

J/88 Class Association General Meeting Minutes

Date: 2/6/19

Start: 12:05 p.m. EST

Adjourn: 12:50 p.m. EST

Present (Bold name indicates a current Class member or Executive Committee member):

Chris & Julie Howell X

Jeff Johnstone

Elizabeth Barry X

Mike Bruno (X proxy to Iris Vogel)

Gordon Dill

Tim Finkle

Don Finkle

Daniel Floberg

Peter Fray

Cindy Goodin

Barry Goodin

Andy Graff X

Ken Hall

Drew Hall X

Jim Hopp

Boyd Jarrell

Chester Kolasz

John Leahey X

Jordan Leahey

Rick Lohr

Ben Marden X

Alexander Minella

Douglas Newhouse

Brian O'Malley

Gary Panariello

Tod Patton X

Heidi Patton X

William Purdy X

Keith Rehder X

Justin Scagnelli

Hugh Scott Seaholm

John Sommi

Rich Stearns

Iris Vogel X

Bill Walczak

Laura Weyler

Benjamin Wilson

Agenda:

1. Rules Proposals
2. New Business

Description:

1. **Attendance and Instructions** – Chris conducted a roll call and welcomed all to the meeting. A quorum of at least 10 voting members is present.
2. **Rules Proposals** – Per the Constitution, you must be a current (2019) Class member to cast a vote (one per boat). A resolution to amend or alter the Class Rules shall be passed only if 60% or more of the votes cast are in its favor. There are three separate proposals that will be voted on individually, described below in sections A,B & C:

A. Change Last Sentence of 2.2

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.~~ **Up to two Drivers may be designated for an inshore racing event of five or less consecutive days.**

Meeting Discussion: None.

Iris Vogel made a motion to accept the Rules Proposal as presented, seconded by Elizabeth Barry. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Change 2.3

Proposed 2.3

2.3 For all J/88 Class sanctioned events, all competitors (including owners) shall register their World Sailing Group classification with the organizing authority. The default classification for any competitor who fails to register their World Sailing status shall be World Sailing Group 3. Excluding a 100% Owner, not more than one Group 3 competitor shall be permitted to race on a J/88. The Executive Board may alter this rule by declaration in the Notice of Race at least 90 days prior to the event.

Current 2.3

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.

Meeting Discussion: Andy recapped that this clarifies that Group 3 100% owners can also have one other Group 3 crew. Also, the length increase from 30 days to 90 days is fairer when selecting crews. He noted that the J/Boats exemption was removed.

Drew Hall made a motion to accept the Rules Proposal as presented, seconded by Iris Vogel. The motion passed with only Keith Rehder opposed.

C. Change CR 6.1 and 6.2

Proposed Section 6:

6.1 For J/88 Class or Fleet sanctioned events, the maximum crew weight (in swimming apparel) is 1,110 lbs. (503.5 kgs) with no limit on numbers of crew. If the Sailing Instructions require a weigh-in prior to the start of a regatta, a boat complying with the weight restrictions at weigh-in shall not otherwise be subject to a weigh-in during or after the regatta, except for weighing substitute crew.

6.2 For events other than J/88 Class Championship events, the Organizing Authority may change Rule 6.1 in the Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions to: The number of crew shall not exceed the Driver plus five (5) crew members, except if the total crew weight is in compliance with Rule 6.1.

Current Section 6:

6.1 For J/88 Class or Fleet sanctioned events, the number of crew shall not exceed the driver plus five

(5) crew members, except if the total crew weight is in compliance with Rule 6.2.

6.2 For J/88 Class championship events, the Executive Board may, with at least 90 days' prior notice, waive Rule 6.1 in which case the maximum crew weight (in swimming apparel) is 1,110 lbs. (503.3 kgs) with no limit on numbers of crew. If the sailing instructions require a weigh-in prior to the start of a regatta, a boat complying with the weight restrictions at weigh-in shall not otherwise be subject to a weigh-in during or after the regatta, except for weighing substitute crew.

Meeting Discussion: Andy said the rationale is to go to a simple number as the default. The hope is for more equality amongst top boats, and to gain more diverse crew combinations including women and younger sailors. Iris has received pushback for events such as Charleston Race Week and Block Island Race Week. She suggested a timeframe for when the Organizing Authority may change Rule 6.1 in the Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions. Chris and Andy recommend that we do not implement these Rules changes until later this summer so that it doesn't affect NORs and crews already set. Bill Purdy thinks the crew number is simpler than dealing with crew weigh-ins. Chris reiterated that the OA can revert back to the crew number for local events. Ben Marden wondered if the change is best for building the Class, as it can be a challenge to sort out crew weights. Bill asked about the wording "J/88 Class or Fleet sanctioned events" in 6.1 versus "J/88 Class championship events" in 6.2? Chris agreed that the word "sanctioned" is a poor choice, as anytime there is more than one J/88, it is a J/88 event. Bill thinks the language is ambiguous and could be interpreted to mean a J/88 Class start. Chris suggested deleting "or Fleet sanctioned" in 6.1. Andy recapped that the goal is to make a distinction between travel-level regattas versus local events. Bill thinks the change would create more work at the local level, and it would be more efficient to only have to enact the Rule for high-level races. Andy said that we don't want to encourage lobbying at the local level, and we can avoid this by changing the default Rule. Chris clarified that "Class championship" events are those where the Class is part of the Organizing Authority (as stated in the RRS), although some people think this is unclear.

Andy Graff made a motion to accept the Rules Proposal deleting "or Fleet sanctioned" in 6.1 with an effective date of July 1, seconded by Elizabeth Barry. The motion does not pass. (For: Elizabeth Barry, Andy Graff / Against: Mike Bruno, Drew Hall, John Leahey, Ben Marden, Heidi Patton, William Purdy, Keith Rehder, Iris Vogel)

3. **New Business** – Look for an Interpretation on the bow sprit Rule soon. Iris recapped some history of how the current Rule came to be, and this Interpretation should make the wording clearer and fairer for all.

Julie Howell

Action Items:

- Look for an Interpretation on the bow sprit Rule soon.
- Andy and Chris will update the Class Rules with the approval of Proposals A & B.

Next Meeting: TBD