



CONSTITUTION AND RULES OF THE UK FOLKBOAT ASSOCIATION

The Association

Revision Date February 2026

Definition of Terms:

Folkboats: includes Nordic, British and Varne designs.

British Folkboats: see C:1.0 of the UK Folkboat Association Class Rules.

Area Folkboat Fleet/s: a fleet of Folkboats in any location around the UK.

Governance:

The conduct of the Association shall be governed in accordance with this Constitution and Rules.

1. Aims and Objectives:

The UK Folkboat Association is responsible for furthering the interests of its members and ensuring the continuity and growth of a vibrant Folkboat Association membership and seeks to:

- a) endeavor at all times to foster friendship and camaraderie between all those who sail in and share an interest in Folkboats.
- b) encourage membership of the Association;
- c) encourage the development and membership of Folkboat fleets throughout the U.K;
- d) ensure adherence to the UK Folkboat Rules in particular as they relate to the Class Rules of the Nordic Folkboat International Association (NFIA);
- e) review and consider the introduction of new technologies and innovations and their effect on the UK Folkboat Rules and NFIA Class Rules;
- f) review the Constitution and Rules of the Association and the UK Folkboat Class Rules every three years.
- g) liaise with NFIA to promote international collaboration;
- h) ensure that all events managed on the Association's behalf are of a high standard;

2. Management Committee (MC) of the Association:

- a) the affairs of the Association shall be managed by an elected Management Committee (MC) consisting of: President, Chairman, Vice Chairman, Technical Chairman, and Secretary/Treasurer, and four elected members;
- b) following election at an Annual General Meeting (AGM), members of the MC shall normally serve a period of three years and shall be eligible for re-election at an AGM;
- c) members shall not normally serve more than two consecutive terms unless their roles hold special or technical expertise, in which case they will be invited to continue in post for a further term;
- d) members of the MC shall be full members of the Association and shall have one vote;

- e) one nominated full member of the Association from each area Folkboat fleet, the Folkboat Week Organising Committee and from the British Folkboat fleet is eligible to attend and to vote at MC meetings;
- f) nominations for officers or members of the MC shall be received by the Secretary at least twenty-one days prior to an AGM;
- g) three members will constitute a quorum at a Committee meeting;
- h) the MC may co-opt members or fill a vacancy as necessary, such members shall remain in office until the next AGM.

3. Meetings:

- a) the AGM shall take place on a date fixed by the MC and notified to the membership at least two months before;
- b) the meeting agenda and supporting papers shall be sent to the membership not less than fourteen days before the date of the meeting;
- d) the MC will endeavor to fix three MC meeting dates at least six months in advance;
- e) the MC may call a Special General Meeting (SGM) as necessary following a fourteen-day notice stating the purpose of the meeting;
- f) the MC may call a SGM following a written request by at least twelve full members of the Association;
- g) at an AGM or SGM each full member shall have one vote. Proposals will be carried by a two thirds majority of the full members attending;
- h) at an AGM or SGM eight full members will constitute a quorum.

4. Association Membership Categories and Rights:

- a) **Full Membership** with voting rights is open to all owners and co-owners of a Folkboat and to those with an active interest in supporting the Association;
- b) **Family Membership** is open to married or civil partners sharing the same address and includes their children up to the age of 21; only one member from each **Family Membership** has a voting right;
- c) **Youth Membership** with voting rights is open to any individual up to the age of 21;
- d) **Associate Membership** with no vote is open to all those who sail or have an interest in Folkboats and is also open to overseas members;
- e) **Honorary Life Membership** for an individual who has given exceptional service to the Association may be granted at the discretion of the MC and will rank as full membership, nominations for such membership shall be proposed and seconded by two full members.

5. Membership Application:

- a) applications for membership shall be made to the Secretary of the Association. The MC reserves the right to decline an application at its discretion.

6. Conditions of Membership:

- a) membership of the Association is conditional on the prompt payment of the annual membership subscription;
- b) members agree to abide by the Constitution and Rules of the Association, the UK Folkboat Rules and Regulations and the NFIA Class Rules;
- c) in exceptional circumstances the owner of a Folkboat participating in any racing event or regatta may nominate another helm provided the nominated helm becomes at least an Associate member by applying to the Secretary or a committee member, subject to the permission of the race committee where required and complies with A4.0 of the UK Association Class Rules;
- d) membership of the Association is deemed to constitute consent for the Secretary to hold relevant personal data for the purposes of GDPR (The General Data Protection Regulation), such data shall not be shared with any third party in line with current regulations.

7. Membership Year:

The Membership year is from 1st April to 31st March of the following year.

8. Termination of Membership:

- a) any member wishing to retire from the Association shall notify the Secretary before 21st March otherwise they shall be liable for the following year's subscription;
- b) any member who has not paid the subscription by the 1st July will be requested to pay within fourteen days and if not paid by the 31st July, following a reminder, membership will lapse;
- c) no member shall have any rights of membership until the subscription for the year and any arrears are paid;
- d) the MC may terminate a membership by following the disciplinary process

9. Disciplinary Procedure

- a) members found to have broken the constitution or Class Rules may be subject to a disciplinary process.
- b) members will be notified in writing of any disciplinary investigation that is occurring, stating the alleged breach of rules.
- c) any investigation will be undertaken by at least 2 members of the MC and they will report their finding to the chairman of the MC
- d) a hearing will be called to allow the member to hear any alleged breach and/or to give evidence or mitigation.
- e) a hearing panel shall be made up of three MC members including the chairman. Investigators shall not be on a hearing panel.
- f) a member will be notified of the hearing's findings and any sanctions imposed in writing.
- g) a member has a right to appeal any sanction made by the hearing. All appeals should be made to the president of the Association within 7 days of receiving the hearing's findings.

10. Subscriptions:

a) the annual subscription rate shall be recommended by the MC and proposed and agreed at an Annual General Meeting;

b) a member elected after 31st October or 31st January may be required to pay half or a quarter of that year's subscription.

11. Finance:

a) the Secretary may act as Treasurer;

b) the MC shall appoint a full member of the Association to act as honorary auditor of the Association's annual accounts;

c) with the approval of the MC the Secretary shall open appropriate bank, building society and investment accounts as required for the proper management of the financial affairs of the Association. The Secretary shall invest the Association's funds in accordance with the direction of the MC;

d) the Secretary shall settle any disbursements incurred by the Association;

e) the Secretary shall keep an accurate record of the Association's financial affairs which shall be submitted to the AGM for approval;

f) the Secretary shall be awarded an annual honorarium to be agreed and reviewed annually by the MC.

12. Rule Changes and Amendments:

a) reviews and amendments of the UK Class Rules and Regulations shall be approved by a decision of the MC and confirmed by a vote at an AGM;

b) reviews and amendments of this Constitution and Rules of the UK Folkboat Association shall be approved by a decision of the MC and confirmed by a vote at an AGM.