain shall take such change into account when appointing new members to the committee so as to retain, to the extent possible, an equal number of members from each Fleet. The Fleet Captain shall appoint the chairperson of the Committee from among those members who shall be serving in the final year of their term of office.

**Article IV - Annual Business Meetings and By-Law Amendments**

- A. A business meeting of the I.O.R.F. shall be held annually between racing seasons for the purpose of electing officers and considering amendments to these by-laws. Additional business and/or special meetings may be called by the Fleet Captain, if necessary.
- B. Notice of such meeting will be sent by regular mail or delivered to all members in good standing. Such notice shall be mailed so that members have at least ten (10) days notice of each meeting. Notice is sufficient if mailed to the member's last known address as reflected in the records of the Secretary-Treasurer.
- C. Amendments to these by-laws will be considered only at a special meeting called for said purpose, and only if a quorum is present. A quorum shall be a simple majority of Regular members in good standing. A Regular member may appoint a proxy to vote for them provided the proxy is another Regular member in good standing and that the appointment is in writing and signed either physically or through electronic mail. A member represented by proxy shall be counted when determining if a quorum is present. No business shall be carried on, including amendments to by-laws, unless a quorum is present.
- D. Amendments to these by-laws will be adopted only upon an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the regular members in good standing present or represented by proxy at the meeting in which the amendment is considered.
- E. The proceedings of each business or special meeting shall be reported to the membership by the Fleet Secretary-Treasurer by written minutes mailed or delivered to all members in good standing within ten (10) days of said meeting.

**Article V - Racing**

- A. Racing events shall be conducted each year as approved by a majority vote of regular members in good standing at an annual business or special meeting and shall meet each of the following requirements.
  - 1. All races shall be conducted under official U. S. Sailing Association rules.
  - 2. Each racing event shall have a schedule which includes dates, times, and locations of races in the event. Unless otherwise specified in the racing schedule, races will be conducted in Upper Peoria Lake in the vicinity of the IVY Club.
  - 3. Each racing event shall have a "Notice of Race" and/or "Sailing Instructions" which must define eligibility of competitors, handicap method, scoring and standings, awards, and may contain other details as recommended by the U. S. Sailing Association rules.
- B. A racing event that has started and is underway may not be changed unless explicitly allowed by the "Notice of Race" and/or "Sailing Instructions" or agreed by all the registered competitors. At least ten (10) days notice of such changes must be provided in writing, sent by regular mail or delivered in person to each member in good standing.
- C. No races shall be cancelled or postponed by the sailing fleet because of weather, although the IVY Race Committee may cancel or postpone a race due to weather.

**Article VI - Handicaps**

- A. The Handicap Committee will assign boats to either a one-design, a no-handicap or a handicap racing fleet. A one-design fleet shall consist of six or more one-design yachts unless a lesser number of yachts is approved by a majority vote of regular members in good standing at an annual business or special meeting. A no-handicap fleet shall consist of six or more yachts with approximately the same handicap rating who are all willing to race without handicap unless a lesser number of yachts is approved by a majority vote of regular members in good standing at an annual business or special meeting. All other yachts shall be assigned to a handicap fleet(s).
- B. Yachts racing in a “handicap” fleet shall be assigned a handicap by the Handicap Committee.
- C. The Handicap Committee will consider data provided by U. S. Sailing to determine handicaps. The data used will be the PHRF rating system and/or the Portsmouth Number rating system.
- D. Handicap time allowances shall be either a time-on-time or time-on-distance formula as approved by a majority vote of members in good standing at an annual business or special meeting.
- E. Once a yacht’s handicap has been selected for an event, the handicap form may not be changed until that event has ended unless otherwise defined in the “Notice of Race” and/or “Sailing Instructions” for the event.
- F. An I.O.R.F. member who feels that a rating is not justified may appeal such rating to a vote of the fleet by filing said appeal in writing with the Fleet Captain and the Handicap Committee Chairperson within ten (10) days after receipt of written notice of such rating.
- G. Upon receipt of any appeal as set out above, the Fleet Captain shall call a special meeting of the fleet within fifteen (15) days and the Secretary shall mail or deliver a notice of this meeting to all fleet members in good standing no later than ten (10) days before said special meeting. The handicap rating may only be changed by a majority vote of regular members in good standing at this meeting.