

J/70 International Class Annual Meeting Minutes

Date: 12/5/2024

Start: 10:05 a.m. EST

Adjourn: 12:00 p.m. EST

Present:

Chris & Julie Howell X
Jeff Johnstone, J/Boats X
Vittorio Di Mauro, President X
Pedro Garra, Vice President X
Martin Dent, Secretary X
Mark Foster, Technical Chair X
Scott Weakley, Past President X
Rudiger Margale, Incoming Officer X
Cate Muller-Terhune, Incoming Officer X
Francisco Van Avermaete, Argentina X
Andrey Novikov, Armenia X
Rod Warren, Australia X
Christian Kimmeswenger, Austria
Laura Cutler, Bermuda
Luciano Secchin, Brazil X
Graeme Carr, Canada
Alejandro Pérez, Chile
Lukas Mohr, Denmark X
Peter Lezhnin, Estonia
Staffan Lindberg, Finland X
Philippe Bonavita and Patrick Torfou, France X
Christian Rau, Germany X
Hector Simpson, Great Britain X
John den Engelsman, Holland
Miklós Rauschenberger, Hungary
William Twomey, Ireland X
Federico Siragna and Giulia Albuzio, Italy X
Sung-gyu Park, Korea
Manuel Vazquez, Mexico
Pierrick Devic and Fanny Brouchoud, Monaco X
Petter Hessen, Norway X
Pawel Boksa, Poland X
Vasco Serpa, Portugal X
Marcelo Baltzer Foucher, Spain X
Jan Björnsjö, Sweden X
Urs Oldani, Switzerland X
Ahmet Eker, Turkey X
Ramiro Martinez, Uruguay X
Al Poindexter and Brian Keane, USA X

Agenda:

1. President's Welcome
2. Office and Copyright Holder Reports
3. Budget Proposal and Approval
4. Technical/Rules Report
5. Bylaws
6. Championship Qualification
7. Championship Updates
8. Election of Officers
9. New Business

1. **President's Welcome** – Vittorio stated that he is concluding his two years as Class President. We have achieved a lot in bringing the Class further forward. He circulated a letter to the World Council via e-mail. Participation and engagement of members has grown, and projections are for more growth. We look ahead to a new Executive Committee, and hope NCA representatives will become even more involved. In 2025, the Class has seven major Championships. Thank you Vasco for stepping up to initiate a new Corinthian European

Championship, which has more than 50 boats registered. Keep the ideas coming! Welcome to Cate Muller-Terhune who is joining the Executive Committee, great to have more diversity.

2. **Office and Copyright Holder Reports** – Meeting documents are posted in Dropbox at: [J70 AGM 2024 - Dropbox](#)

Chris reported 2024 memberships: ARG, ARM, AUS, AUT, BER, BRA, CAN, DEN, ESP, FIN, FRA, GBR, GER, HUN, IRL, ITA, KOR, MEX, MON, NED, NOR, POL, POR, SUI, SWE, TUR, URU, USA. 1,155 sail royalty tags have been sold in 2024, compared to 1,048 in 2023. The International J/70 Facebook page has more than 10,100 followers, and 8,600 on Instagram.

Jeff reported: Next month hulls #1871 and 1872 will be arriving in Rhode Island. A total of 65 new J/70s were built/sold worldwide in 2024, and the current hull assignments extend out to #1918. The 2025 forecast is for 65 boats, 50 from the European builder, and 15 from the Argentinian builder. No other keelboat sells at this pace, and only the J/24 has more boats historically. Thanks to input from the Class Office and J/70 service providers, we engaged with key suppliers to increase the stock supply of essential replacement parts such as spars, spreader bracket kits, mast base conversion kits, rudder hardware, etc. Overall interest in the J/70, as measured by inquiries and web traffic, remains very strong, with most new owners buying used boats and keeping resale value high for all owners. The J/Newsletter, the weekly e-digest of J news from around the globe, featured the J/70 in 2024 over all other J models by a factor of 3x. Congratulations to everyone in this meeting...the J/70 is where it's happening! He encouraged attendance at the World Sailing Classes' Committee so we can have a positive impact on our sport as a whole.

3. **Budget Proposal and Approval** – Chris circulated the IJ70CA Class Budget: Profit & Loss 2024 and Budget 2025. He highlighted a \$10.00 USD proposed increase to individual membership dues. New for 2025 will be an order form for hull stickers. The price of a sail royalty tag is proposed to increase \$20.00 to \$70.00 USD.

Mark Foster made a motion to accept the Budget/P&L as presented, seconded by Al Poindexter. The motion passed unanimously.

4. **Technical/Rules Report** – Mark summarized that the eight Rules proposals are posted for review at:

[J70_CRC_2025-01-DRAFT11072024.pdf](#)

He pointed out some general wording changes per World Sailing, such as “driver” to “helmsperson.” There are also several Event Rule clarifications, including the option of RaceSense as selected at events. The Rule regarding gennaker pumping is removed to stay consistent with other Classes per Rule 42. Chris clarified that all of the Rules proposals have not been posted for the required 60-day review period yet. If there are no objections, he would like to meet the upcoming World Sailing December 15th submission deadline.

Scott Weakley made a motion to accept the Rules proposals as presented, seconded by Martin Dent. The motion passed unanimously.

5. **Bylaws** – This Bylaw document is agreed to by the International J/70 Class Association (IJ70CA) Executive Committee (EC) to be ratified by the IJ70CA World Council. This document shall be amended and/or expanded by the EC as needed to maintain the open and transparent operation of the IJ70CA. Any amendments to these Bylaws shall be ratified by the IJ70CA World Council at its next General meeting after the change.

1. Executive Committee (EC)

1.1 The EC shall ensure that all committees operate within the IJ70CA Constitution.

1.2 The EC shall ensure that adequate terms of reference are available for all committees.

1.3 The EC shall strive to maintain a cash reserve equal to one year's operating budget.

1.4 The EC shall maintain a transparent process for selecting World and Continental Championships with a goal to select locations that represent the entire membership.

2. Nominating Committee (NC)

2.1 The Constitution section 7.13 states that the Past President shall be the Chair of the Nominating Committee as long as he or she is in office.

2.1.1 The Past President, as Chair of the NC, shall recruit at least 2 past EC officers or current members of the World Council from different countries to form the NC.

2.2 The Committee shall assure any new nominee is from a country other than the President, Vice President and Past President.

2.3 The Committee shall strive to continue the tradition of nominating a geographically diverse EC.

2.4 The Committee shall continue the tradition of nominating individuals to the EC who do not have a commercial interest in the J/70 or sailing industry.

3. International Technical Committee (ITC)

3.1 The ITC shall, in conjunction with the NJCAs, recruit, certify and support a network of Class Measurers to cover countries and regions where the Class is active.

3.1.1 The ITC shall develop a process for training and certifying Class Measurers worldwide.

3.1.2 The ITC shall monitor the work of Class Measurers to ensure the one-design nature of the J/70 is maintained and in compliance with measurement methods and techniques.

3.2 The ITC shall maintain transparency and simplicity for the Class membership throughout the Rule change process by tracking and publishing all proposed changes from receipt through to resolution.

Discussion: Vittorio does not personally support item 2.4 as he sees value in what industry professionals bring to our Class and events. Chris countered that we appreciate those in our commercial industry, but overall J/Boats' Classes have focused more on amateur Committee members to avoid a conflict of interest. Hector thought that an EC member could recuse themselves from votes as needed and/or limit the amount of people who fit this category. Pedro furthered that the Committee conducts significant discussions, although not always needing a vote. We do not want to second-guess anyone's intentions when building consensus. Jeff thinks it's a strength of the Class coming from a Corinthian-based membership reflecting long-term interests of fellow members. The volunteer pool is so strong right now, we can wait to dip into the professional ranks to manage the Class. Al believes we can seek input from professionals via working groups. Chris clarified that we are not talking about Group 1 vs Group 3 sailors, but focused more on those with "commercial interest." Vasco said he is "pro-talent" regardless of where the person works. He is fully exposed in regard to his interests. Chris recapped that the goal of this Bylaw is to become more transparent. Pedro expressed his appreciation to our industry professionals for what they do for the Class; the policy in 2.4 is not intended to be personal.

Pedro Garra made a motion to ratify the Bylaws as presented, seconded by Cate Muller-Terhune. The motion passed, with Vasco and Vittorio against.

6. **Championship Qualification** – This document has the status of Bylaw of the International J/70 Class Association (IJ70CA) and will be maintained and updated by the IJ70CA as needed. The IJ70CA has established the following criteria for World Championship berths.

1. Other than the perpetual berths (listed below in bold), all qualifying will be in the calendar year preceding the World Championship year.

2. The J/70 Constitution 5.7.1 states that a country must have a minimum of ten (10) registered boats to be established as an International J/70 National Class Association (NCA).

3. In addition to the requirements of CR 3.2, if a single helmsperson is designated at the qualifying event, then that helmsperson must be the only helmsperson designated for the World

Championship. Likewise, if two helmspersons are designated at the qualifying event, then those same two helmspersons must be designated for the World Championship.

4. If a team qualifies or petitions in a division or special configuration (ex: Corinthian, Mixed Plus, youth, all female team), they shall compete in the World Championship in the same division or configuration.

Perpetual World Championship berths:

- All past World Champions
- All past Corinthian Champions of the World Championship
- Corinthian World Champion of preceding three years
- Mixed Plus World Champion of preceding three years
- Continental Champions of preceding three years
- Copyright Holder
- Top 3 (Other than winner) from the preceding year World Championships
- Top 3 (Other than winner) Corinthian from the preceding year World Championships
- Top 2 (Other than winner) all Continental Championships from preceding year
- Top 3 Corinthian from all Continental Championships from preceding year
- The World Championship Host NCA will receive berths equivalent to 5% of their NCA members or a minimum of 8, plus 2 berths for the host club to use at their discretion (10 minimum distributed at discretion of the NCA).
- Each member NCA will receive berths equivalent to 3% of their NCA members or a minimum of 2 (distributed between Open and Corinthian at the discretion of the NCA).

In addition to all pre-qualified individuals, any J/70 boat owner may submit a petition to sail in the World Championship by filling out an online petition form.

To be a qualified petition, the petitioning helm must be:

- (a) a boat owner as defined by the J/70 Class Rules, and
- (b) a current member of the Class in good standing.

All qualified petitions received by a date to be determined by the IJ70CA will be ranked and then posted. Invitations to participate in the World Championship will be issued in the listed order until all slots are filled. Qualified petitions received after the deadline will be added to the end of the list in the order in which they were received. The IJ70CA Executive Committee will manage the petition process and resolve any questions as they arise. Invitations will be sent to those with perpetual berths and to those who have qualified as described in this document before the registration is open to the petitioners.

Discussion: Qualification for the 2025 Worlds is complete, so this would be initiated for the 2026 Worlds. There had been some feedback about limiting petitions to those who live on that continent. Marcelo was disappointed to see the border country berths eliminated. Chris explained that this became a challenge during the Palma Worlds about who is “adjacent” to an island. Martin added that certain countries, such as Australia, are not adjacent to any countries, and there is a disproportionate number of neighboring countries in Europe. The goal is to make the process fair. Luciano endorsed using the term “land border.” Chris described that each country can decide its disbursement between Open and Corinthian berths, although it is encouraged to split them (if able). The inclusion of the language regarding two helmspersons being designated for an event is to mirror Class Rule 3.2.b. Giulia wants to make sure that the continental berths derive from the continental placing not overall placing. She also suggested the qualification and petition system be expanded to non-owners (such as someone using a club boat), changing the wording to helmsperson instead of owner. Chris stated that a non-owner can qualify, although time of ownership may affect ranking. For the Argentina Worlds, expect

the petition process by February. Hector recommended a rebalance of the perpetual WC berths to more recent years' Continental Championship participants (if qualified, this initiates a dropdown). Chris documented 30 active NCAs so it's a constant tweaking process to be fully inclusive, particularly continent by continent. Areas to consider adding include the various sub-divisions such as Mixed +. Brian and Martin discussed that preference should be given to the top teams on the water. Scott believes that geographic representation happens organically. Brian said to put progress ahead of perfection.

Pedro Garra made a motion to approve the qualification document with the reinstatement of the neighboring countries, seconded by Scott Weakley.

Vittorio Di Mauro made a motion to table the current document for further EC review, seconded by Martin Dent. This motion passed.

7. **Championship Updates** – Please review the rotation document in the Dropbox.
- 2025 Corinthian European Championship, Clube Naval de Cascais, Portugal, April 1-6: Vasco is reaching out personally to solicit additional registrations, expecting an entry number in the 70s.
 - 2025 Mixed Plus World Championship, Circolo Vela Torbole, Italy, June 26-29: registration should open at the end of January, there are opportunities with other events on Lake Garda
 - 2025 European Championship, Royal Swedish YC (KSSS) Sandhamn Sweden, August 23-30: Jan welcomes everyone to Sweden in 2025! Registration is open, sign up early.
 - 2025 Corinthian World Championship, Eastern YC, Marblehead, Massachusetts USA, September 22-28: this is an open event, and registration will open December 19.
 - 2025 South American Championship, YC Argentino Buenos Aires, Argentina, October 2-5: note new dates. Expect two great Championships!
 - 2025 World Championship, YC Argentino Buenos Aires, October 24-November 1
 - 2025 North American Championship, Davis Island YC, Tampa, Florida, December 1-7

 - 2026 Corinthian World Championship, Union Nautique/Club La Pelle Marseilles, France May 23-30
 - 2026 European Championship, Spain?
 - 2026 World Championship, Clube Naval de Cascais Portugal, August 28-September 5
 - 2026 North American Championship, Annapolis YC, Maryland, October 27-November 1
8. **Election of Officers** – Scott Weakley (as Past President is the Nominating Chair) presented the slate below. Biographies are available in the meeting Dropbox folder. Hopefully everyone can appreciate the additional transparency put forward. It's vital to have good geographic representation, technical/sailing experience, diversity and some deference toward countries with high numbers of member boats.
- President: Pedro Garra, URU
Vice President: Cate Muller-Terhune, USA
Secretary: Martin Dent, GBR
Treasurer: Rudiger Margale, GER
Technical Chair: Mark Foster, USA

Scott Weakley made a motion to accept the slate as presented, seconded by Brian Keane. The slate passed unanimously.

Vittorio DiMauro Past President and Jeff Johnstone Copyright Holder also serve on the EC. Thank you Scott for your service to the Class for 10+ years! Pedro is honored to be President, and thanked Scott personally for his focus on the Class. Welcome Cate and Rudiger! Pedro is disappointed that we didn't get the qualification system sorted out, but we will work on it quickly. Let's promote traveling, RaceSense and NCAs proposing people for the future. We

appreciate everyone's support and contributions. Going forward, Vittorio would like to see Europe comprise more of the EC. Vittorio stated there is no possible justification or logic in having four U.S. EC representatives out of a total of eight (50%). In comparison, Europe remains structurally under-represented with only three representatives, despite contributing more than half of the global fleet.

Thank you Vittorio for all your work for the Class and in bringing new events!

Factual clarification: There are seven voting members of the IJ70CA Executive Committee. After this election, the Executive Committee is comprised of three voting members from Europe, three voting members from North America including the Copyright Holder and the Technical Chair and one from South America. Over the 10-year history of the Class, there have been three Class Presidents from Europe, two from North America, and with this election Pedro is the first from South America. The Executive Director is a non-voting member of the Executive Committee.

9. **New Business** – Vittorio submitted the following via e-mail: I would like to put to a formal World Council vote kicking off the exploration of two new event formats that I have been discussing with some of you for a while: the J/70 Women's World Cup and the J/70 Youth World Cup.

These would be new events organised with pools of existing club charter boats (8 to 12 J/70s fully equipped) and a racing format inspired by the Sailing League format (with 12 to 24 crews swapping boats between races).

The aim is to drastically reduce the cost of entry to the J/70 world, making it accessible to a young and female audience who do not yet have the financial means to buy or charter a J/70. The “bring your sail bag only” logistics will make the cost of attending such an event comparable to a ski holiday or charter boat cruising. The world in which we live is that of the “sharing economy”; ownership is "out", pay-per-use is “in”

Due to a completely different and new target audience compared to the currently planned seven international events in 2025, there is no overlap, and no risk of cannibalisation > One way of putting this is that almost no one attending today's AGM is the target of Women and Youth events (with a few rare exceptions).

In fact, the aim is to build and create a new pathway into the J/70 Class and community to continue to feed its growth, making it more gender-diverse and actively supporting youth inclusion.



Four NCAs have already expressed their availability and willingness to organise such events: Australia/Melbourne/Sidney, Denmark/Copenhagen, Italy/Garda and/or Porto Cervo, Portugal/Cascais. Of course, it will be great to bring this new format to the USA, Latin America and possibly China. A major benefit of this new initiative is to bring the J/70

continents together and further develop and grow the J/70 community and movement even more globally.

I hope you will appreciate, understand, support and vote positively for this new strategic initiative.

Discussion: Several NCAs have expressed a desire to host this new pathway for the Class.

Vittorio Di Mauro made a motion to accept proposals to start organizing these events, seconded by Martin Dent. The motion passed unanimously.

Action Items:

--The EC will re-draft and circulate the qualification document for approval of the World Council.

Next Meeting: TBD