

2024 International Youth & Junior iQFOiL Class Association Extraordinary General Meeting

MINUTES

Date and time: 15th April 2024 – 14h00 (Paris Time)

Place: Online via the Zoom conferencing system

In attendance:

Executive Committee

Lorand Utassy (HUN) - President, Marja Hoveling (ARU), Stéphan ROCHE (FRA), Alistaire Masters (GBR), Ronnie Meir (ISR), Ferrit Ercan (TUR), Farrah Hall (USA)

Class' Manager Gonzalo Costa Hoevel

Class' Executive Secretary Valérie Boutet-Massonneau

Assistance

Dina Kowalyshyn, Bas Edmonds, Ajit Diaz (iQFOiL Technical Committee).

Tine Slabe (Patrick Foil), Sestar (Starboard Severne)

Members

NCA	2024 EGM Delegates
ARG	Raul Saubidet
ARU	Marja Hoveling
AUS	Ian Fox
AUT	Christian Bratsch
CAN	Maria Urbina-Fausser
CHN	Yuanguo Zhou

NCA	2024 EGM Delegates
CRO	Damir Cargo
CYP	Andreas Carioulou
CZE	Jan Skrepek
DEN	Nikola Kruppa
ESP	Marcos Fernandez Iglesias
FRA	Stephan Roche
GBR	Ali Masters

NCA	2024 EGM Delegates
GER	Birgit Schleicher
GRE	John Papaspirou
HKG	Chan King-Yin
HUN	Lorand Utassy
ISR	Eli Zukerman
ITA	Riccardo Belli Dell'isca
JPN	Yasuko Kosuge
LAT	Janis Preiss

NCA	2024 EGM Delegates
NED	Casparus Vlasblom
NOR	Bernt Blankholm
NZL	Barbara Kendall
PER	Nicolas Schreier
POL	Maksymilian Wójcik
POR	Joao Rodrigues
SGP	Terence Koh
SLO	Matevz Malej
SUI	Alex Strub

NCA	2024 EGM Delegates
SWE	Robert Klang
TPE	Alex Mowday
TUR	Jaroslav Miarczyński / Ferit Ercan
UKR	Sasha Mendelenko
USA	Phil Muller / Farrah Hall
34	Total expected
32	Total in attendance
0	Excused but voted online
1	Present, but did not vote

There were 32 Members represented, which represents 94% of the iQFOiL Class Fully Paid Members. The Quorum requirements at a General Assembly were met as per Constitution 6.8 and therefore was declared valid.

The meeting was closed to observers.

Introductory note

The Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) of the Youth & Junior Class was convened at the same time as the Senior Class EGM because the subjects discussed were related and of equal importance, requiring a rapid decision to be taken for implementation on the 1st of January 2025.

Welcome by the President of the Class

Lorand UTASSY - ISR

Dear delegates!
I warmly welcome everyone!

In order to retain young competitors, it is very important to make good decisions now regarding the next Olympic cycle.

Introduction to the debate by the iQFOiL Class Manager Report

Gonzalo Costa Hoevel (ARG)

We are here to discuss issues that could potentially shape the future of the Class.

Following a request from certain MNAs and in particular the Spanish Federation to modify the sail sizes for the next Olympiad, the Executive Committee has worked on several submissions: Moving from a 9m² sail to an 8m² sail for Senior Men and, for senior women and U19 girls, it is proposed to move from an 8 m² sail to a 7.3 m² sail, using the same rig components as they use now.

Our aim today is to examine the various aspects of these proposals. We'll be looking at concerns about the potential health consequences, particularly in terms of the weight gain required to achieve the actual iQFOiL body type. In addition, we will look at the challenges faced by Youth sailors as they transition to the Senior circuit.

With this in mind, a survey was widely circulated prior to the EGM to give us all an overview of the current situation:

iQFOiL Survey – [Results Summary](#)

iQFOiL Survey – [Comments](#)

We also cannot ignore the obvious decline in U19 girls' participation, an issue that requires our attention and consideration.

Submissions

The voting system was described:

All submissions were discussed back-to-back.

The Delegates were asked to fill in the Google Form that was provided just before the EGM and send it back by 24.00hs the 15th of April 2024 UTC Time.

Only the votes of delegates officially nominated by their MNA were considered.

Only the votes of Class Full Members (i.e., those current with their membership fee on the day of the EGM) were taken into consideration.

Delegates had the option to vote YES, NO or ABSTAIN.

The results will be published on the 16th of April.

The % will be calculated over the members that vote, abstain votes will not count for the %.

Class Rules Changes need 2/3.

Submissions were voted in the following order:

EGM YJ 01-24 (ExCom) – CLASS RULE CHANGE: Reducing the sail size in the U19 Girl category from 8m2 to 7.3m2

Reason:

The goal of this submission is to advocate for a reduction in sail size within the U19 Girl iQFOiL Category, with the intention of accommodating a broader spectrum of athlete sizes. This adjustment aims to enhance the inclusivity and representativeness of the iQFOiL Class in as many countries as possible.

Additionally, this proposal aims to address the issue of female athletes exiting iQFOiL post-U17 category, potentially stemming from the utilization of sails that are too powerful for their physique.

YES	NO
84%	16%

EGM YJ 02-24 (POL) – Testing Period Before Sail Adjustment

Reason:

The objective of this proposal is to allow proper testing time to establish what the consequences of a sail change from 8.0 to 7.3. The goal of testing period is to come up with a report from a testing party chosen by the iQFOiL class.

YES	NO
61%	39%

EGM YJ 03-24 (AUS) – Global Evaluation Of Proposed Youth Equipment Changes

Reason:

To supply all MNA with any proposed equipment to be change, so the MNA members can test prior to any vote on acceptance is undertaken.

YES	NO
45%	55%

AGM 04-24 (FRA) – CLASS RULES CHANGE: Carbon Foil Mast For U17

Reason:

Allow carbon mast foil in U17

YES	NO
81%	19%

Summary of debates at the Youth & Junior and Senior EGM

The majority of Delegates present at the 2024 Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) of the iQFOiL Class and iQFOiL Youth & Junior Class contributed significantly, collaborating beforehand within their Member National Authorities (MNAs) and consulting with members, athletes, coaches, and stakeholders involved in iQFOiL activities.

While most Delegates acknowledged the critical issues of public health and declining participation highlighted by the Class, some questions remained:

1. The sudden convening of the EGM raised concerns among some Delegates, especially those from non-European MNAs, regarding the timing of crucial decisions. The Class wishes to clarify the timeline and rationale leading to this EGM:

- The iQFOiL International Games Cadiz occurred from March 4 to 9, 2024. During this event, the Spanish Federation notified the iQFOiL Class of its intention to propose a sail size change for the upcoming Olympic cycle at the Annual General Meeting in October 2024.

- The iQFOiL Class Executive Committee met on March 14 and deemed the matter significant enough to warrant earlier discussion at an EGM, ensuring optimal preparation for athletes, federations, and manufacturers. This decision allowed to pause production of 9m² sails and develop 7.3 sails prototypes.

- Notice of the AGM was sent to all iQFOiL Class members on March 18, 2024.

- The iQFOiL Class Executive Committee considers it necessary to set up a survey to gather feedback from as many athletes as possible. The survey was sent on March 26, 2024 and the results share on April 3, 2024

2. Concerns were raised about the potential impact of reducing sail size on racing wind ranges, particularly in light winds or under suboptimal race management conditions, such as those encountered in World Sailing World Cup Circuit events. The reduction in sail size will correspondingly decrease the target weight, ensuring that the competition's wind range remains unaffected, as adjustments in the power-to-weight ratio will be factored in.

3. The necessity of heavyweight athletes for iQFOiL success and the rationale behind the sail size change were questioned. Evidence from top performers in recent World Championships, who predominantly weigh around or below 90kg, suggests that success does not hinge on exceeding 95kg. The Class emphasizes that the pressure to gain significant weight for iQFOiL sailing, even slightly below 95kg, could lead to health issues. Additionally, adjusting sail size for both genders aims to prevent a significant dropout rate among U19 sailors transitioning to senior categories.

4. Concerning the transition to a 7.3 sail for U19 Girls and Senior Women, queries arose regarding the absence of the sail and the testing protocol. Changes to class rules necessitate World Sailing approval, with presentations scheduled for the Mid-Year Meeting from May 13 to 16, 2024. Tests will be conducted subsequently in Hyères under the supervision of the World Sailing with various sailors from different MNAs, using prototypes that have already been tested informally in Cadiz. At the meantime, the Class Technical Committee will then develop formal testing protocols in collaboration with World Sailing and the MNAs. If the results of the tests are unfavourable, an EGM will be convened in the summer of 2024.

5. Discussions on amending the submission to accommodate testing requirements were dismissed due to potential confusion and implications for other MNAs' submissions. Delegates proceeded to vote on submissions as presented, following the predefined order on the voting form distributed before the EGM.

6. Regarding the request to weigh athletes, France proposed measuring height and body mass index (BMI) in addition to weight for more comprehensive data. If approved, the Class pledges to collaborate with World Sailing to develop a precise protocol for assessing the athletic landscape accurately.