

Proposed Changes to J/109 Class Constitution and Class Rules

The J/109 Class Executive Committee proposes three amendments to the Class Constitution and Class Rules, to be discussed at the 2011 annual meeting and approved by vote of the membership. The J/109 Class Constitution, Sections 7 and 8, sets forth the process for amendments to Class Rules and the Class Constitution as follows:

CURRENT CONSTITUTION

7.0 Changes to Class Rules

7.1 The J/109 Class Association is committed to stability in the J/109 Class Rules governing racing. Therefore, rules amendments should be limited to circumstances dictated by safety, material advances in technology, changes mandated by national authority, the International Sailing Federation, or clearly advantageous changes to measurement or racing rules.

7.2 Amendments to the Class Rules may be proposed in writing by 20 Voting Members, the Technical Committee, the Executive Board, or the Copyright Holder. Proposed amendments shall be submitted to the Secretary not later than August 1 to be considered at the next Annual Meeting. All proposals shall be posted on the J/109 website to permit review and discussion by the membership.

7.3 Proposed rules amendments will be considered and voted upon at the Annual Meeting of the Executive Board. Each proposal receiving at least a two thirds vote by the Executive Board shall be submitted to Voting Members for approval.

7.4 The Secretary shall certify, announce, and post the proposed rules amendments which have been approved under section 7.3; and voting by Voting Members shall close after 30 days at midnight GMT. Each rules amendment receiving a majority of the votes cast shall be adopted and shall be effective February 1 in the following year; provided that the Executive Board may, for cause, set an earlier or later date.

PROPOSAL 1

Section 7 of the Class Constitution sets forth the process for changes to the Class Rules as follows:

Recently, the Executive Board needed to amend the Class Rules between annual meetings but was prevented from doing so by the current wording of the Class Constitution.

The J/109 Executive Board recommends amending Class Constitution Section 7 as follows:

7.1 The J/109 Class Association is committed to stability in the J/109 Class Rules governing racing. Therefore, rules amendments should be limited to circumstances dictated by safety, material advances in technology, changes mandated by national authority, the International Sailing Federation, or clearly advantageous changes to measurement or racing rules.

7.2 Amendments to the Class Rules may be proposed in writing by 20 Voting Members, the Technical Committee, the Executive Board, or the Copyright Holder.

a) Proposed amendments *to be considered for the next Annual Meeting* shall be submitted to the Secretary not later than August 1 *of that year*.

b) *Proposed amendments of an exceptional and urgent nature may be considered by a special meeting of the Executive Board. A two-thirds majority of the Executive Board shall be required to convene a special meeting. Such a special meeting shall be conducted not less than 30 days, nor more than 60 days after a proposed amendment has been submitted to the Secretary.*

All proposals shall be posted on the J/109 website to permit review and discussion by the membership.

7.3 Proposed amendments will be considered at the Annual Meeting *or a special meeting* of the Executive Board. ***The Executive Board shall also determine the effective date of each proposed amendment, should it be adopted.*** Each proposal receiving at least a two thirds vote by the Executive Board shall be submitted to Voting Members for approval.

7.4 The Secretary shall certify, announce, and post the proposed amendments ***and their proposed effective date;*** and voting by Voting Members shall close after 30 days at midnight GMT. Each amendment receiving two thirds of the votes cast shall be adopted.

7.5 On the effective date of each Amendment, the Secretary shall post the revised text of the Class Rules on the class web site.

PROPOSAL 2

Section 2.2 of the Class Rules regulates who may drive a boat during a class event. The rule refers to the ISAF Competitor Classification system, which was amended in January, 2011 by ISAF to reduce the number of competitor groups from three to two. The reference in the J/109 class rule is therefore incorrect. The current text reads:

CURRENT CLASS RULE

2.2 The Driver for in-shore racing shall be the person who drives the boat from five minutes before the start until the finish, but for momentary absences for personal or shipboard needs. The Driver shall be a Voting Member or an Associate Member. A Driver who is not a 100% owner of the J/109 shall be a Group 1 or Group 2 competitor as defined in the ISAF Competitor Classification system.

The J/109 Executive Board recommends amending the Class Rules Section 2.2 as follows:

2.2 The Driver for in-shore racing shall be the person who drives the boat from five minutes before the start until the finish, but for momentary absences for personal or shipboard needs. The Driver shall be a Voting Member or an Associate Member. A Driver who is not a 100% owner of the J/109 shall ***be a Group 1 competitor*** as defined in the ISAF Competitor Classification system.

PROPOSAL 3

Class Rule 5.3 regulates the use of class sails during class events, specifically requiring that a jib and spinnaker be selected in advance for an entire day of racing. The intention was to prevent an expensive “arms race” of specialized sails from driving up the cost of competing in the Class.

Concern has been raised that this rule does not allow boats to adapt to changing conditions by flying heavier or older sails, resulting in expensive damage to good racing sails. The rule has been discussed extensively for several years, and has been modified by NOR amendment in several class events. The rule presently states:

5.3 Sails carried on board and used for J/109 Class or fleet sanctioned events for inshore buoy racing shall be limited to five sails: one Class mainsail, two Class jibs, and two Class spinnakers. Each Class sail shall comply without exception with the provisions of these Rules. For each day of an event, the captain shall designate a jib and spinnaker which shall be used for the entire day; provided that an alternate jib or spinnaker may be used in the event a sail is materially damaged.
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The J/109 Executive Board recommends amending Class Rule 5.3 to read as follows:

Sails carried on board and used for J/109 Class or fleet sanctioned events for inshore buoy racing shall be limited to five sails: one Class mainsail, two Class jibs, and two Class spinnakers. Each Class sail shall comply without exception with the provisions of these Rules. ***A jib or spinnaker may be changed for the other declared sail at any time during the event, at the discretion of the captain.***