

# International 505 Class Yacht Racing Association

## Minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting of the Association Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> August 2022 at the Royal Cork Yacht Club

Approx headcount = 83 attendees.

President Michael Quirk presented a [President's Report](#) which is available on the [website](#) and forms part of these minutes. All other executive reports are available on the [website here](#) and were taken as read.

**Association elected officers.** There has been no nominations for any positions and Covid has disrupted the normal election procedures. Incumbents have all agreed to remain in office until the Santa Cruz AGM when nominations and votes for positions can return to normal as per the constitution.

Mike Holt – introduced [Santa Cruz Worlds next year](#). Winds consistent in the autumn, so October good - also everything more available and affordable. Lots of Air B n B availability, no real camping options. Race track right there – 20 mins, still warm weather. Lots of launching.....

Questions – Show of hands for going ..... Apparently good support. Question for space for containers storage. USA container team for Cork had a good broker, and feel that situation is easing.....

**Quiberon Europeans 4-8 July '23**..... Valentin..... Great facilities – accommodation 100 beds, camping available, lots of boat space, venue for French National Sailing School. Good food etc! Known to many, 10-20 kts daily. Video of info on Instagram account..... Expecting good turn-out. [See the Video Presentation HERE](#)

**World Champs in Sweden, Varberg, 1st-10th August '24** ..... only real proposal on the table. Assuming no objections the venue is endorsed informally..... good accommodations, weather, climate mild, conditions should be good but can be variable. Venue south coast close to Denmark. Containers can go to Gothenburg and transported there easily. Question on currents – should be less out on race course, similar feel to Freemantle. [Proposal Here](#).

Adelaide Australia have a bid in for **2025 Worlds** which is being considered – **Adelaide Sailing Club**, likely January 2025, overview by Malcolm Higgins. Good wind and facilities. Free beer and food guaranteed (maybe! 😊). Vote and unanimous show of hands to support Adelaide.....[Video HERE](#)

Note on [Euro Cup in Palamos](#) for October in Spain – possibility for doing Europeans to be held there in 2025 – show of hands showed general support, but not unanimous – but other fleets are welcome to make a counter-proposal.

### **Technical Topics**.....

Inserts in Centerboard cases, should there be gybe-stoppers, lifting pins etc etc. [IRC ruling prior to the event](#) – need to consider if happy with that. Open to discussion to propose potential changes that could be worked up into a formal proposal for presentation to Rules Committee.

Background info on Rule 5.6.1 –)..... currently no inserts permitted, but gybe-stoppers and lifting pins acceptable. Zipper/Velcro gaskets, determined no restrictions, but not allowed to be

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voluminous to displace water. General interpretation now – “insert” refers to something intended to displace volume.

It is up for discussion..... comes down to inserts, gybe stoppers, lifting pins. Decision is whether to leave as-is, or address / propose changes.....

Ian Mitchell – Velcro / zipper gasket – in favour of banning based on marginal performance improvement, vs effort and cost. Response that Velcro gaskets are easy, cheap, and simple solution. Believes anything more complicated is discouraging incomers.

Chris Loons – opinion that foam insert is not a good proposal.

Comment that to try to encourage newcomers and new people, anything making it more complicated or expensive should not be done.

Comment that people are still open to use Velcro and zippers as they are not banned, so development is still available.

Several comments on complexity of the boat that discouraging newcomers. Simple is better.

Proposer would publish the “simple and ineffective” solution that he has (Velcro) to make it widely available.

Mark Stowell Opinion that lifting pin should “go”, gaskets also ..... comment that more simple is actually possible ..... comment that regular fleets are a key. Comment that a big barrier to newcomers is the high price piece of second-hand boats!

Ben McGane – comment on boat costs, technology etc.

Comment on getting new people in – gyser coming through the centerboard is seen as an aspect of discouragement or un-necessary poor aspect.

Chris – another comment on getting younger people in – has been encouraged by people in the class – and the complexity of the boat was an encouragement, but the cost is the main issue and needs to be controlled – and a big issue.

Agreement that what is on Mike’s boat (Velcro) is simple, but concern that someone might take the principle and make it better but more expensive.

Mike Quirk – battle between complexity and simplicity – don’t take too much away as this also allows wide range of people to sail them – need to keep this feature.

Ian Gregg, Aus (chief measurer) – as relatively new, he read the rules, and asked around on history and interpretations..... Can a rule be written that is clear – can we proceed with existing rule and understanding.

Question asking for Clarification on what is being asked..... MQ clarified that no decision will be made, but wanting a show of hands on whether to proceed with potential rule changes.

Clarification that the current rule is poorly written, so the question is whether to clarify the rule (Intl rules committee to try to write to clarify).

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1. Are we happy with the current interpretation? (foam inserts not allowed, zippers, Velcro, gybe stoppers etc are allowed).....
2. MQ believes that rule clarification is needed – the Q is what to clarify..... there to the individual issues
  - a. Centerboard – unanimous = allowed.
  - b. Lifting Pins – majority yes to allowed, but further discussion.
  - c. Gybe-stoppers – wedges in the back of the case, a pair of wedges on plates that engage nose of centerboard, etc..... things to stop them from gybing. Show of hands on all in favor to allow them – majority want to allow – about 25% against?
  - d. Foam inserts – 3 in favor, all others against.
  - e. Gaskets seals – attendees roughly split in the views (for/against).....

What is being asked of the rules committee? Team wish to know, specifically on gaskets. Asking the team to come back with clarifications for voting on ..... Clarifications.

Meantime – a demo of Velcro seal will be arranged to clarify what’s involved at 10am Wednesday. By Mike Martin.

**GPS watches, VHF radios, etc** – do we want to have a discussion to consider a rule change to allow specific items of “technology”? ..... currently not allowed.

Show of hands to leave as is (about 50%), and to consider changes (about 50%).

Proposal to ask the IRC to look at what it might mean to allow these, and how to structure a potential rule – for coming back to the AGM in Santa Cruz.

**AOB** – Mark Upton-Brown ..... Would like to hear opinions on support-boats (would like to ban them primarily on a cost basis, but also because a support boat can get you there faster, provide additional information, and perhaps give an unfair advantage) ..... Show of hands on whether they should be allowed – vote is about 50/50%..... proposed that if someone wants a rule change that a proposal should be submitted for tabling at next AGM (NB:- needs to be submitted 2 months ahead of AGM date..

Point made that support boat and coaching is very valuable. Mark’s point – he agrees that coaching is a good thing, but not at the Worlds as it gives potential advantage ..... also coaching in between races is different than early morning and after-day racing..... view on what’s “outside assistance” and also about keeping things as a level-playing field ..... Carl = why ban coach-boats when other expensive things are allowed..... Ian Mitchell = 29er class (heavily coached) – they are allowed up to a certain point, then not until after the last race – to eliminate “unfair advantage”. Mike Holt – there should be a fairness to it if allowed – maybe a rule to manage this....? Another comment that we are talking about just banning them in the Worlds really..... this seemed to get broad support.

Perhaps allow, but with restrictions?

The issue of fhf radios, gps watches and coach boats can be dealt with in the worlds NOR and Sis. This will be much easier than having a rule change.

Patrick Mcgale expressed his view that coach boats provide an unfair advantage, . Unfair advantage. All leave the dock with the same equipment.

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Limited coach boat rule, was significantly preferred by meeting.

A steering group to agree a wording for limited coaching for Santa Cruz worlds NOR should be set up.

World 505 day, needs to be organized. Mostly it is agreed it's a great idea but this year it didn't go ahead due to a lack of people to organise it.

Meeting closed at 7:56pm