

# **Neuse Yacht Racing Association**

## **Constitution**

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## **Bylaws**

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Article I: Name, Purpose, Burgee

Section 1: Name

This organization shall be known as the Neuse Yacht Racing Association, hereafter referred to as the NYRA.

Section 2: Purpose of the NYRA

The purpose of the NYRA is:

- (a) - to foster, encourage, and promote the sport of sailboat racing and all phases and aspects thereof;
- (b) - to organize, promote, and carry on sailboat races, series, and regattas.
- (c) - to give instruction in all phases and aspects of the sport of sailboat racing, including seamanship, safety afloat, navigation, racing rules and tactics, and race committee functions.
- (d) - to cooperate, aid, and assist other organizations in encouraging and promoting the sport of sailboat racing.

Section 3: Burgee

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Article II: Membership and Dues

Section 1: Definition of a Member

Members shall consist of such persons as are duly admitted to the NYRA by the Board of Directors, and have paid current fees and dues. Each person in the member's immediate family (spouse and children) are considered family members. Each member is entitled to one vote in matters pertaining to the NYRA. The immediate family is not entitled to a separate vote. Members are required to participate in the NYRA regularly scheduled race activities in order to be considered for renewal of yearly membership. Participation in race activities shall include (but not limited to) racing a boat, crewing with a member who races a boat, assisting with organizing or conducting a race with race committee members.

Section 2: Definition of Active Member

Active membership shall be held by all members paying active membership dues and over the age of 21.

Section 3: Definition of Associate Members

Associate membership shall be granted upon application, payment of associate membership dues and majority approval by the Board of Directors. Associate members will receive all NYRA publications, be eligible to attend meetings and social activities, but shall not have the right to vote.

Section 4: Definition of an Honorary Member

Honorary Members are such persons as are admitted to membership as special members by a vote of at least five of the members of the Board of Directors. Honorary Members shall not have any annual dues. Payment of other NYRA fees shall be determined by the Board of Directors or the NYRA By-Laws.

Section 5: Other Members

The Board of Directors may establish other membership categories as required.

Section 6: Dues

Active Members	\$
Associative Members	\$

Members joining after January 1 of each year will pay a prorated portion of the dues.

Section 7: Renewal of Membership

Any member in good standing who has resigned from NYRA may be reinstated by payment of dues for the current year. Any member whose name has been dropped for other causes shall be treated as a new member in that a majority approval by the Board of Directors is required.

Section 8: Termination of Membership

(A) Resignation – Resignations must be present to the Secretary in writing, but such resignation shall not relieve the member

so resigning of the obligation to pay any dues, assessments or other charges theretofore accrued and unpaid.

- (B) Nonpayment of Dues – The names of members whose dues are not paid by March 1 will be dropped from membership records.
- (C) For Other Causes – Membership status of an individual may be terminated by two-thirds vote of the club for gross misconduct unbecoming a member.

Section 9: Transfer of Membership

Membership is not transferrable nor assignable.

Article III: Board of Directors

Section 1: Definition of a Board of Directors Member

The Board of Directors shall consist of seven members. The members shall be COMMODORE, VICE COMMODORE, SECRETARY, TREASURER, two DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE, and the PAST COMMODORE. In the event the PAST COMMODORE is not available or succeeds himself as COMMODORE, then three DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE shall be elected.

Section 2: Term of Office

The Board of Directors shall serve for a term of one year beginning with their election and ending when their successor is elected; however, if no successor is elected, they shall continue to hold office. Any vacancy occurring in a position between or at the annual meetings may be filled by the Board of Directors for the unexpired term.

Section 3: Duties

COMMODORE: The COMMODORE shall be the chief executive officer of the NYRA and shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors and of the members when present. He shall be an ex-officio member of all committees, except the Nominating Committee. He shall appoint all committee chairmen and establish new or abolish old committees, except where designated in this Constitution or in the NYRA By-Laws.

He shall submit an expense budget for the approval by the Board of Directors before he commits to spend NYRA funds. He shall be or delegate the NYRA's representative to other sailing associations. He is responsible for the general supervision of all physical assets of the NYRA.

**VICE COMMODORE:** The VICE COMMODORE shall be the Race Committee Chairman of the NYRA during his term of office, unless the Board of Directors appoints someone else. He may assume the duties of the COMMODORE on a temporary basis (90 days or less) if so requested by the COMMODORE or the Board of Directors.

He shall submit an expense budget for the approval by the Board of Directors before he commits to spend NYRA funds. He shall preside at all membership and Board of Directors meetings in the absence of the COMMODORE.

**SECRETARY:** The SECRETARY shall keep the minutes of the meetings of the Board of Directors and of the meetings of the members, shall carry on correspondence on behalf of the NYRA, and shall perform all other acts incident to the position of SECRETARY subject to the control of the Board of Directors.

The SECRETARY shall be responsible for publishing the NYRA newsletter and having it distributed to the membership. The SECRETARY shall maintain a complete and up-to-date roster of the members of the NYRA and the boats registered with the NYRA. The SECRETARY shall be the custodian of the official records of the NYRA other than financial records.

**TREASURER:** The TREASURER shall have charge of the funds of the NYRA and shall maintain adequate records of the receipts and disbursements and other financial records. He shall coordinate, with the various committee chairmen and officers, a submittal of a total NYRA expense budget to the Board of Directors, at the first meeting of the calendar year, for approval.

He shall submit a financial report at the annual meeting and at least each calendar quarter to the Board of Directors. He shall make reports to the COMMODORE and to meetings of the Board of Directors and of members at such times as he may be requested to do so.

He shall deposit all funds in the name of the NYRA in such depository of depositories as may be designated and approved by the Board of Directors. He may withdraw and write checks against such funds in such a manner as may be approved by the Board of Directors. He shall perform all other acts incidental to the office of TREASURER, subject to the control of the Board of Directors.

He shall give such bond for the faithful performance of his duties as the Board of Directors may require. If the Board of Directors shall require such a bond, the bond shall be paid out of the operating funds of the NYRA. He shall preside at all membership and Board of Directors meetings in the absence of the COMMODORE, VICE COMMODORE, and SECRETARY.

Article IV: Meetings

Section 1: Membership Meetings

- (A) An annual membership meeting shall be held after December 1 and before February 1. Notification of such a meeting, including known items requiring membership vote, must be sent to each member in good standing at least two weeks before the meeting.
- (B) Special additional membership meetings of the NYRA shall be held at such time as may be designated by the Board of Directors, the COMMODORE, or by petition to hold such a meeting signed by one-fourth of the members in good standing. Notification of such a meeting, including known items requiring membership vote, must be sent to each member in good standing at least two weeks before the meeting.
- (C) One-fourth of all members in good standing, with the exception of the officers, shall make a quorum of all membership meetings. A majority vote of those voting shall decide all motions. Parliamentary procedures shall be used as per Robert's Rules of Order.
- (D) During properly constituted meetings of the membership, a member may present a motion, provided the motion is presented to the COMMODORE not less than one day in advance of the membership meeting.

Section 2: Board of Directors Meetings

- (A) A Board of Directors meeting may be called by the COMMODORE, or any five members of the NYRA.
- (B) Parliamentary procedure shall be used per Roberts Rules of Order.
- (C) Rules of Order: Unless otherwise stated, a simple majority vote of the Board of Directors will determine all motions. The officer presiding at the meeting shall vote only to break a tie. Four Board of Directors members will constitute a quorum, provided at least one is an officer.

Article V: General Provisions

Section 1: Lending and Borrowing

No lending or borrowing activities shall be contracted, except by a vote at a membership meeting.

Section 2: Contracting

No member, officer, or member of the Board of Directors shall enter into any contract outside the confines of his specific duties of budget, except as authorized by a vote at a membership meeting.

Article VI: Amendments

This constitution may be amended at any duly constituted meeting of the membership by a vote of two-thirds present, if notice of an intention to present the proposed amendment has been given to the COMMODORE not less than twenty-one days prior to the meeting and signed by at least five members.

Article VII: Ratification

This constitution of the NYRA shall be ratified after a majority vote of the Board of Directors and a two-thirds vote of the members voting within thirty days of the date each member has been mailed a copy of this constitution and a ballot.



## Article VIII: By-Laws

By-Laws of the NYRA shall be adopted by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors at any board meeting, plus a majority vote of the members in good standing within thirty days of the date each has been mailed a copy of the By-Laws and a ballot.

## Article IX: Committees

1. Race Committee – The race committee shall have the following duties and areas of responsibility:
  - A. Supervision and overall authority for the running of all regular NYRA regattas.
  - B. The maintaining of all NYRA equipment used primarily for racing purposes.
  - C. Supervision and authority of overall safety for participants in regular NYRA races.
  - D. Gather all final scores for regular NYRA races.
  - E. Complete scores in accordance with the race committee rules.
  - F. Provide the COMMODORE with complete scores of each yacht each month during the racing season.
  - G. Provide judges to decide any protest filed in regular NYRA events.
  - H. Provide a means for NYRA members to communicate with the race committee in accordance with race committee instructions.
  - I. Provide and encourage knowledge of the Racing Rules by NYRA members.

Guidelines  
NYRA  
Board of Directors  
Voted and Established  
March 6, 2002

- 1) It is understood, as per the By-Laws, responsibility of the officers end at the election of new officers. As a courtesy to the outgoing officers, their term is extended to the first meeting in January.
- 2) Race Committee, before the start of the race, will determine to delay or cancel the race if the temperature is below 36 degrees Fahrenheit and the wind speed greater than 25 knots.
- 3) All current NYRA members will be considered for Sportsman of the Year.