

J/88 Class Association General Meeting Minutes

Date: 11/19/18

Start: 12:08 p.m. EST

Adjourn: 1:23 p.m. EST

Present:

Chris & Julie Howell X
Jeff Johnstone X
Elizabeth Barry X
Mike Bruno
Gordon Dill
Don Finkle
Tim Finkle X
Barry Goodin
Cindy Goodin X
Andy Graff X
Drew Hall X
Ken Hall X
Jim Hopp
Boyd Jarrell
Chester Kolasz
John Leahey X
Jordan Leahey
Rick Lohr
Ben Marden X
Alexander Minella
Doug Newhouse
Brian O'Malley
Gary Panariello X
Heidi & Tod Patton X
Keith Rehder X
Justin Scagnelli
Hugh Scott Seaholm
John Sommi
Rich Stearns
Iris Vogel X
Bill Walczak
Laura Weyler X
Benjamin Wilson

Agenda:

1. Attendance and Instructions
2. Class Office Report
3. Approval of Class Budget 2019
4. Election of Officers
5. Rules Discussion
6. Upcoming Major Events
7. Next Meeting

Description:

1. **Attendance and Instructions** – Chris conducted a roll call and welcomed all to the 2018 Annual Meeting. Please identify yourself while speaking and/or making a motion.
2. **Class Office Report** – Chris reported that the Class had 34 Full members this year, representing 26 boats, plus 8 Associate Members. Iris noticed a few people who are not Class members, so Fleets need to reach out to their locals for 2019. Jeff said the next hull # to be issued is 105. He added that the whole boating/sales market has been struggling for the last two years in North America. The J/88 is a candidate for a shared ownership program.
3. **Approval of Class Budget 2019** – Chris circulated the J/88 Class Budget: Profit & Loss 2018 and Budget 2019. There are no surprises in the 2018 budget and 2019 should be similar. *Iris Vogel made a motion to accept the Budget as presented, seconded by Heidi Patton. The motion passed unanimously.*

4. **Election of Officers** – The Constitution calls for a two-year term, so our current Officers are within the first two years of the Class. Chris explained that Andy Graff moved into the Chief Measurer position mid-year when Jeff Pawlowski resigned. To follow the Constitution, we need to officially elect Andy at this meeting.

Heidi Patton made a motion for Andy Graff to continue as Chief Measurer, seconded by Iris Vogel. The motion passed unanimously.

5. **Rules Discussion** – Chris circulated suggested Class Rule (CR) change proposals submitted by Andy Graff, Chief Measurer, for discussion at this meeting (not for a vote at this time):

A. Change CR 2.2

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/88 shall be a Group 1 competitor as defined in the World Sailing Competitor Classification system. ~~For an inshore racing event of five or less consecutive days, not more than two Drivers can be designated, at least one of which must be a Voting Member.~~ **Up to two Drivers may be designated for an inshore racing event of five or less consecutive days.**

Reason for Change

Change of language for clarity

Meeting discussion: None. This proposal will move forward as is for review/vote.

B. Change CR 2.3

2.3 ~~The default classification for any sailing industry related crew member, other than a 100% owner, who does not have a formal World Sailing Competitor Classification shall be World Sailing Group 3.~~ **For all J/88 Class events, all competitors (including owners) shall register their World Sailing Group classification with the Organizing Authority. The default classification for any competitor who fails to register their World Sailing Group classification shall be World Sailing Group 3.** Not more than one Group 3 competitors shall be permitted to race on a J/88, unless otherwise prescribed by the Executive Board in the Notice of Race at least 30 days prior to the event. ~~The crew may include one non-Group 1 Competitor who is a full-time employee of J/Boats, Inc. or a J/Boats dealer as approved by J/Boats.~~

Reason for Change

Eliminate wording regarding owners' World Sailing Group classification. Cleans up the language about owners and Group 3 competitors and removes J/Boats employee exception.

Meeting discussion: Tod supports cracking down on people who do not hold a valid World Sailing classification. He likes having two Group 3s, as he is a Group 3 owner. Drew expressed opposition to two Group 3s. Ken thinks Tod is the exception as a Group 3 owner (although Tim is too). Tim is concerned that boats with two Group 3s will separate the fleet.

B1. Change CR 2.3

2.3 ~~The default classification for any sailing industry related crew member, other than a 100% owner, who does not have a formal World Sailing Competitor Classification shall be World Sailing Group 3.~~ **For all J/88 Class events, all competitors (including owners) shall register their World Sailing Group classification with the Organizing Authority. The default classification for any competitor who fails to register their World Sailing Group classification shall be World Sailing Group 3.** Not more than ~~one~~ **two** Group 3 competitors shall be permitted to race on a J/88, unless otherwise prescribed by the Executive Board in the Notice of Race at least 30 days prior to the event. ~~The crew may include one non-Group 1 Competitor who is a full-time employee of J/Boats, Inc. or a J/Boats dealer as approved by J/Boats.~~

Reason for Change

Same as B. but allows up to two Group 3s per boat, with no separate treatment of J/Boats or owners. Rule more enforceable. Note that any team that was legal before this change would be legal after it.

Meeting discussion: Tod prefers this option, so he is not penalized for being a Group 3 owner. Jeff agrees ownership is a huge commitment, and he wants to accommodate them. The J/Boats language does often fade out as the Class matures. Chris said that the J/105 Class Rules, for example, say that a 100% Group 3 owner is considered Group 1. This was the intent of the J/88 Rule, but the language is not clear to all. He is hearing that this group agrees with the J/105 logic for the J/88s, meaning we don't allow two "open" Group 3s, but only when the first Group 3 is a 100% owner. Andy, Jeff & Chris will update the language to reflect these views, and this proposal will move forward for review/vote.

C. Change CR 6.1 and 6.2

New Rule 6.1 For J/88 Class or Fleet sanctioned events, the maximum crew weight (in swimming apparel) is 1,110 lbs. (503.5 kgs) with no limit on numbers of crew. If the Sailing Instructions require a weigh-in prior to the start of a regatta, a boat complying with the weight restrictions at weigh-in shall not otherwise be subject to a weigh-in during or after the regatta, except for weighing substitute crew.

New Rule 6.2 For events other than J/88 Class Championship events, the Organizing Authority may change Rule 6.1 in the Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions to: The number of crew shall not exceed the Driver plus five (5) crew members, except if the total crew weight is in compliance with Rule 6.1.

Current Class Rule

6.1 For J/88 Class or Fleet sanctioned events, the number of crew shall not exceed the driver plus five (5) crew members, except if the total crew weight is in compliance with Rule 6.2.

6.2 For J/88 Class championship events, the Executive Board may, with at least 90 days' prior notice, waive Rule 6.1 in which case the maximum crew weight (in swimming apparel) is 1,110 lbs. (503.3 kgs) with no limit on numbers of crew. If the sailing instructions require a weigh-in prior to the start of a regatta, a boat complying with the weight restrictions at weigh-in shall not otherwise be subject to a weigh-in during or after the regatta, except for weighing substitute crew.

Reason for Change

The current Rule creates an unfavorable situation for women, children and anyone else of smaller stature. Using a crew weight limit will allow more equitable racing in the major Championships without discriminating against lighter competitors.

Meeting discussion: Andy sees the actual crew weighing at higher level Championships. Iris agreed and supports the crew weight for our Championships, while other events it would be optional for the OA. Elizabeth concurred. Hearing no opposition, this proposal will move forward as is for review/vote.

Chris clarified that the Constitution requires four weeks review before a vote can occur at a General Meeting. Therefore, Proposals A and C will move forward as written, and Proposal B will move forward with the agreed-upon updates.

Ken asked about 5.4 and the Rules related to sail purchase limits (see http://j88class.org/application/files/3215/0073/0780/J88_Class_Rules_06-30-2017_1.pdf). Chris recapped that the Class decided in 2017 to delay any decisions on that while the Class was growing. Iris has concerns about purchase limits as it penalizes those who race more. Ken understands Iris' position, but he hopes to attract more people to the Class by limiting costs of sails. Tod said many owners don't travel, and reducing the cost of sails doesn't make them travel any differently. Chris explained that the J/111s and J/105s have a similar Rule, although Gary thinks the limit is prohibitive to travelers and those who race in heavy air. It was decided that we create a proposal for:

--changing '(b) plus any three sails during each subsequent calendar year' to '(b) plus any FOUR sails during each subsequent calendar year'

--naming an effective date

Jeff said we can also consider a system that rewards racing in certain series or timeframes, although Drew thinks that would complicate the Rule.

Chris reminded everyone that any Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions cannot change a Class Rule,

per the Racing Rules of Sailing (including if the PHRF rating is a J/88 rating).

Elizabeth asked what people think about Rule 2.4 in regard to crew being paid, in that they may not be paid money but have expenses covered. She doesn't think the Rule is enforceable, and Gary agreed. Chris wondered if we could eliminate the Rule because it duplicates the definitions of Group 1 (cannot be paid) and Group 3 (can be paid). Jeff recapped that the intent of the Rule was to curb the exorbitant fees, as most J/88s do follow the spirit of the Class. Everyone agrees this is a hard thing to check, but maybe could be a reasonable task at the North American Championship level. Drew and Ben have concerns about allowing Group 3s to be paid, as it raises the costs to be perceived as competitive. Our current Rule may not be perfect, but they hope that people operate within the bounds. Gary said it's tough to prohibit a Group 3 from being paid in reality. Laura noted that she has a Group 3 on board that she does not pay, although it was acknowledged that may not always be the case for all. Chris summarized that we seem to be split on this topic, so Andy and Chris will review the language further.

Tod has heard about some people fairing the hull. Jeff said that bottoms can be smoothed, but modifications cannot be made to the as-molded hull shape (usually pretty detectable in a parking lot). Chris expects increased compliance inspections at our major events, but peer pressure is always helpful.

6. Upcoming Major Events –

--2019 Midwinter Championship at St. Pete J/Fest in St. Petersburg, FL, January 25-27. The St. Pete NOOD follows in February. Get your name on the lists even if you're not 100% certain.

--2019 North American Championship at Larchmont YC in New York, October 17-20. Iris said eight boats are committed, and look for the Yacht Scoring link in January.

Iris is working on a regatta list that many owners have agreed to attend, which she will forward soon.

Iris has heard of six boats for Block Island and three for NYYC.

Jeff added that J/Fest New England will return to Sail Newport on August 10-11, and they'd love to have the J/88s. Also, he and Storm Trysail are hoping to have weekend racing following the Lauderdale/Key West Race for 2020. More information to come.

7. Next Meeting – Early 2019, following four-week review of updated Rules proposals.

Julie Howell

Action Items:

--Andy, Jeff & Chris will update the language for Proposal B.

--After Proposal B is refined, all proposals will be circulated for review/vote in the new year.

--Rules proposal 5.4 with the two items noted above will be circulated for review/vote in the new year.

--Iris will forward a list of 2019 events that many owners have agreed to attend.

Next Meeting: Early 2019, following four-week review of updated Rules proposals.