J/70 International Class World Council Meeting Minutes

Date: 10/21/2026 **Start**: 2:05 p.m. EDT **Adjourn**: 3:10 p.m. EDT

Present:

Chris & Julie Howell **X**
Jeff Johnstone, J/Boats **X**
Frederic Bouvier J/Composites **X**
Martin Dent, President **X**
Rod Warren, Vice President **X**
Marcelo Baltzer Foucher, Secretary **X**
Rudiger Margale, Treasurer
Mark Foster, Technical Chair **X**
Pedro Garra, Past President **X**
ARG Francisco Van Avermaete **X**
ARM Artashes Dadayan
AUS Rod Warren **X**
AUT Thomas Muller-Uri **X**
BER Laura Cutler
BRA Bruno Bethlem
CAN Graeme Carr **X**
CHI Alberto Pulido
CHN Xiaotong Wu **X**
DEN Troels Thomsen
ESP Marcelo Baltzer Foucher **X**
EST Tonu Toniste
FIN Staffan Lindberg **X**
FRA Philippe Bonavita **X**
GBR Hector Simpson **X**
GER Christian Rau **X**
HUN Miklós Rauschenberger
IRL William Twomey
ITA Federico Siragna **X**
MEX Alejandro Pérez
MON Olivier Campana
NED John den Engelsman
NOR Petter Hessen **X**
POL Tomasz Feret
POR Vasco Serpa **X**
SUI Urs Oldani
SWE Jan Björnsjö
TUR Emir İçgören & Erman Ayvaz **X**
URU Ramiro Martinez
USA John Heaton **X**

Agenda:

1. President's Welcome
2. 2028 European Championship
3. 2028 Corinthian World Championship
4. 2028 Mixed+ World Championship
5. Rule Change proposal
6. Ratify 2026 Bylaw Changes
7. Fleet Growth
8. New Business

Dropbox files for this meeting: J70 Oct 2026 WC meeting - Dropbox

1. **President's Welcome** – Martin welcomed everyone, including Jeff from J/Boats and Frederic from J/Composites. Great to see all the countries in the meeting. More epic championships are on the way! Martin shared some updates from the EC: what a year already with North and South American Championships still to come. At the 4 majors held this year in Europe (3 x Worlds and 1 x Euros), within a space of only 3 months, c.310 teams from 26 countries

participated! This demonstrates full demand for all three of our Worlds, and true International status. Over 14 years of the Class, we've combined local OAs and NCAs with International Class and Tech at events, and now the J/70 DNA is distributed internationally. This has, inevitably, led to certain NCAs requesting only remote support from the Class Office / Tech Chair. This year, the EC agreed to this model at the Euros in Barcelona and the Worlds in Cascais. Thank you to those OAs and for the remote support from the Class Office and Mark, both these events scored 10/10 in J/70 compliance scores and were received as great Championships by members. Martin thanked Luis Albert for his service on the EC, and welcomed Marcelo Baltzer Foucher of Spain, who, with background in Operations and HR, brings insight to the current task of the EC. The Open Tender for the Class Office/Executive Director was proposed by a group of NCAs and adopted by a 7-0 EC vote in July. It is not a search for a "new ED" necessarily, but for the administration that is best suited to the future of the Class. The outcome could include a continuation of an existing or a new arrangement. There were 29 applicants. Chris and Julie have confirmed that they are willing to continue, or a split or transition role, as the EC determines is best. Chris thanked Julie for the prompt MD updates, especially following the winch removal option.

2. **2028 European Championship** – Proposals were received from Great Britain, Portugal, Switzerland & Turkey. Erman highlighted that the Turkish fleet has been travelling to Championships, and they now hope to welcome you. There will be transportation support of 50%, maybe more depending on rate of entry. Erman shared photos and noted a good selection of hotels/restaurants. Summertime sees nice temperatures and north breeze.
   Martin Dent made a motion to accept Turkey's proposal, seconded by Rod Warren. The motion passed unanimously.

3. **2028 Corinthian World Championship** – Pedro stated that the Yacht Club Punta del Este in Uruguay has organized multiple Championships…expect great wind and an experienced club (multiple cranes). It's a mostly Corinthian fleet, and there will be charter boats. Pedro is working on logistics for boats to be shipped via direct RORO service. Martin thinks the timing is ideal for European teams meteorologically.
   Martin Dent made a motion to accept Uruguay's proposal, seconded by Marcelo Baltzer Foucher. The motion passed unanimously.

4. **2028 Mixed+ World Championship** – Chris spoke on John's behalf for Chicago Yacht Club in Illinois USA. The North Americans were there in recent years. Martin thinks that racing on the fresh water of Lake Michigan right out of Chicago, as a bucket list city will be attractive to international teams. The dates can be finalized to complement the calendar.
   Martin Dent made a motion to accept Chicago's proposal, seconded by Graeme Carr. The motion passed unanimously.

5. **Rule Change Proposal** – Mark summarized the proposal: C.7.2 FITTINGS
   Old: C.7.2 (a) Safety lines:
   (1) The cockpit safety lines shall not deflect more than 25mm when a force of 2kg is applied at the point of maximum deflection. Safety lines may be attached using lashings, turnbuckles, or an attachment method that will not slip or creep under normal circumstances. Pads or covers may be added to safety lines.
   (2) Lashings used to attach safety lines shall be made of at least 3mm diameter polyester or Polytec covered Dyneema (or equivalent) and shall pass around the principal portion of the

pushpit and/or the forward attachment point at least three times. Lashings shall be taped to secure knots.
(3) The rear gate line across the transom shall be closed while racing, and not deflect more than 75mm when a force of 2kg is applied at the point of maximum deflection.
Amend to read: C.7.2 (a) Safety lines:
(1) The cockpit safety lines shall not deflect more than 40mm when a force of 2kg is applied at the point of maximum deflection. Pads or covers may be added to the safety lines.
(2) Safety lines shall be attached at the forward end using lashings, a swage toggle fork and clevis pin or a hard shackle.
(3) Safety lines shall be attached at the aft end using lashings.
(4) Lashings used to attach safety lines shall be made of at least 3mm diameter polyester or Polytec covered Dyneema (or equivalent) and shall pass around the principal portion of the pushpit and/or the forward attachment point at least three times. Lashings shall be taped to secure knots.
(5) The rear gate line across the transom shall be closed while racing.
Reasons: The CR safety line change is to allow more leniency in the tightness of the safety line and to ensure the attachment to the pushpit is by lashing and not mechanical to the welded part of the pushpit.
Martin Dent made a motion to accept the Rules proposal as presented, seconded by Mark Foster. The motion passed unanimously.

Chris noted some Rules updates mandated by World Sailing, moving the Event Rules into the body of the document. This will affect numbering.

6. **Ratify 2026 Bylaw Changes** – The Executive Committee has agreed upon revised language in the IJ70CA Bylaws as follows:
   2.5 The Committee shall publish its proposed slate of officers 14 days before the Annual General Meeting (AGM).
   2.6 Any World Council member then has 7 days to propose an alternative slate of eligible candidates, provided that the slate has a proposer and a seconder.
   2.7 Any alternative Executive Committee slate shall be submitted to the Class Office or any Executive Committee member and circulated to the World Council before the AGM.
   2.8 If only one slate is proposed, it shall be submitted to the World Council for ratification at the AGM. If two slates are proposed, the slate receiving the most votes shall be elected. Where more than two slates are proposed, successive ballots shall be held, with the lowest-polling slate eliminated after each ballot until two slates remain, followed by a final vote between those two slates.
   Rod Warren made a motion to ratify the Bylaws as presented, seconded by Martin Dent. The motion passed unanimously.

7. **Fleet Growth** – Martin recapped discussion about resale/dealership of boats. J/Composites has built 1200+ J/70s. It's been a good relationship with the Class, and Frederic attended the Worlds in Cascais. Congratulations to all! Questions are always welcome. Martin supports a Measurer to come to the factory, a benefit especially for new boat owners.

8. **New Business** – Staffan (Finland) would like more World Council meetings and has a club in Helsinki interested to host any of the Championships. Rod said Australia was interested to host the Worlds in 2030, but only if there is support from the World Council. The Class has three World Championships each year, so our scope allows us to spread wings.

Jeff congratulated the Class on their Championship hosting, with Turkey being the 17th country to host. J/Boats anniversary is 2027…see you on the circuit!

Xiaotong hopes to promote J/70 regattas in Asia. Many collaboration opportunities!

Action Items:
--The Class Office will update the Rules and Bylaws as determined today.

Next Meeting: Annual Meeting on Thursday, December 10 at 2:00 p.m. EST