

J/70 International Class Annual Meeting Minutes

Date: 12/10/2025

Start: 9:05 a.m. EST

Adjourn: 10:05 a.m. EST

Present:

Chris & Julie Howell X
Jeff Johnstone, J/Boats X
Pedro Garra, President X
Cate Muller-Terhune, Vice President
Martin Dent, Secretary X
Rudiger Margale, Treasurer X
Mark Foster, Technical Chair X
Vittorio Di Mauro, Past President X
Luis Albert, Incoming Officer X
ARG Francisco Van Avermaete X
ARM Artashes Dadayan
AUS Rod Warren X
AUT Thomas Muller-Uri X
BER Laura Cutler
BRA Bruno Bethlem X
CAN Graeme Carr X
CHI Alejandro Pérez
CHN Xiaotong Wu
DEN Lukas Mohr X
ESP Marcelo Baltzer Foucher X
EST Tonu Toniste
FIN Staffan Lindberg X
FRA Philippe Bonavita and Patrick Torfou X
GBR Hector Simpson X
GER Christian Rau X
HUN Miklós Rauschenberger
IRL William Twomey X
ITA Nicolo Gaddi, Federico Siragna and Giulia Albuzio X
KOR Woo Hyun Kim
MEX Alan González X
MON Pierrick Devic X
NED John den Engelsman
NOR Petter Hessen
POL Tomasz Feret X
POR Vasco Serpa X
SUI Urs Oldani
SWE Jan Björnsjö
TUR Ahmet Eker X
URU Pedro Garra X
USA John Heaton and Brian Keane X

Agenda:

1. President's Welcome
2. Office and Copyright Holder Reports
3. Budget Proposal and Approval
4. Rules Proposals
5. 2027 WC Qualification
6. Election of Officers
7. New Business

1. **President's Welcome** – Pedro recapped that 2025 was excellent with our first Worlds in the Southern Hemisphere! Their continental fleets became stronger in this process. We also had our inaugural Mixed Plus World Championship and the first time holding the Corinthian Worlds in North America. Our Class is strong, and we need to continue to secure our one-design foundation around the world. Participation continues to hold even as the Class matures. Pedro

thanked the Executive Committee who supported Pedro's presidency. The Class is an excellent model for one-design standards, despite any politics.

2. **Office and Copyright Holder Reports** – Meeting documents are posted in Dropbox at: [J70 2025 WC AGM - Dropbox](#)

Jeff J. reported: We assigned the newest batch of 20 hull numbers 1919-1938 to J/Composites (France), and 2025 production is expected to be about 40-45 units, with a similar forecast for next year. We imported two new boats this spring, but the combination of a 7% weaker dollar and 15% tariff on euro imports has pushed the price up considerably. We've been bringing in a steady supply of Selden Spars to keep up with replacement demand, and fortunately able to mitigate most of the transport costs by packaging them with larger models (i.e. two rigs at a time on top of a J/40 or J/36). He highlighted recent orders to Turkey and Denmark. The Class is more than about a boat – but the community! There's no reason this can't go on indefinitely. Hopefully everyone reads J/News, which has a high percentage of J/70 content. (Content is welcome!) There are about 15,000 subscribers. Charter boat insurance is a lingering concern, which was discussed at a recent US Sailing meeting. Henry Brauer is the US Sailing president and a former J/70 President and boat owner. Brian Keane and Laura Grondin are also on the US Sailing committee, so the Class is well represented.

Chris reported 2025 memberships: ARG, AUS, AUT, BER, BRA, CAN, CHI, CHN, DEN, ESP, EST, FIN, FRA, GBR, GER, HUN, IRL, ITA, MEX, MON, NED, NOR, POL, POR, SUI, SWE, TUR, URU, USA. 1,289 sail royalty tags have been sold in 2025 to date, compared to 1,485 total in 2024. The International J/70 Facebook page has 11,808 followers, and 12,770 on Instagram.

Chris shared the annual Executive Director report. All of the newsletters are online...great and colorful history of the Class, with the 50th edition pending. The Office has more than 1,100 Manufacturers Declarations on file, averaging now about 200 per year. The Class has various measurement tools with NCAs on each continent. Over the years, we have had a diverse EC with Presidents from Europe, North America and South America. Demographics have been collected, and it was interesting to see about 35% of respondents sail club boats. It's been a steady incline for social media – 11,000+ followers on Facebook and 12,000+ on Instagram. The Worlds in Argentina had 1.4 million views on Instagram (wow!). Great media team including Matias and Hannah.

3. **Budget Proposal and Approval** – Chris circulated the IJ70CA Class Budget: Profit & Loss 2025 and Budget 2026. The finances are solid, and the projected budget for next year is similar but with some additional funds for monthly social media.
John Heaton made a motion to accept the Budget/P&L as presented, seconded by Pedro Garra. The motion passed unanimously.

4. **Rules Proposals** – Rules proposals have been posted for review at: [J70_CRC_2025-master-for-review-.pdf](#)

1. Amendment

G.3 MAINSAIL

G.3.1 IDENTIFICATION

(a) The class insignia available from J/Boats shall conform with the following specifications: The J/70 Class insignia shall be in dark blue with overall dimensions of 610 x 320mm and shall be affixed on both sides of the J/70 Class mainsail with the bars nearly perpendicular to a line between the head and center of the boom and between the upper two batten pockets. A J/70 world champion may elect to display the J/70 Class insignia in gold. A J/70 continental

champion may elect to display the J/70 Class insignia in silver. A J/70 NCA champion may elect to display the J/70 Class insignia in bronze.

Amend to Read:

G.3 MAINSAIL

G.3.1 IDENTIFICATION

(a) The class insignia available from J/Boats shall conform with the following specifications: The J/70 Class insignia shall be in dark blue with overall dimensions of 610 x 320mm and shall be affixed on both sides of the J/70 Class mainsail with the bars nearly perpendicular to a line between the head and center of the boom and above and below the third batten pocket with starboard side higher between the upper two batten pockets. A J/70 world champion may elect to display the J/70 Class insignia in gold. A J/70 continental champion may elect to display the J/70 Class insignia in silver. A J/70 NCA champion may elect to display the J/70 Class insignia in bronze.

Explanation: This clarifies Class logo location

2. Amendment

New C.5.2

(b) OPTIONAL

(10) Standard builder supplied winches (if removed from standard deck location, winches must be carried aboard until boat is reweighed and MD is updated)

Explanation: Spinnaker loads rarely require the use of the primary winches. The CR change makes winches an optional feature.

3. Amendment

C.4 PERSONAL EQUIPMENT

C.4.1 MANDATORY

(a) The boat shall be equipped with a personal floatation device for each crew member to the minimum standard ISO 12402-5 (Level 50), USCG Type III, or an equivalent.

Amend to Read:

C.4 PERSONAL EQUIPMENT

C.4.1 MANDATORY

(a) The boat shall be equipped with a personal floatation device for each crew member to the minimum standard ISO 12402-5 (Level 50), USCG Type III, or an equivalent. Inflatable personal flotation devices do not satisfy this CR requirement.

Explanation: To maintain consistency in required safety equipment.

4. Amendment

PART III – EVENT RULES

These rules must be invoked individually by the notice of race or sailing instructions. The default is these rules do not apply.

Amend to Read:

PART III – PERMITTED CLASS RULE CHANGES

Per RRS rule 87 these Class rule changes are preapproved by the Class Association These rules must be invoked individually by the notice of race or sailing instructions. The default is these rules do not apply

Explanation: Although this section is not part of the standard WS template, Part 3 of the J/70 Class rules have become a well used and understandable feature. Moving these items into the body of the document will disrupt Class procedures for event prep.

Mark added that the Technical Committee will review feedback on safety lines for future consideration.

Regarding the winches, Mark's recommendation is that if you have corrector weight, you could take the winches off and place below by the keel. If you don't have correctors, you could take the winches off and request a new MD. The winch pad is a molded part of the boat and cannot be removed. The TC is reviewing options for a standardization such as a cover or filling/smoothing the holes. Mark thanked Jeff for his support through this process.

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

Chris clarified that the Rules proposals will now be sent to World Sailing, with an expected response in the first quarter of 2026. Do not take your winches off yet, as this is not final until World Sailing approval.

5. **2027 World Championship Qualification** – Martin shared the 2027 Worlds Qualification document (note typo before posting), building on last year's process and giving the NCAs autonomy and transparency. There is some adjustment when the Worlds is on different continents. Essentially, there is an initial NCA round of qualifying, then a second phase of re-allocation for higher demand countries. In all likelihood, the NCAs stay in control of their allocation, but if there's any leftover, it would move to a simple online entry system.
Martin Dent made a motion to accept the qualification as presented, seconded by John Heaton. The motion passed unanimously.

Chris shared the document for the 2026 Worlds allocation. Hector reviewed the 2025 membership countries, as there are slight differences year to year. This document will be posted online, as qualification is complete except for perhaps a couple NCAs in the southern hemisphere. Now we can move forward with qualifying individuals getting registered...we will need to move through the rounds in the first couple months of 2026. Martin explained that NCAs will have a little more administrative responsibility. Chris suggested an online form that should expedite the process for the NCA contact, including the collection of alternates. The form will automatically send an e-mail to the qualified helm to help with the transparency. Marcelo asked about a situation such as if someone with a Spanish ranking overlaps with a major Championship qualification (also affecting Corinthian versus Open). Chris stated that the International berths do not pass down, so the NCAs should control their own lists.

6. **Election of Officers** – Vittorio, as Nominating Chair, circulated the slate based on meetings with Brian, Bruno, Philippe and Christian. He explained that the committee voted that Cate Muller-Terhune was not eligible for election due to commercial interest as owner of Melges. Vittorio summarized that the committee's goal was diversity and having all active Continents represented through a transparent process.

Martin Dent – President - continuing with a long-standing tradition of alternance between Continents.

Rod Warren - Vice President - from Australia, recused himself from the Nomination Committee during its deliberations and was not involved in the final selection of the proposed slate. He expressed his interest in becoming an EC officer, and he has been chosen based on his track record of successfully developing the Australian Class, bringing for the first time representation from Asia-Pacific to the EC of our Class.

Luis Albert – Secretary - from Spain, has been selected based on his personal/professional background, as well as his very active participation in international Class events, while also helping to maintain a good Open/Corinthian mix/balance within the EC.

Rüdi Margale – Treasurer - will continue to be an EC officer in the role of Class Treasurer.

Mark Foster - Technical Chair - will continue to be an EC officer as its Technical Chair.

Pedro Garra is now Past President (opted not to seek re-election), and Jeff Johnstone remains the Copyright Holder.

John expressed objection to the characterization that Mark “represents” the US Class because he represents the IJ70CA as Chair of the ITC. John understands the By-Law language regarding Cate’s commercial interest but recommended the Class be careful with its terminology. Vittorio said the EC will have international strategy, knowing the US Class has the highest membership. This is Vittorio’s final meeting as Pedro will now be Past President. He thanked everyone...J/70 life!

Vittorio DiMauro made a motion to accept the slate as presented, seconded by John Heaton. This motion passed unanimously.

7. **New Business** – Martin said it’s a great honor to serve as President and be part of the community. Welcome Luis and Rod! Thank you Pedro...he excels at building consensus! Thank you Vittorio for years of service and innovating several Championship formats. There is so much talent within our NCAs, all with a vote on this Council. His goal is to increase their involvement and hear their expertise. He was excited to see a new proposal from Yacht Club Costa Smeralda. The World Council will meet in January to review the Championship calendar.

Action Items:

--Chris and Mark will work with World Sailing on updated Class Rules 2026.

Next Meeting: Event Planning meeting on January 5