

WASHINGTON YACHT CLUB CONSTITUTION

Revision: February 2004

ARTICLE I - Name

The name of this organization shall be WASHINGTON YACHT CLUB.

ARTICLE II - Purpose

It shall be the purpose of the organization to promote sailing and provide facilities and instruction for Yacht Club members.

ARTICLE III - Articles and Regulations Taking Precedence

Since the government of the University of Washington is vested in a Board of Regents, and the Board of Regents has been delegated to the President of the University authority to formulate rules incident to the management of student affairs, all action taken by the Washington Yacht Club shall be consistent with University of Washington rules including the current Manual of Policies and Procedures for Voluntary Student Organizations as well as with all provisions in the Articles of Incorporation of the Washington Yacht Club.

ARTICLE IV - Membership

Section 1. Student Members

Persons who are regularly enrolled University of Washington undergraduate and graduate students may be Regular Members by paying the appropriate fees.

A. Voting Rights

Only Regular Members who are currently enrolled University of Washington students may vote at General or Executive Council Meetings.

B. Club Membership

The majority of the membership shall consist of Regular Members.

Section 2. Associate Members

A. Faculty and Staff Members

Persons who are University of Washington staff or faculty may be Associate Members by paying the appropriate fees.

B. Alumni Members

Persons who have been Regular Members as defined by Section 1, or persons who have been Associate Members as defined by Section 2.A of this Article, or paid up members of the University of Washington Alumni Association may be Associate Members by paying the appropriate fees.

C. Voting Rights

Associate Members may not vote at General or Executive Council Meetings.

D. Restrictions

The use of University of Washington facilities by Associate Members may be restricted by the University of Washington policies.

Section 3. Spousal Members

Spouses of Regular Members or Associate Members may become Associate Members by paying appropriate fees, as specifies in the By-Laws.

Section 4. Honorary Members

Persons distinguished by their service to yachting in general or their interest in the Washington Yacht Club in particular may be elected at a General Meeting to Honorary Membership with Associate Members' privileges. All Commodores shall be Honorary Members after serving a full term of office. Only those Honorary Members who are regularly enrolled University of Washington students may vote at General or Executive Council Meetings.

Section 5. Suspension of Membership

A. Suspension by Chief

A Chief may suspend any member for not longer than two weeks for any violation of the Constitution of By-Laws.

B. Suspension by Executive Council

The Executive Council may extend any suspension of a member for deliberate and/or repeated violations.

C. Appealing a Suspension

The suspended member may apply to the Commodore for a review of his suspension by Executive Council.

D. Indefinite Suspensions

In addition to the provisions of sub-section B., the Executive Council may suspend a member indefinitely for serious violations of the Constitution of By-Laws under circumstances specified in the By-Laws. The suspension may be appealed to the General Membership.

ARTICLE V - Officers

Section 1. Officers

The Officers of the University of Washington Yacht Club shall be a Commodore, Vice Commodore, and Rear Commodore. The Commodore with the assistance of the other officers shall exercise the executive functions of the Club. The Commodore shall call and conduct all meetings of the Club and shall act as the official representative of the Club.

Section 2. Eligibility

Rules of eligibility for candidacy for election to and holding of Club offices shall be established by the Club in its By-Laws and shall be consistent with University of Washington rules. Any officer of the Club who under the rules of the University of Washington of the Club becomes ineligible for such offices shall, upon determination of such fact and without further action, cease to hold such office.

Section 3. Elections

A. Nomination of Officers

Nominations of officers shall be made annually at a General Meeting. These nominations shall be submitted by the Executive Council and shall be seconded from the floor. Further nominations may also be submitted from the floor.

B. Voting Majorities

The Officers shall be chosen by a voice vote of the members of the Club at the same meeting. A simple majority (50%) of the vote shall be necessary to fill any office.

Section 4. Term

The term for officers shall run from the end of the meeting of their election to the end of the next election meeting scheduled in the By-Laws.

Section 5. Filling of Vacant Offices

A. Succession of Commodore

If the position of Commodore is vacated during the year, the Vice Commodore shall act as Commodore until a new Commodore can be elected. This election shall take place at the next meeting at which there is a quorum.

B. Succession of Other Officers

Vacancies in any other office will be filled through appointment of a qualified person by the Executive Council subject to the approval of a majority of a quorum of the general membership.

Section 6. Summer Officers

A. Summer Program

The Club shall maintain an active Summer program.

B. Summer Officers

If the Commodore, Vice Commodore, or Rear Commodore cannot carry out their duties during the summer months due to absence or other cause, the Executive Council shall appoint persons to take over their duties during this period. If possible, the Vice Commodore will be appointed acting Commodore and will also maintain his other duties.

Section 7. Impeachment

An officer may be removed from office by a 2/3 vote at the duly announced meeting with a quorum present.

ARTICLE VI - General Meetings

Section 1. Frequency of Meetings

General Meetings shall be held at least once each quarter.

Section 2. Calling Meetings

General Meetings may be called at any time upon one week written notice mailed to all members at the discretion of the Executive Council or the Commodore.

Section 3. Quorum

A quorum shall consist of the members present.

Section 4. Procedural Matters

Any disputes as to procedural matters shall be settled according to Robert's Rules of Order Revised, a copy of which shall be in the possession of the Secretary.

ARTICLE VII - Executive Council

Section 1. Definition of the Executive Council

The Executive Council shall consist of Officers, Chiefs, Standing Committee Chairpersons and Fleet Captains.

Section 2. Duties of the Executive Council

A. Planning and Coordinating

The Executive Council shall act as the Club's planning and coordinating agency, responsible to the general membership.

B. Election of Chiefs

The Executive Council shall elect qualified Skippers to the rank of Chief subject to the approval of the membership.

C. Suspension of Membership

The Executive Council shall suspend privileges and review the suspension of the privileges of the membership of persons who have violated the provisions of the Constitution and By-Laws.

Section 3. Executive Council Meetings

Executive Council Meetings can be called by the Commodore or by the will of the majority of the Executive Council. Adequate notice shall be given to all members of such meetings.

Section 4. Quorum

A quorum shall consist of the Executive Council members present.

ARTICLE VIII - Sponsor

Section 1. Definition

There shall be at least one faculty Sponsor who shall be appointed by the Executive Council.

Section 2. Duties

The duties of the Sponsor shall be to represent the Club to the faculty and to give advice to the Executive Council when necessary.

ARTICLE IX - Committees

Section 1. Standing Committees

Standing Committee powers and duties shall be delineated in the By-Laws.

Section 2. Special Committees

Special Committees may be designated by the Commodore as the need arises.

ARTICLE X - Amendment

Section 1. Votes

This Constitution may be amended by a 2/3 vote of those present at a General Meeting with a quorum.

Section 2. Procedure

An amendment must be proposed at one meeting and voted on at the next meeting with a quorum.

ARTICLE XI - By-Laws

Section 1. Changes to By-Laws

The By-Laws may be adopted, amended, and revised by a simple majority vote at a General Meeting where a quorum is present.

Section 2. Procedures

A proposed amendment must be announced at a General Membership meeting where discussion and revision of the amendment will take place. The revised amendment will then be posted to the club e-mail list *wyc_info@u.washington.edu*, the Club office, the Sail Locker, and the web page at least ten (10) calendar days prior to the General Membership meeting for which the vote is scheduled.