

### **1. Organization**

- 1.1. USA Finn Association (USAFA) is incorporated in the State of Tennessee. It is dedicated to the promotion of sailing and the education of our youth in international and Olympic competition. Registered address is 19 Timberlake Trail, Fayetteville, TN 37334. Registered Agent is John R. Caldwell.
- 1.2. A copy of the Articles of Incorporation, Annual Reports, Annual Treasurers Reports, Bylaws, Annual Dues and Fees, Membership Roster, Hull and Sail Number Registry and Minutes of the Annual General Meeting will be published and reside on the class website, [www.finnusa.org](http://www.finnusa.org).

### **2. Dues**

- 2.1. Any change in dues must be approved by the membership at the AGM
- 2.2. Dues charged:
  - Regular member- \$100
  - Junior member- \$40
  - Associate member- \$40
  - Sponsor- \$40
  - Private Sail Number- \$50
- 2.3. Dues are payable at any time during the year and must be paid prior to participation in any event requiring USAFA membership.
- 2.4. Any regattas entered prior to the payment of dues will not be eligible for inclusion in USAFA Rankings

### **3. Annual General Meeting**

- 3.1. The Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held once per year at a time and place designated by the National Secretary. The default time and place are at the US Nationals [per 2003 AGM], unless an alternative has been decided on by a majority of the class officers, and the Class membership notified at least 60 days in advance. The Class President will preside, except in the absence of the Class President, The National Secretary followed by any Class Vice President will preside.
- 3.2. A quorum of at least two Officers is required to conduct an AGM.

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- 3.3. Only currently paid Regular and Junior members, as certified by the National Secretary, may vote by proxy, electronically, or in person at the AGM. There is no quorum requirement.
- 3.4. Business to be conducted at the AGM shall include:
- Secretary's Minutes of the prior AGM
  - Treasurer's Annual Report
  - Proposed Regatta Schedule for ensuing year
  - President's Report on status of ongoing issues
  - US Sailing Olympic Representatives Report
  - New Proposals for USAFA
  - New Proposals for IFA
  - Election of Officers for ensuing year
  - Reaffirmation of Dues for ensuing year
- 3.5. The AGM agenda is to be distributed to the current paid Class members 30 days prior to the meeting.
- 3.6. Nominations for class officers:  
All nominations for Class Officers are to be named to the US National Secretary prior to 45 days before the AGM. All Class members nominated for Class Officer positions must be listed in the agenda. There will be no call for nominations during the AGM, unless there are no prior nominations for the open position.

## **4. Officers and Responsibilities**

- 4.1. Type
- President
  - National Secretary
  - Treasurer
  - US Sailing Olympic Representative
  - Vice President - Development
  - Vice President - Northeast
  - Vice President - Southeast
  - Vice President - Midwest
  - Vice President- Northwest
  - Vice President-Northern California
  - Vice President-Southern California
  - Vice President- Rocky Mountain
  - Chief Measurer
- 4.2. Responsibilities

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- 4.2.1. President will be responsible for the overall direction of USAFA activities. These will include a formulation of plans, interaction with other organizations.
- 4.2.2. National Secretary will be responsible for administrative duties regarding the USAFA and the IFA.
- 4.2.3. Treasurer will be responsible for management of revenues and the issuance of an Annual Financial statement.
- 4.2.4. US Sailing Olympic Representative will be responsible for interacting with US Sailing and the US Olympic Committee. The Olympic representative will keep the USAFA Officers informed of all activities regarding US Sailing, who will in turn keep all USAFA members informed. Any action requiring a decision by the Olympic Representative to US Sailing or USOC, which will directly affect the general membership of USAFA, must gain the approval of at least two additional Officers of the USAFA.
- 4.2.5. Vice President - Development will be responsible for undertaking the administration of development activities including clinics, youth development, promotion. He will utilize the regional Vice-Presidents and others for implementation of development activities. In addition, he will interact with US Sailing and other organizations with their development activities. Vice President - Regional will be responsible for developing and promoting regional events, including fleet development and regional schedules. Regional Championship Series should be developed and identified encompassing multiple area regattas and utilize the USAFA rankings for Category 2/3 events to determine annual champions.
- 4.2.6. Chief Measurer will appoint Assistant Measurers to perform duties regionally and notify the National Secretary of the appointees. It is the responsibility of the Chief Measurer or designee to enforce the rules contained herein as well as the rules of the IFA. The collection of Chief Measurer and the Assistant Measurers will be called the Technical Committee and it will be the responsibility of the Technical Committee to develop materials that will assist members in equipment modifications. They will also be responsible for responding to membership requests related to all technical questions. The knowledge developed by the technical committee will be made available on the class website.
- 4.3. Length of term shall be the time between AGM's. There is no limit to the number of terms an Officer can serve.
- 4.4. In the event that an Officer resigns, a quorum of 50% of the remaining Officers can appoint a replacement for the remainder of the term.

### **5. Expenditure Limits**

- 5.1. Any expenditure over \$500 must have the approval of at least 3 Officers.
- 5.2. Any expenditure over \$1000 must have the approval of at least 5 Officers

### **6. Regatta Types**

- 6.1. Type 1 (Major)-Includes the Finn Junior and Senior World Championships (Finn Gold Cup), Finn European Championship, Finn North American Championship, Finn US National Championship, US Olympic Trials
- 6.2. Type 2 - (Regional/Can Am) Includes any US Sailing Team qualifying Olympic Classes Regatta (OCR), any USAFA Regional Championship, Finn Masters World Championship, US Finn Masters, CORK, Area Club OCR
- 6.3. Type 3-Any Finn Class regatta or Series not designated Type 1 or Type 2

### **7. Membership Definitions**

- 7.1. Memberships are paid and valid for the calendar year.
- 7.2. Regular-A Regular membership is required for participation in any Type 1 or Type 2 regatta. Included with Regular membership is I USAFA membership, I IFA membership, 1 Hull Decal, Finnfare and Solo subscriptions.
- 7.3. Junior -A Junior membership is available to all participants who are not 21 on Jan 1 of the membership year or whatever definition is currently in effect by the IFA. All the rights and privileges of the Regular membership are accorded to Junior members.
- 7.4. Associate -Available to those who do not own boats and may participate occasionally in Type 3 events only. Included with Associate membership is I USAFA membership, Solo subscription.
- 7.5. Sponsor - Available for non-participatory members. Includes Solo subscription.

### **8. Sail Numbers**

- 8.1. Sail Numbers are either Private Sail Numbers, which are assigned to the individual, or Hull Sail Numbers, which are assigned to the boat. A regatta participant must register

with either a Private Sail Number if one is assigned to him, or with the sail number assigned to the hull.

- 8.2. Optional Private Sail Numbers are requested from and assigned by the National Secretary. These are valid for a period of 4 years starting on Jan 1 of the current calendar year. Each member with a Private Sail Number has the right of first renewal until Feb 1 of the year following the expiration. There is a fee for Private Sail Numbers as defined on the class website. For example: If you purchase in June of 2005, you get all of 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008. You get to renew with your membership in 2009 up until Feb 1, 2009. After February 2<sup>nd</sup>, the sail number is expired and up for sale.
- 8.3. Hull Sail Numbers are to be recorded with an associated Hull Serial Number, or ISAF Sticker Serial number. When a boat is sold, the Hull Sail Number is transferred to the new owner. The National Secretary should be notified of any change in ownership.

### 9. Hull Registrations

- 9.1. Regular and Junior memberships include 1 IFA Hull Sticker which signifies that One IFA membership has been paid. They are to be permanently attached to the boat. Any additional boats require the purchase of additional Hull Stickers in order for those boats to be used in Type 1 or Type 2 regattas.

**10. USAFA Ranking System** - The USAFA Ranking System is used to determine who may attend the Finn Gold Cup and Finn European championships beyond the top 5 and the National Secretary (which are the US Sailing Team as determined by the us Sailing Ranking system).

- 10.1. As Scoring at various regattas sometimes differ, for ranking purposes, USAFA uses the Low Point Scoring System with the following modifications:
  - 1 Point awarded for first place (in lieu of  $\frac{3}{4}$  points);
  - The number of boats counted as entered in a regatta includes only those boats that started one or more races in the regatta.
  - The number of throw-outs will be the same as the regatta Sailing Instructions.

The system is a "high point" system and calculated as follows: Regatta Classification as defined in Section 6:

- 1st Degree. Major Regattas - Best one (1) to count Weight factor for 1st Degree regattas is 75.

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- 2nd Degree. Regional Regattas. Best two (2) to count.) Weight factor for 2nd degree regattas is 50.
- 3rd Degree. Local regattas. Maybe counted in place of 2nd Degrees at half value. All other North American regattas, but there must be at least 6 boats racing in order to count. Weight factor for 3rd degree regatta is 25.

10.2. Scoring the Regatta: The ranking score for an individual regatta will be determined as follows:

- Ranking score= weight factor\* (1-(Person's points/total points: ((Number of boats+ 1)\*(Number of races - throws))))
- Person's points are the individual's final score in the regatta. Total points is the number of races (less the number of throw-outs allowed) that are counted times the number of boats participating in the regatta plus one. (A boat must have started at least one race in a regatta to count, participating in a regatta for purposes of scoring and/or determining the degree of the regatta.)
- For purposes of the ranking system, the series will be calculated in accordance with the "Low Point Scoring System". (Score for first place is calculated as 1.)

For example: In a local regatta with 11 different boats that started one or more races, seven races were sailed, the participant had 22 points in the best six of the seven races. The points credited to the ranking system for this participant would be:

- Ranking score=  $25 * (1 - 22 / ((7 - 1) * (11 + 1)))$
- Ranking score=  $25 * (1 - (22 / 72 \text{ or } .305556))$
- Ranking score=  $25 * .694444 \text{ or } 17.361111$
- (Points will be carried out to maximum of 6 decimal points.)

10.3. Points in the Ranking System

An individual's ranking score is based upon the total of the highest-ranking scores from (a) one 1st degree regatta and (b) two 2nd degree regattas (or 3rd degree regattas substituted), all sailed within the calendar year. Note the following applies: A regatta can only be counted once. (If a 1st degree is counted, it cannot be counted as a 2nd degree also.)

Only one regatta qualifying as a 1st degree regatta and two regattas qualifying for 2nd degree regattas or (3rd degree regatta substitutions), can be counted for scoring purposes. If a person subsequently receives a higher score in a regatta of the same degree, the higher score will be used.

In case of ties in the rankings, they will be broken by considering the races where the two sailors races against each other and the relative strengths of their counting regattas if they did not race against each other.

Where a sailor has not sailed within the past year in a regatta counting in a certain degree, he will be scored a zero for that degree and the scoring will reflect that. (If he has only one 2nd degree regatta, he will get the points from that one regatta only.)

- 10.4. Rankings will be periodically published in SOLO, the web [www.finnusa.org](http://www.finnusa.org) and reported to US Sailing. Notes regarding 2000 rankings: All changes to the rankings must be voted on by the class at the AGM during the National Championships a year in advance. At the 2000 AGM it was decided that a type 3 would no longer be counted. However, 3rd degree regattas maybe substituted for 2nd degree regattas at half value. At the 1998 AGM, it was decided that regattas could not be 'upgraded' by the number of participants. The class also voted that the PAN-AM games representative will be the top U.S. finisher at the PAN-AM Trials. The Pre-Olympic games representative will be the top U.S. finisher at the Pre-Olympic Trials. Any alternate or additional spots for these regattas will be taken from the rankings.
- 10.5. US Sailing Ranking System is defined on the US Sailing Website [www.ussailing.org](http://www.ussailing.org) . Finn class representatives on the US Sailing Team (USST) are derived annually by the rules as determined by US Sailing. The top 5 are automatically designated as Gold Cup participants in addition to the Class Secretary. US Sailing will pay any IFA dues required for these 6 positions.

### **11. Regatta Participation Requirements**

- 11.1. For Type 1 and Type 2 Regattas as defined in Section 6 of the Bylaws, the Chief Measurer or designee shall enforce at his direction, compliance with any measurements or enforcement of IFA or USAFA rules including but not limited to the following:

Mast labels according to the rules set forth by the IFA Sail labels according to the rules set forth by the IFA

Measurement Certificates according to the rules set forth in the IFA ISAF Hull stickers or equivalent as set forth by the IFA

Every boat participating must have a current IFA Hull sticker affixed to the boat. Additional stickers are available from the National Secretary.

Each participant must register under the Sail number assigned to the participant (Private Sail Number) or the Sail number assigned to the Hull by the participant's National Secretary. Any change of sail numbers will follow procedures as designated by the event organizers. Regatta results will be reported with the Registration sail number.

Each participant must be a Regular or Junior member of the USAFA or in lieu of USAFA Regular membership, IFA membership is required in the participant's country of origin

for all Type 1 and Type 2 regattas

11.2. For Type 3 Regattas, there are no specific requirements. Only results from USAFA (Associate or Regular) members will be used in the USAFA rankings.

### **12. Sale of class owned assets.**

12.1 The sale of any class owned assets must be agreed upon by all 3 class officers. US Class President, US Class Secretary, and US Class Treasurer. (voted in 4/18)

### **13. Class rules:**

The US Finn Class will follow and obey the most current International Finn Class rules and regulations. This will include the measurement of all racing hulls and equipment, for all type 1 and type 2 regattas. The measurement of racing hulls will be held to the requirements of the year the hull was manufactured.

## **Appendix's to the US Finn Class Bylaws:**

### **US Finn Class Regatta outlines.**

#### **Finn North Americans:**

This Type 1 regatta will be shared between Canada and the US. The US will host for 2 years in a row and Canada will host every 3<sup>rd</sup> year. It is up to the host country class to decide the venue that the NA's will be sailed. In the years that the NA's will be sailed in the US, it should be alternated between the different areas of the country. The host club will be decided by a bid process at the AGM the year prior. The NA's can be a 3 or 4-day regatta decided upon by the host country. Measurement requirements will be determined by the host country's class officers. Weighing and hull inspection will be encouraged. The NA's are open to all current IFA members. The traveling 1<sup>st</sup> place trophy will be returned to the hosting regatta site before the start of the regatta. The overall winner of the regatta will be allowed to possess the NA Trophy for the time until the next NA Regatta. It is the responsibility of the current NA Champion to make arrangements to return the trophy to the host site. The host country will decide on all other award categories.



### **US Finn Nationals:**

The US Finn National championship venue will be decided during the US Finn AGM no later than the year prior by a bid process. The US Nationals will be a 3-day regatta. Measurement requirements will be determined by the US Finn Class officers. Weighing and hull inspection will be encouraged. The US Nationals are open to all current IFA members, and is a Type 1 regatta. The top overall winner will be awarded the National traveling trophy. All other awards will be decided by the host club. The national trophy will not be allowed to leave the country if the winner is not living in the US. Any overall winner that lives in the US for more than 50% of the year can possess the trophy until the next US National event. The National trophy must be returned to the hosting regatta site before the start of the regatta. It is the responsibility of the current National champion to make arrangements to return the trophy to the host site.

### **North American Finn Masters**

The North American Finn Masters is a type 2 regatta. The venue shall be decided by a bid process no later than the AGM the year prior. The North American Finn Masters may be bid to host in the US, Canada, or Mexico. The Masters should be a 3-day regatta. The Masters is open to any current IFA member 40 years old and older. The member must turn 40 years old the same calendar year as the regatta to be eligible to participate. All other age classes will be scored to the age of the sailor at the time of the regatta. The age groups are; 39-49, Master. 50-59, Grand Master. 60-69, Great Grand Master. 70-79, Legend. 80+, Super Legend. The number of races should not exceed 3 races per day unless the participants agree prior to launching for the day. The races should be kept to a maximum of 45 minutes per race. Measurement requirements will be determined by the host country's Finn Class officers. The North American Masters Regatta is intended to be an enjoyable regatta for the all the master's fleets. The length of races and weather conditions should be considered by the P.R.O.. If the conditions are very challenging, the racing should be adjusted for the fleet sailing.

Type 2 regattas include:

- PCC's
- Gulf Coast Championship
- Rocky Mountain Championship
- Great Lakes Championship
- Any area OCR

All requirements, NOR, and Si's will be determined by the host club/fleet. The current Finn Class rules should be considered and followed for all regattas.

All other regattas are a type 3. This includes all the local Finn regattas/weekly series racing not covered by the listed regattas above. Participants are encouraged to be an IFA member to sail in a level 3 regatta, but not required. All requirements, NOR, and Si's will be determined by the host of the regatta/series.

- The bid process:
  - To bid a regatta, the host club needs to have the following requirements:

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- The regatta you would like to host. The dates the regatta is proposed. The location of the regatta (off shore, in a bay, on what lake...). The host club approval. PRO, RC, and support boats available. Any other selling point that may help the members vote to approve your bid (housing available, great vacation destination, spectator boats...).
- The bid may be for the next year or 2 years out. During the AGM the board member will call for bids for specific regattas starting with the North Americans, then Nationals, finally the Masters. You will present your bid to the group. If there are multiple bids, all bids will be heard then voted upon. The members will decide by vote where they would like to sail. At that time, you may bid for the following year if your location is not picked.
- Please forward NOR to the class Secretary for approval.
- Once approved, please forward NOR to webmaster to get regatta listed on website.