

# Buccaneer Class Association

## Constitution

Incorporating all changes through January 2022.

### **1. Title.**

A. The full title of the Association shall be "The Buccaneer Class Association."

B. "The Class" shall mean the class of one design sailing dinghies designed by J.R. Macalpine-Downie, and built in accordance with his drawings and specifications and known under the name "Buccaneer.'

C. "The Class Rules" shall mean the rules relating to measurement, construction, and racing conditions forming an appendix to the constitution and governing the initial building of each Buccaneer and its ratings as a recognized boat within the class for Class racing purposes.

D. "The Class Register" shall mean the register of Buccaneers and their owners, to be kept as hereinafter provided.

### **2. Objects.**

The objects of the Association shall be to further the interests of the Class as a one-design dinghy class; to govern the affairs of the class in North America and to maintain the Association Register and Class Register and, to this end, the Association Rules for governing the conduct of its members and Class Rules for ensuring that racing within the class shall take place on even terms.

### **3. Management.**

A. The affairs of the Association shall be managed by a National Committee of seven (7) members of the Association. The Committee shall have power to co-opt additional members as required. The Committee shall have the power to fill vacancies occurring among the officers during their term.

B. The Committee shall consist of a Commodore, Vice Commodore, Secretary/Treasurer, Publicity Chairman, Membership Chairman, Racing Chairman (present), and Racing Chairman (past). Only full members of the BCA are eligible to serve in these positions.

C. The Commodore, Vice Commodore, Secretary/Treasurer, Publicity Chairman and Membership Chairman shall be elected by the membership to a two-year term. Elections of the Commodore and Vice

Commodore shall alternate annually with those of the Secretary/Treasurer, Publicity Chairman and Membership Chairman.

D. The nomination period shall begin two weeks prior to the first day of BNAC and shall run for five weeks. Nominations require a “second” for a member’s name to be placed on the ballot. Only full members may nominate or second a member for an elected office. Nominations, seconds, and campaign statements by the candidates shall be posted on the officially sponsored BCA Members Group on the Internet. If there is a general meeting during BNAC, nominations and seconds may also be made at this meeting. The Secretary/Treasurer shall post nominations and seconds made at the general meeting to the BCA Members Group within one week of the end of BNAC. The two-week voting period shall commence one week after the close of nominations.

E. Voting shall be by electronic ballot only and in accordance with the National Committee Policy on Electronic Voting in effect at the time of the election. Voting shall be by secret ballot. A minimum of 7 members must cast votes for the election to be valid. The person receiving the highest vote total of the candidates for each position shall be elected.

F. The newly elected officers shall start their term on the latter of their election or October 15.

G. The Past and Present Racing Chairman will be appointed by the club(s) that has/will sponsor the National Championship Regatta.

#### 1. Elected Officers.

a. Commodore to act as chairman.

b. Vice Commodore will substitute for the Commodore and will be chairman of the Technical Committee.

c. Secretary/Treasurer will keep correct minutes, etc. of all Committee and General Meetings and shall be responsible for communicating the decisions of the Committee to members and others in such terms as the Committee may prescribe. The Secretary/Treasurer shall also have charge of any funds, which may be existent, making such disbursements as the Committee requires, and present an annual financial statement.

d. Publicity Chairman will be responsible for all Class Publicity including the General Promotion the class builder, vendors, and other sponsors to promote BCA-sanctioned events, will distribute press releases to the general public, will facilitate communications to the general membership, and will assist non-membership online sites (e.g. Yahoo and Facebook) to promote class membership.

e. Membership Chairman will be responsible for all matters pertaining to membership status and records for the class. The Membership Chairman will coordinate with the Secretary/Treasurer to establish eligibility for all member benefits, will assist the Vice Commodore determining fleet status, will provide membership information to fleet

captains and regional representatives, and will maintain the BCA Registry of Buccaneer owners.

2. Appointed Officers.

a. Racing Chairman (Present) will be responsible for organizing and conducting the National Championship Regatta.

b. Racing Chairman (Past) will assist the Present Racing Chairman in organizing and conducting the National Championship Regatta.

c. At meetings of the Committee, four (4) shall constitute a quorum.

d. The Committee shall have the power to make recommendations to the members in the General Meetings for alterations in, or additions to, the Rules of the Class or for their interpretation.

e. Championship Regattas. All matters pertaining to the Championship shall be settled by the Committee in consultation with sponsoring clubs.

H. Technical Committee

1. Duties

a. Liaison with manufacturer on quality control problems.

b. Receive suggestions for changes and solicit vote of membership on proposed changes to the boat.

c. Appoint National Measurer.

2. Membership

a. One (1) from manufacturer of the boat or current owner of the molds.

b. Two (2) national dues paying members from each of five regions (West, South, Southeast, Midwest and Northeast) named by the Vice Commodore.

c. Chairman shall vote only in case of ties.

**4. Membership and Voting.**

A. The following classes of membership shall be recognized:

1. Membership

## 2. Associate Membership

## 3. Honorary Life Membership

B. Membership of the Association shall be open to any owner of a Buccaneer.

C. In the case of joint ownership, only one vote shall be allowed and may be exercised by the owner first named upon the Register of the Association.

D. In cases of a boat owned by a corporation or a service organization, a vote may be exercised by a representative member of that organization.

E. Each member shall be entitled to vote at a general meeting or in a postal ballot.

F. Associate Membership shall be open to any person having an interest in the Association or in the Class.

G. Honorary Life Membership shall be open to any person having an interest in the Association or in the Class who is proposed by a Member and seconded by at least one member of the Committee and is elected by members of the Association at any general meeting of the Association.

H. Associate and Honorary Life Members shall be entitled to attend and speak at any general meeting. Honorary Life Members may also vote at meetings and in elections or ballot issues.

I. Members shall be bound by the Constitution and Class Rules.

## **5. Conduct of Meetings.**

1. A general meeting of the Association shall be held annually; the precise date, time, and place shall be at the Committee's discretion.

2. A Special General Meeting shall be called by the Commodore or Secretary upon receipt, by the Secretary of a request in writing and signed by not fewer than ten Members of the Association.

3. At least seven days' notice shall be given of any General or Committee Meeting.

4. At any meeting, decision shall be by majority vote, voting to be by a show of hands, unless a poll is demanded by no fewer than three of the members present. At any meeting the Commodore shall have a casting vote.

A. At any General Meeting, seven shall form a quorum.

B. Voting for revisions to the BCA Constitution or the BCA Racing Rules shall be by postal ballot or electronic ballot. For each vote the National Committee shall decide whether to use (1) a postal ballot, (2) an electronic ballot, or (3) both a postal ballot and an electronic ballot. The minimum period between mailing out a postal ballot and the closing date of the vote shall be three weeks. The minimum period between "posting" an electronic ballot and the closing date of the vote shall be two weeks. If both

postal and electronic ballots are being used on a vote, then the electronic vote shall close on the same day as the closing date for the postal vote. The closing date of a vote shall be shown on all ballots. Two-thirds of the total vote count must be in favor of the proposed change for the change to be approved.

#### **6. National Association Membership Dues.**

A. Amount shall be set at a General Meeting.

B. The membership year is May 1 through April 30, with dues payable by May 1. New members, joining after the National Championship Regatta, shall have their membership extended to the end of the following membership year.

#### **7. Local Fleet Fees.**

At the discretion of the local fleet officers, fees may be collected for membership in local fleets.

#### **8. Registration of Boats.**

No Buccaneer shall be entered on the Class Register unless the boat has been issued a measurement certificate.

#### **9. Measurement Certificate.**

A. "Measurement Certificate" shall mean a certificate issued under the authority of the Technical Committee or Class Measurer which indicates a boat conforms to the measurements and specifications of the Buccaneer dinghy.

B. Measurement certificates will be issued automatically to boats constructed by builders franchised by the designer. Other builders may be appointed or dismissed by the National Committee. Measurement certificates will be issued automatically to boats constructed by appointed builders. The Class Measurer (or designee) will periodically measure new boats built by builders appointed by the National Committee to ensure the boats produced continue to qualify for measurement certificates.

C. Change of Ownership. A change of ownership shall not invalidate a measurement certificate.

D. Specifications. It is in the interest of this organization to preserve the one-design character of the Buccaneer in order to ensure uniform equipment in competition and, so far as possible, to delay obsolescence of individual boats.

#### **10. Special Rules Governing Local Fleets.**

A. Fleet Charter

1. A Fleet Charter may be granted by the National Committee upon written application of three or more members owning Buccaneers.

## B. Fleet Officers

1. Upon formation, a fleet shall elect officers and make these officers known to the National Secretary.
2. The number of fleet officers shall be as required to conduct fleet business.

## C. Fleet Membership

1. Fleet membership shall be base upon membership in the Buccaneer Class Association.
2. Where more than one fleet of his choice is geographically convenient to a Buccaneer Member, he may join the fleet of his choice.
3. A Buccaneer Member may not maintain membership in more than one fleet.
4. The fleet Secretary shall keep the National Secretary informed of the fleet membership list.
5. A Buccaneer Member shall not be considered a fleet member until his fleet dues, if any are paid.
6. A Buccaneer Member must also meet any other local fleet requirements necessary for membership.

## D. Fleet Voting

1. Each boat shall be entitled to one vote, whether or not it is owned by one or more members.
2. Associate Members shall have a voice but not a vote unless holding a proxy vote of a Member in his absence.

## **11. Commencement Date.**

This Constitution may be referred to as the Buccaneer Constitution and shall come into operation on the First Day of April, 1972.