



Multihull Offshore Cruising and Racing Association (MOCRA) Constitution 2017

1. Name

The name of the Association is the Multihull Offshore Cruising and Racing Association.

2. Objects

- a) To encourage and foster the growth and sailing of seaworthy sailing multihulls.
- b) To encourage and help the design and development of seaworthy multihulls and all forms of equipment connected therewith.
- c) To promote good relations with yacht and sailing clubs and with other yachtsmen and seafarers generally and with other authorities connected with the water.
- d) To facilitate the dissemination of accurate information concerning multihulls to the general public.
- e) To protect the interests of Association members.
- f) To assist and encourage multihull cruising and to help owners on all matters pertaining to navigation and seamanship.
- g) To encourage and promote multihull racing throughout the British Isles and adjacent waters.
- h) To draft, consider, implement, and amend rules and formulae for racing, measurement, rating, sail setting and associated matters.
- i) To promote meetings and the exchange of ideas between persons interested or potentially interested in sailing multihulls.
- j) To liaise with other Multihull Associations.

3. Membership

Membership shall be open to such owners and crew of sailing multihull yachts and such other persons as the Executive Committee feel are interested in advancing the objects of the Association as shall be duly approved by the Executive Committee for membership.

- a) There shall be the following categories of membership:

Founder Members:

Such members shall be treated in all respects as if they were Ordinary members.

Ordinary Members:

Shall be over 18 years of age and be entitled to one vote either in person or by proxy.

Junior Members:

Shall be under the age of 18 years at the beginning of the membership year and shall not be entitled to vote but shall receive notice of meetings and publications. The Junior membership fee shall be 50% of the Ordinary membership fee.

Life Members:

Ordinary may elect to become life members at such times as the Executive Committee agrees to accept such elections.

Honorary Members:

Shall be such persons not exceeding twelve in number at any one time as the Executive Committee shall unanimously recommend. In addition the President and as many Vice Presidents as the Executive Committee may recommend may be approved at Annual

General Meeting of the Association and shall be honorary members. Vice Presidents are appointed for life.

Affiliated Group Members:

Available to national and local multihull owners' groups.

- b) Application for membership shall be made to the Honorary Membership Secretary who shall place the application before the Executive Committee for approval.

4. Subscriptions

- a) The annual subscription shall be payable on the first day of January each year but in case of a member being elected after the first day of October in any year his first subscription shall cover the period for the ensuing year commencing 1st January next after his election. The rate of subscription and entrance fee shall be set by the members at the Annual General Meeting of the Association save that if no resolution is passed at an Annual General Meeting in this respect the subsisting rates of subscription and entrance fee shall continue to apply.
- b) If any member shall be in arrears with their subscription for more than three months he shall cease to be entitled to receive newsletters or other publications and if arrears shall continue for more than six months' membership of the Association will cease whether or not he shall have received any subscription reminders.
- c) A member may resign his membership by giving to the Honorary Membership Secretary notice in writing.
- d) Every member, upon election and thereafter, is deemed to have notice of, and undertakes to comply with, the Club Rules and the current Byelaws and Regulations of the club. Any refusal or neglect to do so, or any conduct which, in the opinion of the Committee, is either unworthy of a member or otherwise injurious to the interests of the club, shall render a member liable to disciplinary action by the Committee, which may include expulsion or non-renewal of membership.

Disciplinary action against members:

provided that, before taking any such disciplinary action, the Executive 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 Executive 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.

- e) **Entrance Fee:** Every person joining or rejoining the Association shall pay such entrance fee the amount of which will be set from time to time by the members in Annual General Meetings and shall be payable with the first subscription.

5. Officers

- a) The Officers of the Association shall consist of:

The President	The Racing Secretary
Vice Presidents	The Cruising Secretary
The Commodore	The Area Sailing Secretaries
The Vice Commodore	The Rating Secretary
The Rear Commodore	
The Honorary Secretary	The Newsletter Editor
The Honorary Treasurer	The Social Secretary

The Honorary Membership Secretary The Safety Officer
The RYA Liaison Officer

And such officers, being members, as any Annual General Meeting shall in any year prescribe. An Ordinary member shall be eligible for election to any one or more of the above offices concurrently and shall hold office from year to year. Election for each office shall take place at every Annual General Meeting. The Committee shall define in writing the duties of the officers.

- b) Area Sailing Secretaries may be responsible for activities on a local length of coastline and may individually elect which committee they will sit on as detailed in Paragraph 6 below.
- c) MOCRA Port Representatives may be appointed by the Committee to give advice to and assistance to visiting members.
- d) Nominations for officers and committee members shall be made in writing at least twenty one days before any Annual General Meeting except that additional nominations may be made at any Annual General Meeting to fill any vacancy remaining.

6. Management Structure

- a) The day-to-day management of the affairs of the Association shall be in the hands of the Executive Committee which shall consist of the Commodore, Vice Commodore, Rear Commodore, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, Racing Secretary, Cruising Secretary, and Newsletter Editor each of whom shall be separately elected at each Annual General Meeting and the Chairman or appointed representative of each sub-committee and such additional members as the Executive Committee may co-opt. The Commodore shall chair the Executive Committee or in the absence of the Commodore the next Senior Flag officer.
- b) There shall be sub-committees responsible for cruising, racing, RYA Liaison, Affiliated Groups and such other sub-committees as shall be set up by the Executive Committee from time to time.
- c) The Chairman or appointed representative of these sub-committees shall also be entitled to attend meetings of the Executive Committee and have one vote at such meetings.
- d) Membership of the respective sub-committees shall be as follows:-

Cruising Sub-Committee:

Cruising Secretary (Chairman), Affiliated Groups Representative, up to three representatives of the affiliated groups and up to six other members including Area Sailing Secretaries.

Racing Sub-Committee:

Racing Secretary (Chairman), Rating Secretary, and representatives of the types and designs of yachts engaged in racing and up to seven other members.

RYA Liaison and Safety Sub-Committee:

RYA Liaison Officer, Safety Officer, up to three representatives of affiliated groups and up to five other members including Area Sailing Secretaries.

Affiliated Groups Sub-Committee:

For groups with less than 150 members one representative may be elected by the group to sit on the Affiliated Groups Sub-Committee. For affiliated groups with 150 or more members two members may be elected to the said Sub-Committee. The Affiliated Group Sub-Committee shall elect members of that committee to sit on the appropriate Committees of the Association as described above.

- e) Committee members other than officers shall not be eligible for re-election after three years but shall again become eligible after a further year.
- f) The Executive Committee shall meet at least once every quarter and as often as may be necessary for the proper management of the Association. The Chairman shall have a casting vote when necessary.
- g) Sub-Committees shall meet once in every half year and as often as may be necessary for the proper management of their designated areas of responsibilities.
- h) Either the Honorary Secretary or the Commodore or two other members of the Executive Committee or Sub-Committee may call a committee meeting on giving the other committee members at least three day's notice with an agenda. A quorum shall consist of three members of the appropriate committee except that they shall consist of four members of the Executive Committee. Minutes of all committee meetings shall be kept.
- i) In the event of a vacancy occurring either amongst the officers or on the Executive Committee or any sub-committee during the year the committee may co-opt an ordinary member to fill the vacancy until the next Annual General Meeting when such person shall be eligible for re-election.
- j) The Executive Committee is empowered to appoint an individual or individuals who shall not be a member or members of the Executive Committee to undertake such work as shall be designated in detail by the Executive Committee and such appointment or appointments may be remunerated by payment of an honorarium, such honorarium to be fixed by the Executive Committee annually and paid from current subscriptions, if funds are available.
- k) The President and Vice Presidents may attend but not vote at such committee and sub-committee meetings as they so wish. The Executive Committee may consult with the President or Vice Presidents from time-to-time.

7. Accounts

The Executive Committee shall cause proper accounts to be kept annually. Any ordinary member of the Association other than an officer or a professional Auditor may be empowered by the Executive Committee to act as Auditor. The Auditor's report and the balance sheet and Income and Expenditure account shall be presented to the Annual General Meeting. The financial year of the Association shall end on the last day of December annually.

8. General Meetings

- a) The Annual General Meeting shall be held in every year at a date to be determined by the Executive Committee within twelve months of the end of the accounting year.
- b) The Honorary Secretary may and upon the request of ten ordinary members shall summon an Extra-Ordinary General Meeting for any specific purpose.
- c) The Honorary Secretary shall cause a notice of any general meeting to be sent to all members of the Association to their address (which may be an email address) in the Association's records at least forty-two days before such meeting stating time place and agenda.
- d) Any member wishing to propose a motion shall give notice of the same to the Honorary Secretary at least twenty-one days before the meeting.
- e) Any special motion or amendment to these rules shall require a two-third majority vote of those present and those voting by proxy and that rule 8(c) shall have been complied with.

9. Social Events

The Association may hold regular social gatherings to which members shall be invited.

10. Safety

The Association may from time to time issue recommendations for the guidance of members.

11. Racing

Racing organized by shall be according to the provisions of the MOCRA Rating Rule.

12. Rating and Measurement

Handicaps for races sponsored by the Association shall be derived from the Rating system. Competitors shall be in possession of a valid MOCRA Rating Certificate, issued by the Association's Rating Secretary.

13. Disclaimer

The Association and its officers do not accept liability for and shall not be liable for any personal or other injury arising directly or indirectly out of any meeting race event or out of participation in any race promoted by the Association whether sustained by members their workmen or their guests and or caused by members and or their guests and whether or not such damage or injury could have been attributed to or was occasioned by the neglect default or negligence of an officer committee or servant of the Association or any of them and without prejudice to the generality of any of the foregoing that the decision on behalf of any yacht to participate in or continue to participate in any race or other event shall remain the sole responsibility of the skipper of such yacht.

14. Winding Up

In the event of the Association being dissolved or wound up the assets of the Association shall be distributed to those Ordinary currently and for the two membership years prior to the current year being fully paid up pro-rate.

15. Amendment of Rules

These rules may be amended by the Association in General Meeting in accordance with Rule 8(c).

16. Interpretation of Rules

- a) This constitution shall be interpreted under English Law.
- b) Throughout these rules references to members in the singular shall include the plural and in the masculine shall include the feminine and vice versa.