

Bylaws of the US Sailing Sailor Athlete Council

As Adopted 12-Sept-2022

Article I – Name

1. The name of this organization is the Sailor Athlete Council (SAC) of the United States Sailing Association. Hereinafter, the Council may be referred to as the “Council,” and the United States Sailing Association may be referred to as “US Sailing.”

Article II – Purpose

2. The purposes of the Council are to:

2.1 function as authorized and described in bylaws 202, 401, 402, 403 and 511 of the US Sailing Bylaws, and other provisions of the US Sailing Bylaws and US Sailing Regulations as appropriate. Any conflicts between the US Sailing Bylaws and this document shall be resolved in favor of the US Sailing Bylaws.

2.2 designate Sailor Athletes for the purpose of increasing the most active American sailors’ participation in the governing body of the sport.

2.3 ensure the various components of US Sailing meet the requirements of the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee (“USOPC”) as outlined in the USOPC Bylaws and in conformance with the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act.

2.4 provide a forum for US sailors to exchange information and assist one another in solving mutual challenges.

Article III – Definition of Sailor Athlete

3.1 To qualify as a Sailor Athlete, an individual shall be a General Member of US Sailing and meet the requirements for a 10-Year, 10-Year+, or Actively Engaged Athlete as defined in US Sailing Bylaw 105.

3.2 Sailor Athlete shall register electronically through the Council web page. Once the Council validates an individual’s qualifications, the individual becomes a Sailor Athlete Member of US Sailing in accordance with US Sailing Bylaw 202. Age restricted events shall not be used to qualify an individual as a Sailor Athlete. The following US Sailing championships are not considered to be age restricted for the purposes of this definition: Championship of Champions, U.S. Disabled Sailing Championship, International Women’s Keelboat Championship, Match Racing Championship, Men’s Sailing Championship, Multihull Championship, Offshore Championship, Singlehanded Championship, Team Racing Championship, Women’s Match Racing Championship, and Women’s Sailing Championship.

Article IV– Membership and Election to the Council

4. Description. The membership of the Council shall be:

4.1 All registered 10-Year and 10-Year+ athletes are eligible for membership on the Council (see Section 3.2 of Article III for Registration).

4.2 The Council shall consist of a minimum of 7 and a maximum of 14 elected members with a minimum of 50% composition of 10-Year Sailor Athletes.

4.3 Sailing representative to the USOPC Athlete’s Advisory Council and their alternate are ex-officio members of the Sailor Athlete Council.

4.4 Council Member Terms

4.4.1 A Council member’s term is 4 years, and concludes with the adjournment of the US Sailing Annual Meeting.

4.4.2 A maximum of 7 Council positions are elected every two years.

4.5 Elections coincide with the Olympic quadrennium and half-quadrennium.

4.6 Registered Sailor Athletes shall elect Council members. Nominees can be self-nominated or nominated by other Sailor Athletes.

4.7 All eligible nominees must be posted on a voting site in the open section of the SAC web page before the opening of voting.

4.8 Voting will take place online, prior to the US Sailing Annual Meeting.

4.9 After the close of voting, the Secretary shall rank the nominees according to the votes they receive. The Chair and Vice Chair shall review and confirm the votes received and ranking. Members will be selected in order of ranking, except for the 10-Year requirement as provided in Article IV, paragraph 3. This may override the actual vote results.

4.10 The Council shall certify or reject the results of each election submitted by the Secretary.

Article V – Officers

5.1 Officers and Duties. The officers of the Council are a Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary, elected by the Council from its membership. These officers shall perform the duties prescribed by the US Sailing Bylaws, these bylaws, and the adopted parliamentary authority of the Council.

5.2 Terms of Office. Officers serve a term of one year or until their successors are elected. No member may hold more than one office at a time. No member may serve more than three consecutive terms in the same office, with the exception of the office of Secretary.

5.3 Vacancies. A vacancy in the office of Chair is filled by the Vice Chair automatically assuming the office of Chair for the remainder of the term. A vacancy in the office of Vice Chair is filled by election at the next annual meeting. A vacancy in the office of Secretary is filled by appointment made by the Chair for the remainder of the term. For the purposes of the term limits contained in Section 2 above, service of half a term or less in an office is ignored, and service of more than half a term is considered a full term.

Article VI – Meetings

6.1 Annual Meeting. The Council shall meet at the same location and dates as the session of US Sailing Annual Meetings. The purpose of the meeting is for elections and the conduct of such other business as may legally come before the meeting. No later than thirty days before the meeting, the Secretary shall cause the notice of the meeting to be posted on the US Sailing website and sent electronically or through other means to all members of the Council.

6.2 Quarterly Meetings. The Council shall meet at least quarterly either in person at a US Sailing meeting, or by teleconference call.

6.3 Quorum. A majority of the membership, present in person or by proxy, constitutes a quorum. A majority vote, as defined in the parliamentary authority, is sufficient for action of the Council, except as otherwise required by these Bylaws or the parliamentary authority.

6.4 Transaction of Business by Telephone and Other Means

6.4.1 Telephone Conference. Any member of the Council may participate in a meeting of the Council by means of conference telephone or similar communications equipment allowing all persons participating in the meeting to hear each other at the same time. Participation by such means constitutes presence in person at a meeting.

6.4.2 Electronic Mail. The Council may conduct business by electronic mail provided that all communications by any members are copied to all other members of the Council, and that any decisions made using this method are made by the affirmative vote of at least sixty percent of the entire membership of the Council. Decisions made using this method must be incorporated in the minutes of the next meeting of the Council.

Article VII – Elections of Council Officers

7.1 Positions. The Council shall elect the Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary at the first meeting of the Council following the US Sailing Annual Meeting in the years of an election or at the US

Sailing Annual Meeting on alternate years for a term of one year until the next annual meeting of The Council.

7.2 Nominations. Nominations for Officers must be made by the Council prior to the election.

Article VIII -Sailor Athlete Representation in US Sailing

8. The Council shall assist the various entities of US Sailing in maintaining compliance with required percent representation of Sailing Athletes as described in the US Sailing Bylaws.

8.1 Board of Directors – The Council shall select the Sailor-Athlete Directors according to US Sailing Bylaws 302 and 303 as well as Section 3 of Bylaw 305 and Section 1 of Bylaw 403. The Chair of the Council shall confer with the Chair of the US Sailing Nominating Committee prior to nominating Sailor Athlete Directors.

8.2 Designated US Sailing Committees – the Council, after consultation with the Chair of each Committee listed in US Sailing Section 7(a) and 7(b) of Bylaw 511, shall recommend to the US Sailing President, names of Sailor Athletes as candidates for appointment to those Committees by the following procedure:

8.2.1 Nominations and seconds will be accepted from any Council member;

8.2.2 Voting will take place at Council meetings or electronic mail, with votes being collected and tallied by the Council Chair, and verified by the Vice Chair. The nominee with the most votes will be recommended to the US Sailing President for approval. For multiple appointments, the Council member with the next most votes will also be recommended to the US Sailing President, and so on until sufficient delegates have been appointed.

8.5 Other US Sailing Committees – the Council, after consultation with the Committee Chair, shall recommend the names of Sailor Athletes to be considered for appointment to other US Sailing committees in accordance with Section 7(c) of US Sailing Bylaw 511.

Article IX – Committees

9. Subcommittees of the Council may be appointed by the Chair.

Article X – Parliamentary Authority

10. The rules contained in the current edition of Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised govern the Council in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are compatible with these bylaws and any special rules of order the Council may adopt.

Article XI– Amendment of Bylaws

11.1 These bylaws may be amended at any annual, spring, or special meeting called for such purpose, by a two-thirds vote of the members present either in person, by teleconference, or by electronic mail provided that the proposed amendment was included with the notice of the meeting. An approved amendment is effective upon compliance with US Sailing Bylaw 301, Section 2 (7).

11.2 Amendments shall be reviewed, prior to voting, by the US Sailing Governance and Compliance Committee, to ensure compliance with US Sailing and USOPC Bylaws.

11.3 Amendments approved by the Council are also subject to approval by the US Sailing Board of Directors.

Revised 12-Sept-2022