

**CONSTITUTION
AND BY-LAWS**

of the

**BELLPORT BAY
YACHT CLUB**

Bellport, Long Island, New York



CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

SECTION 1. The Officers of this Club shall be: Commodore, Vice Commodore, Rear Commodore, Secretary, and Treasurer. There shall also be a Board of Trustees consisting of the five above named Officers and twelve additional members, four of whom shall be elected annually for terms of three years each, such members to hold no other elective office. All Officers and Trustees shall be Senior Members in good standing.

SECTION 2. Such Officers and Trustees shall be elected by ballot by the members of the Club at its Annual Meeting. A majority of the votes cast shall be necessary to elect to office. The newly elected Officers shall assume office on the first of January following the Annual Meeting, and shall hold office for one year thereafter or until their successors shall take office.

SECTION 3. In addition to the foregoing elective Officers, all former Commodores who remain Active Members shall be Honorary Trustees for life with all the powers and prerogatives of regular trustees.

ARTICLE II DUTIES OF OFFICERS

SECTION 1. COMMODORE. It shall be the duty of the Commodore to command the Club; to preside at all meetings; to appoint a Fleet Captain and such other Officers for whom no provision is made for election or appointment otherwise. The Commodore shall also enforce the laws and regulations of the Club. The Commodore shall be ex-officio a member of all committees, except the Regatta and Nomination Committees.

SECTION 2. VICE COMMODORE. It shall be the duty of the Vice Commodore to assist the Commodore in the discharge of the Commodore's duties, and in the Commodore's absence or other disability, to act as Commodore. The Vice Commodore shall normally oversee the Regatta Committee.

SECTION 3. REAR COMMODORE. It shall be the duty of the Rear Commodore to assist the Commodore and Vice Commodore in the discharge of their duties and in their absence to assume the duties of Commodore. In addition, the Rear Commodore shall normally oversee the Social Committee.

SECTION 4. SECRETARY. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep a true record of the proceedings at all meetings of the Club in a book provided for that purpose; to keep a correct roll of all the members; to notify the Treasurer, on or before March 1st of each year, of the names of members liable for annual dues and also during the year to notify the Treasurer of the election of any new members; to notify each member-elect of his/her election; to notify each member of every meeting; in case of inability to attend any meeting to cause the necessary books and papers to be conveyed to the place of meeting; to keep a correct list of the name, ownership, dimensions, and rig of each yacht enrolled in the Club; to have custody of all documents, records, reports and communications connected with the business of the Club. At the expiration of the Secretary's term of office, Secretary shall turn over to the successor all books, papers and records in the Secretary's possession belonging to the Club. The duties of Secretary may, at the discretion of the Board of Trustees, be divided between two offices, Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary. In such case, both shall be voting members of the Board of Trustees.

SECTION 5. TREASURER. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to collect and receive all monies due to the Club; to pay all bills contracted by the Club and authorized by the Board of Trustees, keeping a correct record of the same in a book provided for that purpose; to make a report at each

regular meeting of all receipts and disbursements, with a statement of the amount of money then in the Treasurer's hands and the amount of dues collected. The Treasurer shall have custody of all the funds of the Club. At the expiration of the Treasurer's term of office the Treasurer shall turn over to the successor all monies, property and papers in the Treasurer's possession belonging to the Club.

SECTION 6. At the beginning of each year the Commodore and Officers shall present an annual budget to the Board of Trustees at a meeting called for this purpose. This budget shall clearly distinguish capital and operating expenses. Approval of the budget by the board shall authorize the Treasurer to make payments within the budget during that year. All obligations outside the budget must be individually approved by the Board of Trustees.

ARTICLE III BOARD OF TRUSTEES

SECTION 1. The Board of Trustees shall have general control and management of the Club, and shall have power and responsibility:

- a. To appoint a Regatta Committee of three or more members, a House Committee of three or more members, a Membership Committee of three or more members, a Social Committee, an Auditing Committee, and any and all other committees, except the Nominating Committee.
- b. To appoint a Measurer.
- c. To make such rules as they deem proper respecting the use of the Club House and grounds not inconsistent with the Constitution and By-Laws.
- d. To hold a regular meeting immediately after the Annual Meeting.
- e. To hold special meetings whenever the Commodore or a majority of the Board shall so decide, on one day's notice or less in case of emergency or other sufficient cause. Such notice may be given personally, by mail, telephone, or electronic message. Eight Trustees shall constitute a quorum.
- f. To elect to membership of the Club such candidates as they consider desirable. One negative in eight or two negative votes shall reject a candidate for membership.
- g. To try any member against whom written charges shall be preferred and to whom a copy of such charges shall be delivered personally or by registered mail, at least ten days prior to the date of such trial, and to censure, suspend or expel such member upon the vote of a majority of the whole Board.
- h. To fill vacancies occurring during the year in the Officers or Board: any Officer or Trustee so elected shall hold office until the next Annual Meeting.

SECTION 2. Any Trustee except an Honorary Trustee who shall be absent from three (3) consecutive meetings without sufficient excuse to the Board maybe dropped from the Board.

ARTICLE IV STANDING COMMITTEES

SECTION 1. NOMINATING COMMITTEE. At the meeting of the Club held in June of each year, a committee of five shall be elected by the Club at large, which committee shall, on or before the 15th day of August, prepare a list of candidates for the various offices to be filled at the ensuing election and post same in the Club House, which shall be deemed to be sufficient notice to every member of the Club. The five Nominating Committee members shall determine their own Chairman, who shall remain in office until the next Nominating Committee is chosen and shall serve to collect any suggested nominations submitted by the membership.

SECTION 2. REGATTA COMMITTEE. The Regatta Committee shall report directly to the Flag Officer appointed to oversee the Regatta Committee.

- a. The Regatta Committee and Flag Officer assigned shall have full power and authority to

make arrangements for, to take charge of, and act as judges of all races and Regattas sailed under the direction of the Club; to decide all questions that arise in the sailing of such races, to provide for hearing protests of any rules of the Club, US Sailing Racing Rules of Sailing, or customs of the sea; and decide to postpone any race, or order it to be re-sailed, should either seem desirable.

- b. The Regatta Committee members may, in the absence of one or more Regatta Committee members, appoint from available Club members a temporary replacement of the absent members.
- c. The Regatta Committee shall have full charge of and responsibility for the Club buoys, marks, and other racing equipment.
- d. The Regatta Committee shall record, in a book provided for that purpose, the entries and results of each race and regatta and all protests filed with it, together with their decision on the same. At the end of the racing season the Regatta Committee shall turn over all race records to the Flag Officer appointed to oversee the Regatta Committee who shall subsequently submit these records to the Secretary (Recording).

SECTION 3. HOUSE COMMITTEE. The House Committee shall have the general management and control of the house, grounds, dock, and employees of the Club. The House Committee shall receive and redress complaints, oversee house projects and the Ship's Store, and order supplies.

SECTION 4. MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE. The Membership Committee shall inquire into the character and general qualifications of all proposed candidates for membership posted in the Club House and report to the Board of Trustees.

SECTION 5. SOCIAL COMMITTEE. The Social Committee shall organize and manage the social activities of the Club with the approval of the Board of Trustees and communicate with the Commodore and the Secretary (Corresponding) so that invitations may be sent out in a timely fashion.

ARTICLE V APPOINTED POSITIONS

SECTION 1. MEASURER. The Measurer shall, upon request of the owner or by direction of the Regatta Committee, measure any yacht for the purpose of determining her rating measurements in the manner prescribed by Article III of the By-Laws, Class Rules, and US SAILING *The Racing Rules of Sailing*, and shall file a duly authenticated certificate with the Secretary, with a copy to the Regatta Committee.

SECTION 2. FLEET CAPTAIN. The Fleet Captain shall communicate with the sailors of the squadrons on behalf of the Commodore and shall hold office during the pleasure of the latter. When on duty the Fleet Captain's distinguishing pennant shall be flown.

ARTICLE VI MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1. Membership shall be of three classes: Active, Honorary and Complimentary.

SECTION 2. Active Members are classified as follows:

- a. Regular - person age 21 and over
- b. Junior - Child(ren) up to and including age 20. A Junior Member who turns 21 before March 1st of the upcoming season shall be eligible to apply for Regular Member or Young Adult Individual Member.
- c. Young Adult Individual Member - person age 21-29 may represent the Club in GSBYRA, US Sailing, and other sailing events; has no right to vote or hold office; pays no initiation fee; and must volunteer for a minimum of one race management activity each year. A

Young Adult Individual Member shall convert to Regular Member at age 30, or may convert to Regular Member after two years, by electing to pay Regular Member dues. A Young Adult Individual Member who turns 30 after March 1st shall be billed for Regular Member the following season.

- d. Associate – A person who has been a member in any of the above categories, lives out of the area and does not regularly use the Club facilities. An associate member may not represent the Club as skipper or crew in any Championship events or any elimination for said events.

SECTION 3. Each candidate for Regular Member or Young Adult Individual Member shall be proposed in writing on the current application form and sponsored by two Regular Members, each from different households. When Young Adult Individual Members exercise their right to convert to Regular Members, no new application, nor new Sponsors are required.

Sponsors shall submit written statements supporting the candidate to the Membership Committee. Applications may be submitted at any time during the calendar year, however applications are reviewed by the Trustees only during January and February. Those candidates may attend social activities as a guest of their Sponsor until they are voted Regular Member or Young Adult Member.

The Membership Committee shall forward the application for Regular Member or Young Adult Individual Member to the Trustees with a recommendation for a vote. Election to membership shall be by ballot during January and February and according to provisions of Section 1f of Article III. Upon election, the Treasurer shall send the proposed member a dues notice.

SECTION 4. Honorary members of the Club may be elected by unanimous vote of the Board of Trustees present at any regular meeting of the Board of Trustees, and shall be entitled to all privileges of the Club.

SECTION 5. Complimentary membership may be awarded by a majority vote of the Board of Trustees in attendance at any authorized meeting and shall be given only to a former member in good standing who enters the Armed Forces of the United States, and in a limited number of cases each year to someone who has rendered some unusual service to the Club for which no monetary consideration would be in order. Such members shall be entitled to all privileges of the Club except voting or eligibility to hold office.

ARTICLE VII DUES

SECTION 1. An initiation fee may be imposed by a majority vote at a meeting of the Board of Trustees.

SECTION 2. The annual dues shall be determined by the Board of Trustees and shall be payable on the first of March in each and every year, or upon the election of a new member as heretofore provided. If, after sixty days any member shall have failed to pay his/her dues, such member's name may be posted in the Club House and if such dues remain unpaid at the expiration of thirty days thereafter, such delinquent names shall be reported to the Board of Trustees for action, which may be suspension or expulsion.

ARTICLE VIII MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

SECTION 1. There shall be three (3) Regular Meetings of the Club each year, to be held as follows: the first late in June, the second late in July prior to Race Week, and the third, the Annual Meeting, in late August prior to Labor Day. Specified dates are to be selected by the Commodore.

SECTION 2. Special meetings may be called by the Commodore or must be called by the Secretary (Corresponding) upon written request of ten members.

SECTION 3. Ten members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting.

ARTICLE IX VOTING

SECTION 1. Every Regular Member of the Club shall be entitled to a vote on all questions and has the right to hold office.

SECTION 2. Any five Regular Members in good standing are entitled to propose any other candidates not proposed by the Nominating Committee for one or more elective offices. Those proposers shall post their own names and the names of such candidates they propose for office at the Club House at least five days before the election.

ARTICLE X DISCIPLINE

SECTION 1. Any member or members having a complaint to make against any other member, or members, for any infraction of the Laws of the Club (other than Sailing Regulations) or for conduct injurious to the welfare of the Club, shall report the same in writing to the Trustees.

SECTION 2. After receiving such complaint, which must set forth the facts of the case, together with the names of witnesses, if any, a meeting of the Trustees shall be held as soon as practicable to investigate the same. Of such meeting the member or members making complaint, and the member or members complained of, shall receive at least five (5) days notice, and may then be heard. The statements and evidence shall not be disclosed.

SECTION 3. The Trustees shall have power to suspend or expel a member, or impose other penalty. Their decision shall also be filed with the Secretary (Recording) and the Secretary shall forward by mail or messenger, a certified copy thereof, to the member or members complained of, and also to the member or members making such complaint.

ARTICLE XI AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1. This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of all the members present at any regular or special meetings of the Club, the proposed amendment having been stated in the call for the meeting.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I

SECTION 1. Notices of all membership meetings shall be sent to every member at least two days prior thereto. Notices of special meetings shall state the purpose for which they are called.

ARTICLE II ORDER OF BUSINESS

SECTION 1. Order of business:

- Reading of Minutes.
- Reports of Officers.
- Reports of Committees.
- Unfinished Business.
- General Business.
- New Business.
- Election of Officers.

SECTION 2. In case of dispute as to order and debate, *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised*, shall govern.

ARTICLE III ENROLLMENTS

SECTION 1. Every yacht owned or controlled, wholly or in-part, and in good faith, by a member or members of this Club, may be enrolled in the squadron of the Club upon the owner's filing with the Secretary a description thereof, containing its name, dimensions, rig, ownership and, if known, name of builder, time and place of building.

SECTION 2. Every member selling or permanently altering the rig or model of any yacht enrolled in the Club, or changing his private signal, shall give notice thereof to the Secretary. No yacht which is not registered on the Club record shall be entitled to representation in the Club.

ARTICLE IV CLUB SIGNAL

SECTION 1. The distinguishing signal of the Club shall be a triangular burgee, the hoist of which shall be 2/3 of the fly, the device, a small blue triangle within the larger red triangle, and a white five pointed star in center of smaller triangle, the basis lines of both triangles being the hoist.

ARTICLE V FLAGS

SECTION 1. The following pennants shall be displayed during Club functions that are held at the Club signaling that the corresponding offices are in attendance.

- a. The Commodore's pennant shall be a blue rectangular pennant with a fowl anchor in white encircled by thirteen five-pointed stars in white.
- b. The Vice Commodore's pennant shall be a red rectangular pennant with a fowl anchor in white encircled by thirteen five-pointed stars in white.
- c. The Rear Commodore's pennant shall be a white rectangular pennant with a fowl anchor in red encircled by thirteen five-pointed stars in red
- d. The Fleet Captain's pennant shall be a broad rectangular white pennant with a device of a fowl anchor in blue.
- e. The Past Commodore's pennant shall be the same as the Commodore's with the addition of three white stars to the left.

SECTION 2. Flag Officers upon retirement from the office may wear the official insignia, on cap or sleeve, or both, using silver stars instead of gold.

**ARTICLE VI
THE SUSPENSION OF BY-LAWS**

SECTION 1. These By-Laws, or any one, may be suspended at any meeting by a unanimous vote of the members present. Such suspension must expire with the meeting at which it was ordered.

**ARTICLE VII
AMENDMENTS**

SECTION 1. These By-Laws may be altered or amended by a two-thirds vote of all present at any regular or special meeting of the Club, the proposed amendment having been stated in the call for meeting.

Constitution and By-Laws corrected as revised to: 9/1/1927, 6/29/1951, 8/1/1952, 8/23/1963, 8/25/1965, 8/16/1982, 8/29/2002, 6/20/2007, and 8/30/2022. Adopted as corrected and revised.