

Constitution of the Irish Schools Sailing (ISS)

Article I: Name

The name of the organisation shall be the **Irish Schools Sailing** (hereafter referred to as ISS).

Article II: Mission

The mission of ISS is to promote, develop, and organise school sailing governance and competitions for school students across Ireland, fostering teamwork, sportsmanship, and a love for the sport of sailing among young sailors.

Article III: Objectives

The objectives of the Association are:

1. To organise and facilitate sailing, racing events and competitions for schools across Ireland.
2. To provide a platform for schools to participate in national and international sailing competitions.
3. To promote participation and the development of sailing skills, teamwork, and leadership among young sailors.
4. To collaborate with national and international sailing bodies to support and grow youth team racing in Ireland.
5. To develop suitably affiliated sailing clubs in as many Schools as possible
6. To encourage inclusivity, diversity, and sportsmanship within school sailing teams.
7. To affiliate itself and its members, as required, with Irish Sailing and adopt its rules, regulations and governance.

Article IV: Membership

1. **Eligibility:** Membership of ISS shall be open to all schools in the island of Ireland that participate in sailing racing events.
2. **Application Process:** Schools wishing to become members must submit an application to the ISS Executive Committee, providing necessary details such as team roles and composition and commitment to ISS's objectives.

3. **Membership Rights:** All member schools have the right to:
 - Participate in all ISS-organised events.
 - Vote in General Meetings, with each school team having one vote.
 - Nominate individuals for positions within the ISS Executive Committee.
2. **Membership Obligations:** All members shall:
 - Abide by the rules and regulations set out by ISS & Irish Sailing
 - Pay any membership fees set by the ISS.

Article V: Structure and Governance

1. **Executive Committee:** The governing body of ISS shall be the Executive Committee, which shall consist of the following positions:
 - **Chairperson:** Responsible for the overall leadership and representation of ISS.
 - **Secretary:** Responsible for maintaining records, meeting minutes, and correspondence.
 - **Treasurer:** Responsible for financial management, budgeting, and ensuring financial sustainability.
 - **Event Coordinator(s):** Responsible for organising and overseeing team racing events
 - **Club Children's Officer** - promotes a child-centred ethos and ensures safeguarding policies are followed within the club. They act as a point of contact for child welfare concerns and help implement best practices. Their role includes supporting safe recruitment, encouraging training, and promoting inclusion.
 - **ISS Regional Representatives:** One representative for each region of Ireland (e.g., North, South, East, West). These individuals are responsible for ensuring that schools in their respective regions are informed of upcoming events, organising regional activities, and acting as a liaison between the regional schools and the Executive Committee.

Note: The number of Regional Representatives will be determined based on the regional structure that best serves the distribution of schools and members across Ireland. Regions may be adjusted or further divided depending on the growth of the Association.
 - **Additional Roles:** Other positions may be added as deemed necessary by the Executive Committee.
2. **Election of Executive Committee:** The Executive Committee members, including Regional Representatives, shall be elected by the member schools at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) for a term of one years. Each school may nominate one individual for each position, and elections shall be held by majority vote.
3. No member shall serve on the Committee as an Elected Committee member for more than four years at the end of which period they shall retire but shall be available for re-election after an interval of one year.

4. **Electronic votes:** member schools may vote by electronic ballot on proposals to amend the Constitution or to elect Officers. This has to be sent by a verified school email address.

5. **Regional Representative Duties:**
 - **Communication:** Regional Representatives will ensure that schools within their respective regions are informed about upcoming events, rule changes, and any other ISS activities.
 - **Regional Event Support:** Regional Representatives may organise regional-level training or friendly team racing events to encourage participation and development.
 - **Feedback Channel:** They will serve as a channel for member schools to provide feedback on ISS's events and overall performance, bringing concerns or suggestions to the Executive Committee.

6. **Meetings:**
 - **General Meetings (GM):** ISS shall hold at least one General Meeting per year, known as the Annual General Meeting (AGM), where key decisions, updates, and elections are held.
 - The Committee shall give no less than 21 days notice of a general meeting. This notice shall specify the date, time and venue of the AGM.
 - The Committee shall give 10 days notice prior to the AGM of any motions to be voted upon and any additional positions to be elected.
 - A quorum of five shall be sufficient to form a quorum of a General Meeting.
 - An Extraordinary General Meeting may be called at any time by a minimum of six member schools. Notice of at least 21 days shall be given to all Officers and members of the Association.
 - The outgoing chairperson shall chair the AGM. In the event of a tie in the election of the Chairperson, the outgoing Chairperson shall have the casting vote. In the event of a tie in the election of the other members of the Committee, the incoming Chairperson shall have the casting vote.
 - **Executive Committee Meetings:** The Executive Committee shall meet regularly (at least quarterly) to discuss and oversee the operations of the Association. Regional Representatives are expected to attend these meetings and report on regional matters

Article VI: Events

1. Racing Events:

- ISS shall organise sailing racing competitions, regional and national championships, as well as training events for sailors.
- The competition format and rules shall be defined and updated by the Executive Committee, in consultation with member schools and relevant authorities.

2. Rules and Regulations:

- The rules governing all ISS events shall follow the standard racing rules as recognized by international sailing organisations, with any necessary adaptations for youth or school competition.

3. Code of Conduct:

- All members and participants in ISS events must adhere to a code of conduct that emphasizes respect for competitors, officials, and the sport of sailing.

Article VII: Finances

1. **Funding Sources:** ISS's financial resources shall come from membership fees, donations, sponsorships, fundraising events, and any other legal means of revenue generation.
2. **Annual Budget:** The Treasurer shall prepare an annual budget, which must be approved by the Executive Committee
3. **Financial Reporting:** ISS shall maintain clear and accurate financial records. These records will be available for review at each AGM.

Article VIII: Amendments

1. **Proposal of Amendments:** Any member of ISS may propose amendments to the Constitution. Proposals must be submitted in writing to the Executive Committee at least 30 days before the AGM.
2. **Approval of Amendments:** Amendments to the Constitution shall be approved by a two-thirds majority vote at the AGM.

Article IX: Dissolution

1. **Dissolution of the Association:** In the event that the ISS must be dissolved, any remaining assets shall be transferred to Irish Sailing.
2. **Dissolution Process:** The decision to dissolve the Association shall require approval by a two-thirds majority vote at a General Meeting