



# **USA Finn Association By-Laws**

Revised January 19, 2020

### **1. Organization**

- 1.1. USA Finn Association (USAFA) is incorporated in the State of Michigan. It is dedicated to the promotion of sailing and the education of our youth in international and Olympic competition. Registered address is 13720 Shady Lane, Monroe Mi. 48161. Registered agent is Peter Frissell
- 1.2. A copy of Annual Dues and Fees, Membership Roster, Hull and Sail Number Registry will be published and reside on the class website, [www.finnusa.org](http://www.finnusa.org).

### **2. Jurisdiction**

- 2.1 The US Finn Association has jurisdiction over all Finn activities. Its Class rules govern all Finn races held within the United States of America, regardless of by whom they are held. Its By-laws, Rulings, and Specifications are binding upon all members and all registered Finns must confirm with IFA official plans and specifications.
- 2.2 The US Finn Association will follow and obey the most current International Finn Class rules and regulations. Every boat less than 20 years old shall possess a valid measurement certificate to be eligible for type 1 or Type 2 regattas. The measurement of racing hulls will be held to the requirements of the year the hull was manufactured.
- 2.3 Members of the USAFA will adhere to the US Sailing Championships Code of Conduct, referenced at:  
[https://www.ussailing.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Championships\\_Code\\_of\\_Conduct.pdf](https://www.ussailing.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Championships_Code_of_Conduct.pdf)

### **3. Dues**

- 3.1. Any change in dues must be approved by the membership at the AGM
- 3.2. Dues are payable at any time during the year and must be paid prior to participation in any event requiring USAFA membership. Dues paid after Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> will cover the last two months of the current year and the entire following year.
- 3.3. Any regattas entered prior to the payment of dues will not be eligible for inclusion in USAFA Rankings.

### **4. Annual General Meeting**

- 4.1. 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 is at the US Nationals, 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.

- 4.2. A quorum of at least two Officers is required to conduct an AGM.
- 4.3. Only currently paid Members, as certified by the National Secretary, may vote by proxy, electronically, or in person at the AGM. There is no quorum requirement.
- 4.4. 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
- 4.5. The AGM agenda is to be distributed to the current paid Class members 30 days prior to the meeting.
- 4.6. Nominations for class officers: All nominations for Class Officers are to be named to the US National Secretary prior to the AGM agenda being finalized. 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.

## 5. **Officers, Committees and Responsibilities**

### 5.1. **Officers**

- President
- National Secretary
- Treasurer
- Chief Measurer

### 5.2. **Board of Governors**

- Olympic Class Representative (if applicable)
- Vice President - Northeast
- Vice President - Southeast
- Vice President - Midwest
- Vice President- Northwest
- Vice President-Northern California
- Vice President-Southern California

- Vice President- Rocky Mountain
- Vice President- Great Republic of Texas

### 5.3. Responsibilities

- 5.3.1. President will be responsible for the overall direction of USAFA activities. These will include a formulation of plans, interaction with other organizations.
- 5.3.2. National Secretary will be responsible for administrative duties regarding the USAFA and the IFA.
- 5.3.3. Treasurer will be responsible for management of revenues and the issuance of an Annual Financial statement.
- 5.3.4. 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.
- 5.3.5. Vice President - Development will be responsible for undertaking the administration of development activities including clinics, youth development, and 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.
- 5.3.6. 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.
- 5.3.7 Area VP's;
  - Responsibilities: Area contact and oversees regattas in their area. Solo Articles.
  - Need to be chosen by people within the region

5.4. Length of term shall be the time between AGM's. There is no limit to the number of terms an Officer can serve.

5.5. 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.

### **6. Expenditure Limits**

6.1. Any expenditure over \$500 must have the approval of at least 3 Officers.

6.2. Any expenditure over \$1000 must have the approval of at least 5 Officers

### **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 I or Type 2 regatta. Included with Regular membership is 1 USAFA membership, 1 IFA membership, 1 Hull Decal, Finnfare and Solo subscriptions.

7.3. Junior -A Junior membership is available to all participants who are not 23 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 1 USAFA membership, Solo subscription.

7.5. Sponsor - Available for non-participatory members. Includes Solo subscription.

7.6. Life Time Membership- A Life Time Membership (LTM) may be granted by three-fourths vote at the AGM. The USAFA is not responsible for any personal tax liabilities which may exist.

7.7. Any member may be given a one year suspension or expelled only by three-fourths vote at an AGM. An expelled officer may not hold office in the USAFA.

7.8. The following class officers are exempt from annual dues;

- President
- Secretary
- Web-Master
- Treasurer
- Chief Measurer

- 7.9 Dues  
Regular Member \$100.00  
Junior member \$40  
Associate Member \$40  
Sponsor \$40

## **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 using the sail number listed on the class website.
1. One can pay for a Private Sail Number ( PSN) of your choice provided it is not USA 1, or conflict with a previously chosen number.
  2. One can use the three-letter country code and the boats ISAF number as the sail number
  3. Upon first time registration a “default” number is assign and your number listed below. If payment for the PSN is not up to date and class not advised of the ISAF number, then the sail number shall revert to the default sail number.
- 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 up 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.
- 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 beyond the top 5 and the National Secretary.

- 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.

### 10.2. Regatta Types

10.2.1 Type 1 - (International)-Includes World Sailing Championships such as; Finn Gold Cup, Finn European Championship, Miami OCR, US Olympic Trials, World Masters, CORK, Finn North American Championship, Finn US National Championship. Weight Factor is 200 Points

10.2.2 Type 2 - (Regional)-Regional Championships such as PCC's, Gulf Coast, Great Lakes. Weight Factor is 100 Points

10.2.3 Type 3 – (Other)- Local regattas. Weight Factor is 75 points.

A regatta must have 6 boats to be counted

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

- Ranking score= weight factor\*  $(1 - (\text{Person's points} / \text{total points}))$  ((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.)

### 10.4. 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.

Type 1 Total=200\*Highest score of Type 1

Type 2 Total=100\* Highest score of Type 2, or second highest of Type 1 (whichever is higher)

Type 3 Total=75\*Highest score of Type 3, or second highest of Type 2 (whichever is higher), or third highest of Type 3 (whichever is highest)

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.)

- 10.5. Rankings will be periodically published in SOLO, and at [www.finnusa.org](http://www.finnusa.org).
- 10.6. The top 5 are automatically designated as Gold Cup participants in addition to the Class Secretary.

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

- 11.1. For Type 1 and Type 2 Regattas as defined in Section 10 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.

11.3 IFA rules shall govern in the event of a conflict between IFA and USAFA rules.

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

12.1 The sale of any class owned assets must be agreed upon by 3 class officers.

13. Code of Conduct. All Members agree to abide by the rules set forth in the US Sailing Championships Code of Conduct.