

2024 International 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

Ronnie Meir (ISR) - President, Peina Chen (CHN), Barrie Edgington (GBR), Lorand Utassy (HUN), Adrien Gaillard (MEX), Ewa Jodlowska (POL)

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
ALG	Hacene Djillali
ARG	Raul Saubidet
ARU	Marja Hoveling
AUS	Ian Fox
AUT	Christian Bratsch
BEL	Johan Broucke
BRA	Larissa Schenker
CAN	Maria Urbina-Fauser
CHN	Yuanguo Zhou
COL	Simon Gomez Ortiz

NCA	2024 EGM Delegates
CRO	Damir Cargo
CYP	Andreas Carioulou
CZE	Jan Skrepek
DEN	Nikola Kruppa
DOM	Samuel Perez Hults
ESP	Marcos Fernandez Iglesias
EST	Matthew Rickard
FIN	Borja Carracedo Serra
FRA	Nicolas Huguet / Stephan Roche
GBR	Sam Ross

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

NCA	2024 EGM Delegates
MEX	Federico Ortiz Vivas
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
SVK	Robert Kubin
SWE	Robert Klang
TPE	Alex Mowday
TUR	Jaroslav Miarczyński / Ferit Ercan
UKR	Sasha Mendelenko
USA	Phil Muller / Farrah Hall
46	Total expected
43	Total in attendance
2	Excused but voted online
3	Present, but did not vote

There were 45 Members represented, which represents 92% 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.

Welcome by the President of the Class

Ronnie Meir - ISR

Hello everybody and welcome to the iQFOiL Class EGM,
We are on our first Olympic year as an Olympic Class and we are already in full preparations for our next Olympics
We have to consider this EGM submissions carefully - this is the future of our magnificent class.
I am certain we will make the right decisions and create our best future possible
Let's began

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 01-24 (ExCom) – CLASS RULE CHANGE: Reducing the sail size in the Men Senior category from 9m2 to 8m2

Reason:

The primary objective of this submission is to propose a reduction in the size of the sail to accommodate a broader range of athlete sizes, thereby optimizing performance in iQFOiL across a wider spectrum of countries.

YES	NO
85%	15%

EGM 02-24 (ExCom) – CLASS RULES CHANGE: Using the 4.90 mast with the HGO 8m2 for Senior Men

Reason:

If submission number one secures approval - Reducing the sail size in the Men Senior category from 9m2 to 8m2, further consideration emerges regarding the utilization of the 4.90 mast, designed for the 8m2 HGO, as currently employed by U19 & Women competitors.

YES	NO
92%	8%

EGM 03-24 (ExCom) – CLASS RULES CHANGE: Reducing the sail size in the Women Senior category from 8m2 to 7.3m2

Reason:

The primary objective of this submission is to propose a reduction in the size of the sail to accommodate a broader range of athlete sizes, thereby optimizing performance in iQFOiL across a wider spectrum of countries.

YES	NO
80%	20%

AGM 04-24 (GBR) – CLASS RULES CHANGE: Men and Women to both use the 8m HGO at Senior Level

Reason:

To Maintain and grow the class by keeping it as economically and accessible to the widest range of athletes and MNAs, whilst recognizing that the class is still developing its format, understanding of the operable conditions for racing as well as the increasing skills and athleticism of the sailors.

YES	NO
13%	87%

EGM 05-24 (POL) – Weighing athletes

Reason:

To set clear and scientific based evidence that the IQFOiL class is having heavy athletes in men's and women's fleet and how it changes in time.

YES	NO
63%	37%

EGM 06-24 (AUS) – Global Evaluation Of Proposed 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
58%	42%

EGM 07-24 (NED) – Managing The Process And Impact Of Class Rule Changes

Reason:

Managing the multiple proposed changes in materials (sails & masts for Men, Women, Youth) in order to minimize the negative effects and maximize the positive effects.

YES	NO
46%	54%

Summary of debates

The majority of Delegates present at the Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) of the iQFOiL Class 2024 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.

Race Management Submissions

It was decided by the iQFOiL Class that the EGM would last two hours in order to ensure targeted participation by all participants, and that if, at the end of this period, the proposals concerning race management had not been discussed, they would be automatically postponed until the Annual General Meeting scheduled for October 2024.

In the 2h30 that the meeting lasted, the Race Management submissions could not be studied. With the agreement of the MNAs, they will therefore be automatically represented at the General Meeting in October 2024.

Other Business - Concern about fuselages measurement

Israel points out that the modification of fuselages by athletes is simple; it can be folded using a machine, which can give a significant advantage to those who modify it. This is why ISR would like to know if the fuselages will be measured when the athletes receive their supplied equipment in Hyères (FRA) and before the start of the Games.

The Class acknowledges this request and specifies that the iQFOiL Technical Committee is already in communication with World Sailing Technical Committee and that measurements will indeed be taken.