

United Kingdom Fireball Association

CONSTITUTION

June 2022

The constitution is divided into the following sections:

1. Names and Objects
2. Terms and Definitions
3. Officers
4. Membership
5. Management Committee
6. Meeting of the National Association
7. Dissolution of the National Association
8. Diversity and Inclusion

The side-headings are provided for convenience and do not affect the meaning of any clause.

SECTION 1 - NAME AND OBJECTS

1. The name of the class association shall be the 'United Kingdom Fireball Association' (UKFA)

 2. The objects for which UKFA is formed are to promote and facilitate the interests of the International Fireball Class throughout the UK and to represent the interests of owners of International Fireball Class boats as follows:
 - (a) to keep members informed of developments concerning the International Fireball Class and any proposals concerning Class Rules.
 - (b) to organise Championships and to co-ordinate the programme for other races for the International Fireball Class.
 - (c) to encourage National and International competition in the United Kingdom for the International Fireball Class.
 - (d) to negotiate with Fireball International on any matters relating to the Class Measurement Rules.
 - (e) to promulgate information on technical development within the International Fireball Class.
 - (f) to promote the maintenance of the one-design character of the International Fireball Class.
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- (g) to liaise with Fireball International (FI) on any matters pertaining to the promotion, management and governance of the International Fireball Class in the UK.

SECTION 2 - TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

- 3. The following expressions shall have the associated meanings:
 - (a) "The International Fireball Class" shall mean the class of sailing boat originally designed by Peter Milne and made in accordance with his drawings and specifications, and known under the name International Fireball.
 - (b) "The Class Rules" shall mean the rules relating to specification, construction and measurement controls of the International Fireball Class as defined in the World Sailing® Equipment Rules of Sailing and governing the building of each International Fireball Class boat and its rating as a recognised boat within the class for racing purposes.
 - (c) "The Committee" shall mean the Committee of the National Association, consisting of elected committee members and other members appointed or co-opted.
 - (e) "Fireball International" shall mean the International Fireball Class Association formed to control the affairs of the International Fireball Class throughout the world.
 - (f) "Measurement Certificate" shall mean a certificate as defined in the World Sailing® Equipment Rules of Sailing to be issued, ratified and endorsed as hereinafter provided and recording those items recommended by World Sailing® but including:
 - (i) The Sail Number and current ownership of an International Fireball Class boat.
 - (ii) The fact that such International Fireball Class boat originally complied with the Class Rules in completion of construction, together with such particulars as may be required by the Class Rules.
 - (g) "The UKFA Register" shall mean the register of owners of International Fireball Class boats with their addresses, number of boat, to be kept as hereafter provided.
 - (i) "The UKFA Rules" shall mean these rules governing the conduct of the UKFA.
 - (j) "The UKFA Secretary" shall mean the duly elected Honorary Secretary of the UKFA.
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(k) "Owner" and "Joint Owner" shall mean any person or persons, corporation or association entered on a certificate as owner or joint owner of an International Fireball Class boat.

(l) "The Sail Number" shall mean the Sail Number allocated to the boat.

SECTION 3 - OFFICERS

Officers of the UKFA

4. The Officers of the UKFA shall be Full or Honorary Members of the UKFA and shall consist, as a minimum, of a Chairman, an Honorary Secretary and an Honorary Treasurer (or a combined post of Honorary Secretary/Treasurer). Officers shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting in each year and shall hold office for three years, retiring at the termination of the Annual General Meeting in each year. All Officers of the UKFA shall be eligible for re-election.

Other officers' roles can be created at the discretion of the Committee.

Duties of Honorary Secretary

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5. The Honorary Secretary shall:

- (a) Conduct the correspondence of the UKFA;
- (b) Keep custody of all the UKFA documents save those maintained in the UKFA's archive;
- (c) Keep full minutes of all meetings of the UKFA and the Committee, which shall be confirmed and signed by the appropriate Chairman upon the agreement of the UKFA or the Committee at the next following meeting of the UKFA or the Committee, as appropriate;
- (d) Administer such insurance policy or policies as may be needed fully to protect the interests of the UKFA, its Officers and its members;
- (e) Communicate the decisions of the Committee to the UKFA, to the secretariat of Fireball International and, when directed by the Committee, non-members of the UKFA
- (f) Maintain any such certificates or registrations, and complete any such non-financial returns, as may be required by law.

Duties of Honorary Treasurer

6. The Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Secretary shall:

- (a) Keep the UKFA Register;
- (b) Keep a register of the UKFA members' names and addresses

- (c) Cause such books of account to be kept as are necessary to give a true and fair view of the state of finances of the UKFA.
- (d) Cause all returns as may be required by law in relation to such accounts to be rendered at the due time.
- (e) Make such payments on behalf of the UKFA as the Committee shall direct.
- (f) Prepare an annual financial statement each year and cause such financial statement to be reviewed at least once annually and shall thereafter cause the same to be sent to all members of the UKFA at least fourteen days before the date of the Annual General Meeting
- (g) Present the annual financial statement to the UKFA at its Annual General Meeting.

Duties of Honorary Auditors

7. The Reviewers shall:
- (a) Be appointed by the committee and ratified at the Annual General Meeting in each year and shall be two appropriately experienced/qualified persons;
 - (b) Review the accounts of the UKFA when called upon to do so and shall give such certificate of assurance as to the accuracy of the said accounts as shall be required by law or by the Committee;
 - (c) If either unwilling or unable to act, inform the Committee who shall appoint a substitute to hold office until the termination of the next Annual General Meeting.

SECTION 4 - MEMBERSHIP

Categories and votes of membership

8. There shall be the following categories of membership with power to vote at all meetings of the National Association as indicated hereunder.

Full Member – any Helm or Crew of an International Fireball Class boat, who shall have one vote at UK meetings and whose membership counts towards the number of eligible votes in FI matters.

U26 Member – any Helm or Crew of an International Fireball Class boat, under the age of 26, who shall have one vote at the UK meetings and whose membership counts towards the number of eligible votes in FI matters.

Local Member – Any helm or crew with an interest in the International Fireball Class, not being a full member. The local member:

- i. shall be entitled to attend and speak at any general meeting of the UKFA but shall have no vote;

- ii. shall be eligible to compete in a Golden Dolphin event at their home club only;
- iii. shall not qualify for UKFA subsidised events;
- iv. shall not be eligible to compete at Inland National, National, European or World Championships;
- v. shall not qualify for a Fireball International boat sticker or a UKFA Membership card;
- vi. shall not count towards the number of eligible votes in FI matters.

Honorary Member – any person having an interest in the UKFA in the United Kingdom who is proposed by a Full Member and seconded by at least one member of the Committee and is elected by the UKFA at any general meeting of the UKFA, who:

- i. shall be entitled to attend and speak at any general meeting of the UKFA but who shall have no vote.
- ii. shall not qualify for a Fireball International boat sticker
- iii. shall not count towards the number of eligible votes in FI matters.

Membership
Subscription Fee

9. The rate of Entrance Fee and annual Subscription Fee for each category of membership of the UKFA shall be proposed by the Committee to the members at the Annual General Meeting in each year. Any proposed changes shall be approved by a majority of those present and entitled to vote and shall become operative on the first day of January in the year following.

10. All members shall pay their first annual Subscription Fee upon joining the UKFA and thereafter on the anniversary of joining.

Members'
duty to provide an
up-to-date address

11. Every member shall furnish the Honorary Secretary with up-to-date contact details: Postal address, Phone number(s), email address, which shall be recorded in the register of members of the National Association and any notice sent to such address shall be deemed to have been duly delivered. Data will be handled as outlined in the **UKFA Privacy Statement** on <https://www.fireballsailing.org.uk/>.

12. Membership of the UKFA and acceptance of these Rules by the member will be deemed to constitute consent to the holding of relevant personal data for the purposes of the Data Protection Acts.

Election and retirement of members

Membership and
Payment of fees

13. Membership of the UKFA is deemed to be granted upon receipt of an application form properly completed and the relevant fee(s).

Lapse of
membership

14. Membership of the UKFA will be deemed to have lapsed if the annual subscription has not been paid.

Conduct of Members

- Under-taking by members to comply with rules
Disciplinary action against members
15. Every member, upon joining and thereafter, is deemed to have notice of, and impliedly undertakes to comply with, the UKFA's Rules.
16. Any conduct which, in the opinion of the Committee, is either unworthy of a member or otherwise injurious to the interests of the UKFA, shall render a member liable to disciplinary action by the Committee, which may include expulsion or non-renewal of membership.

Before taking such disciplinary action against a member, the Committee shall call upon such member for a written explanation of the member's conduct and shall give the member full opportunity of making explanation to the Committee, or of resigning.

A Resolution to apply any sanction shall be carried by a simple majority vote by those members of the Committee present and voting on the Resolution.

Appeal against expulsion or non-renewal of membership may be made to the members in general meeting.

Upon expulsion the former member shall not be entitled to have any part of the annual membership fee refunded and must return any UKFA or external body's trophies held forthwith.

- Damage to UKFA property
17. A member shall not knowingly remove, injure, destroy or damage any property of the National Association and shall make restitution for the same if called upon to do so by the Committee or by the Honorary Secretary upon the instructions of the Committee.

SECTION 5 - MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

- Constitution of Committee
18. The affairs of the UKFA shall be managed by the Committee. The Committee shall consist of the Officers, ex officio, and not less than three or more than twelve Full Members (who have attained the age of eighteen years) elected at the Annual General Meeting each year to hold office until the termination of the next following Annual General Meeting.

- Candidates for election to Committee
19. Candidates for election to the Committee (not being Officers of the UKFA) shall be those members of the retiring Committee eligible to offer themselves for re-election and such other Full Members whose nominations (duly proposed and seconded by Full Members of the UKFA) with their consent shall have been received by the Honorary Secretary before the Annual General Meeting in each year.

- Election of Committee by ballot
20. If the number of candidates for election is greater than the number of vacancies to be filled then there shall be a ballot.

- No contest for election
21. If the number of candidates for election is equal to or less than the number of vacancies to be filled then all candidates shall be deemed to

be elected if two thirds of those present at the Annual General Meeting, and entitled to vote, vote in favour of such election.

22. In the event of the ballot failing to determine the members of the Committee because of an equality of votes the candidate or candidates to be elected from those having an equal number of votes shall be determined by lot.
- Casual vacancy 23. If, for any reason, a casual vacancy shall occur, the Committee may co-opt a Full Member to fill such a vacancy until the next following Annual General Meeting.
- Committee Meetings 24. The Committee shall meet at least every three months making such arrangements as the conduct, place of assembly and holding of such meetings as it may wish. The Chairman or in their absence a chairman elected by those present shall preside.
- Voting at Committee 25. Voting (except in the case of a resolution relating to the expulsion of a member) shall be by show of hands (physical or virtual) or verbal expression. In the case of equality of votes the Chairman shall have a second and casting vote.
- Quorum 26. Three members present shall form a quorum at a meeting of the Committee.

Powers of the Committee

- Management of UKFA by Committee 27. The Committee shall manage the affairs of the UKFA according to the UKFA Rules and shall cause the funds of the UKFA to be applied solely to the objects of the UKFA or for a benevolent or charitable purpose nominated by the UKFA in general meeting.
- Appointment of sub-committees 28. The Committee may appoint such sub-committees as it may deem necessary and may delegate such of its powers as it may think fit upon such terms and conditions as shall be deemed expedient and/or required by the law. Such sub-committees shall consist of such members of the Committee or of the UKFA as the Committees may think fit. Officers of the UKFA shall be ex officio members of all such sub-committees.
- Disclosure of interest to third parties 29. A member of the Committee, of a sub-committee or any officer of the UKFA, in transacting business for the UKFA, shall disclose to third parties that he is so acting.
- Limitation of Member's liability 30. The Committee, or any person or sub-committee delegated by the Committee to act as agent for the UKFA or its members, shall enter into contract only as far as expressly authorised, or authorised by implication, by the members. No one shall, without the express authority of the membership in general meeting, pledge the credit of the membership.

Members indemnification of Committee 31. In pursuance of the authority vested in the Committee by members of the UKFA, members of the Committee are entitled to be indemnified by the members of the UKFA against any liabilities properly incurred by them or any one of them on behalf of the UKFA wherever the contract is of a duly authorised nature or could be assumed to be of a duly authorised nature and entered into on behalf of the UKFA.

The limit of any individual member's indemnity in this respect shall be a sum equal to one year's subscription at the then current rate of that category of membership unless the Committee has been authorised to exceed such limit by a general meeting of the National Association.

SECTION 6 - MEETINGS OF THE UKFA

Annual General Meeting 32. An Annual General Meeting of the UKFA shall be held each year normally during the National Championship on a date to be fixed by the Committee. It may take the form of a virtual meeting. The Honorary Secretary shall at least fourteen days before the date of such meeting post or deliver to each member notice hereof and of the business to be brought forward thereat.

Business at Annual General Meeting 33. No business, except the passing of the Accounts and the election of the Officers, Committee and Honorary Auditors, and any business that the Committee may order to be inserted in the notice convening the meeting shall be discussed at such meeting unless notice thereof be given in writing by a member entitled to vote to the Honorary Secretary at least twenty-eight days before the date of the Annual General Meeting.

Special General Meeting 34. The Committee may at any time, upon giving twenty-one days' notice in writing, call a Special General Meeting of the UKFA for any special business, the nature of which shall be stated in the summons convening the meeting, and the discussion at such meeting shall be confined to the business stated in the notice sent to members.

Special General Meeting upon request of members 35. The Committee shall call a Special General Meeting upon a written request addressed to the Honorary Secretary by at least fifteen members. The Committee shall give twenty-one days' notice in writing of any such Special General Meeting. The discussion at such meeting shall be confined to the business stated in the notice sent to members.

Chairman at Meetings 36. At every meeting of the UKFA the Chairman (or, in their absence, a chairman elected by those present) shall preside.

Quorum at Meetings 37. Fifteen members entitled to vote and personally present shall form a quorum at any meeting of the National Association.

Entitlement to vote at Meetings 38. Only Full Members shall vote at any meeting of the UKFA. Other members may attend and speak but are not entitled to vote.

Voting at Meetings 39. Voting shall be by show of hands or by electronic voting if a virtual meeting is convened.

- Equality of Votes 40. In the case of an equality of votes the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote, on any matter other than the election of members of the Committee.
- Voting on Rule Change 41. On any resolution properly put to a meeting of the UKFA relating to the creation, repeal or amendment of any Rule of the UKFA such Rule shall not be created, repealed or amended except by a majority vote of at least two-thirds of those present and entitled to vote.
42. On any resolution properly put to a meeting of the UKFA relating to the creation, repeal or amendment of any Class Rule, such resolution shall not be adopted except by a majority vote of at least two-thirds of those present and entitled to vote.

SECTION 7 - DISSOLUTION OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

- Dissolution of the National Association 43. If, upon the winding up or dissolution of the UKFA, there remains after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities any property whatsoever, the same shall not be paid to or distributed amongst the members of the UKFA. The Committee shall dispose of the net assets remaining to one of the following in order of priority:
- (i) Fireball International
 - (ii) to the sport's national governing body
 - (iii) to another organisation with similar sports purposes which is a charity
44. The Association's archive and records will be offered to The National Maritime Museum

SECTION 8 – DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

45. The UK Fireball Association (UKFA) views diversity as an asset. The UKFA's culture welcomes everyone, regardless of gender, nationality, age or physical ability, or any other aspect of diversity. All members must conduct their sailing activities with all stakeholders, sponsors and sailing partners, with respect for all people without regard to differences or similarities. The UKFA promotes people of all abilities. All sailors should not engage in or support discrimination in cruising, racing, access to training, promotion, events or activities, based on gender, age, ethnic and national origin, caste, religion, disability, sexual orientation, union membership or political affiliation.