

J/88 Class Association General Meeting Minutes

Date: 6/30/17

Start: 12:05 p.m. EDT

Adjourn: 12:45 p.m. EDT

Present:

Chris & Julie Howell X
Jeff Johnstone
Elizabeth Barry X
John Barry
Denise Bienvenu
Bernie Blum X
Mike Bruno X
Rob Butler
Peter Chirlian
Don Finkle X
Tim Finkle X
Andy Graff X
Ken Hall X
Drew Hall
Will Harris X
Jim Hopp
David Malkin
Doug McKeige
Al Minella
Doug Newhouse X
Brian O'Malley
Gary Panariello (proxy to Iris Vogel)
Tod Patton
Heidi Patton X
Jeff Pawlowski
John Pearson
Keith Rehder
John Sommi
Richard Stearns
Iris Vogel X
Laura Weyler X
Benjamin Wilson

Agenda:

1. Vote on Class Rules Proposals
2. New Business
3. Next Meeting

Description:

1. **Vote on Class Rules Proposals** – Chris H. said that we have a quorum. 60% of the people present are required to pass a vote (one vote per boat).
CURRENT CLASS RULE 2.0
2.0 Membership and Eligibility
2.1 The terms Voting Members and Associate Members shall be as defined in the J/88 Class Constitution.
2.2 The Driver for in-shore racing shall be the person who drives the boat from five minutes before the start until the finish, but for momentary absences for personal or shipboard needs. The Driver shall be a Voting Member or an Associate Member. A Driver who is not a 100% owner of the J/88 shall be a Group 1 competitor as defined in the World Sailing Competitor Classification system. For an inshore racing event of five or less consecutive days, not more than two Drivers can be designated, at least one of which must be a Voting Member.
2.3 The default classification for any sailing industry related crew member, other than a 100%

owner, who does not have a formal World Sailing Competitor Classification shall be World Sailing Group 3. Not more than one Group 3 competitor shall be permitted to race on a J/88, unless otherwise prescribed by the Executive Board in the Notice of Race at least 30 days prior to the event. The crew may include one non-Group 1 Competitor who is a full time employee of J/Boats, Inc. or a J/Boats dealer as approved by J/Boats.

2.4 No crew member may be paid or compensated in any way for racing in a J/88 sanctioned event. However, a crew member may accept reimbursement for reasonable out-of-pocket expenses, transportation, living accommodations and meals necessary for participation in an event.

2.5 A J/88 may be chartered for J/88 sanctioned events. The charterer must be a Voting Member or an Associate Member who is an owner of a J/88, or a Group 1 competitor who is pre-approved by the Class.

PROPOSED NEW CLASS RULE 2.0

2.0 Membership and Eligibility

2.1 The terms Full Members and Associate Members shall be as defined in the J/88 Class Constitution.

2.2 The Driver shall meet the following criteria except in the event of an emergency involving the safety of the boat or crew where the boat may be steered by any crew member. Any such incident shall be reported to the protest committee which may penalize the boat. The penalty may be less than disqualification.

(a) Permitted Drivers:

(i) Owner - a crew who legally owns and pays at least 50% of the yacht and the running costs.

(ii) Family Member - an immediate family member of the Owner.

(iii) Regular Crew Member - a Group 1 Competitor who sailed with the Owner in at least 50% of the events the Owner participated in during the prior 12 months, and who is approved by the Class Executive Committee.

(iv) Charterer – an Owner, family member or a Group 1 charterer confirmed by the Owner of the boat for that event, and who is approved by the Class Executive Committee.

(v) All permitted drivers must be current members of the J/88 Class Association.

(b) For day-racing events of five or less consecutive days, two Drivers may be designated, provided at least one is an Owner. From five minutes before the start until the finish, the boat shall be helmed by the designated driver(s) except for momentary absences for personal or shipboard needs not to exceed five (5) minutes where a Group 1 crew may drive.

2.3 The default classification for any sailing industry related crew member, other than a 100% owner, who does not have a formal World Sailing Competitor Classification shall be World Sailing Group 3. Not more than one Group 3 competitor shall be permitted to race on a J/88, unless otherwise prescribed by the Executive Board in the Notice of Race at least 30 days prior to the event. The crew may include one non-Group 1 Competitor who is a full-time employee of J/Boats, Inc. or a J/Boats dealer as approved by J/Boats.

2.4 No crew member may be paid or compensated in any way for racing in a J/88 sanctioned event. However, a crew member may accept reimbursement for reasonable out-of-pocket expenses, transportation, living accommodations and meals necessary for participation in an event.

2.5 This rule is deleted

Doug N. asked about the process the Executive Committee uses to decide what to bring forward for vote. Iris explained that, for this issue, the membership was split about 50/50 as discussed at our May meeting. This proposal is meant to meet in the middle. Doug N. also asked about the Executive Committee approving a competitor being a driver and what process/criteria will be used. Chris H. said that this is really “checks and balance.” A driver

who is not an owner but is Group 1 needs to have sailed 50% of the prior events with the owner. The EC is there to confirm that requests are valid based upon this criteria. The Executive Committee would also review charter situations, with the goal to protect the integrity of the Class and all owners. Doug N. would like to see some language on how this would be handled. Laura W. wants to make sure that any requests are answered promptly. Andy G. hopes that we can focus on keeping the most boats out sailing as possible and at the highest caliber. He wonders if this proposal hampers owners who would prefer to crew instead of drive. Will H. agreed that we should emphasize improving participation. Chris H. said that the proposal still allows this as defined above, and he clarified that the 50% of events can be in any boat (doesn't need to be a J/88). Doug N. said that he prefers the more restricted owner/driver Rules as stated. Mike B. concurred and said that the competition in the fleet is high now. Comparison was made to the J/70 Class, but our Rules already prohibit paid crew.

Heidi Patton made a motion to accept the Rules proposal as presented, seconded by Iris Vogel. The proposal failed by a vote of 4-5 (2 abstain). Those who voted for: Mike B. Tim F., Doug N., Heidi P. Those who voted against: Andy G., Ken H., Iris V. (with Gary P. proxy), Laura W. Abstain: Elizabeth B., Bernie B. As the motion failed, the current Rules, as posted, are in effect.

Chris H. clarified that the Rules allow only one Group 3 on the boat (even in the case of a family member), with only the exception of a J/Boats full-time employee or a J/Boats dealer approved by J/Boats (who would then be considered a Group 1).

CURRENT CLASS RULE 5.4

5.4 Effective **May 10, 2017** for J/88 Class or Fleet sanctioned one design racing, purchases shall not exceed (a) one mainsail, two jibs and two spinnakers in the first year of ownership, (b) plus any three sails during each subsequent calendar year. Notwithstanding any other limitation in this section, the Executive Board or the Chief Measurer may permit replacement of any sail which has been damaged beyond reasonable repair.

PROPOSED NEW CLASS RULE 5.4

5.4 Effective **TBD** for J/88 Class or Fleet sanctioned one design racing, purchases shall not exceed (a) one mainsail, two jibs and two spinnakers in the first year of ownership, (b) plus any three sails during each subsequent calendar year. Notwithstanding any other limitation in this section, the Executive Board or the Chief Measurer may permit replacement of any sail which has been damaged beyond reasonable repair.

Mike B. made a motion to accept the Rules proposal as presented, seconded by Laura W. The proposal passed.

2. **New Business** – Doug N. asked about the World Sailing sailor classification requirements for all crew to race. Chris H. said that the only way to prove whether a person is Group 1 or 3 is via the World Sailing system. Chris H. will send a clear reminder prior to the NAC. Iris V. added that people still need to use the honor system in cases where a Group 1 person joins the sailing industry and should re-classify.

Ken H. asked about clarification of the lifeline Rules, as discussed at the last meeting. He doesn't feel that the topic has been thoroughly communicated. Although Chris H. is new to the Class, he recalls that this is not a Class Rules issue, but rather a part of J/Boats builder specifications. This was communicated by J/Boats over the past year. Chris H. will include this topic in the NAC e-mail too.

Ken H. would like to see a Corinthian division scored at major events, like the J/70 Class does. Chris H. said this can be included in event NORs, and does not require a Class Rules proposal. We can make this an Event Rule (allowable to be enacted at events) in our next Rules cycle.

3. **Next Meeting** – Fall 2017

Julie Howell

Action Items:

--Chris H. will send a clear reminder prior to the NAC about World Sailing sailor classification requirements and the lifelines builder specs.

Next Meeting: Fall 2017