

# CATAMARAN RACING ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN

# CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

(Revised: February 2020)



## A. Officers

1. Commodore
2. Vice Commodore
3. Treasurer/Secretary
4. Communications
5. Marketing
6. Fleet Captains
7. Registration
8. Race Committee
9. Trophy
10. Hospitality
11. Scoring

## B. Purpose

The primary purpose of CRAM shall be to promote and develop catamaran and other multihull racing under uniform rules and regulations, to maintain and perpetuate sailboat racing sites in the Michigan area, and to promote the growth of high-level racing ability.

## C. Membership

Privileges are to sail in the sponsored regattas, to enact part five (5) of the Bylaws, receive all Club communications, to hold office, to vote on club proceedings, and to be counted towards seasons points. CRAM membership includes all members of the immediate family less than 21 years of age.

## D. Dues and Fees

Club dues and fees shall be fixed at the annual Business Meeting.

## E. Organization and Fiscal Year

The Club is a non-profit organization comprised of individual members, acting through general membership meetings and through the Governing Body. The fiscal year ends November 15. Any part of the Constitution can be changed through Bylaws, Para. 3 - 5.

## F. Elections and Duties of Officers

All officers shall be elected at the annual Club Business Meeting and shall take office immediately following the annual Business Meeting, term for one year. Each shall be nominated and voted upon, with the greatest number of votes to be considered electing the candidate.

Officer duties are:

Commodore: To be chief executive, preside over all meetings, be chairman of the Governing Body, rule on procedure and jurisdiction, summarize decisions, appoint special committees, authorize payment of bills, and have authority as defined in Bylaws. Oversees all protest hearings. Gathers a non-biased protest hearing (i.e. no members from the same fleet as the protester/protested). The Commodore is also responsible for ensuring that Race Committees and Hospitality are addressed for each regatta. The Commodore will appoint an officer to officiate during his/her absence at a regatta.

Vice-Commodore: To officiate in the absence of the Commodore and have authority as defined in Bylaws. The Vice-Commodore shall organize the Annual Banquet.

Treasurer/Secretary: Maintains all club funds, disburses Club funds (in coordination with the Commodore), maintains all Club financial records including incorporation records, manages the club insurance and maintains Club's incorporated status.

Communications Chairperson: Maintains the CRAM website. Organizes the club handbooks. Handles forms, maintains membership and registration information (in conjunction with the Treasurer). Keeps minutes of club meetings.

Marketing Chairperson: Responsible for outreach and maintaining CRAM's social media pages.

Fleet Captains: Represent each fleet having four or more paid active members. Duties to include communications between fleet members and other members and promote regatta attendance for their fleet. Fleet Captains are responsible for assisting the Scoring Chairperson with scoring issues.

Registration Chairperson: Coordinates regatta registration activities. Collects membership/entry/miscellaneous fees and forwards them, along with registration/membership forms to the Treasurer.

Race Committee Chairperson: Coordinates maintenance and usage of all CRAM regatta related equipment, including committee boat, trailer, radios, flags, buoys, etc.

Trophy Chairperson: Coordinates all CRAM trophies, including regatta trophies, season points trophies, miscellaneous trophies, etc.

Hospitality Chairperson: Coordinates hospitality for regattas.

Scoring Chairperson: Ensures scoring is performed at all regattas. Uploads scoring data to the website. Calculates season points for each fleet. Forwards scoring information to US Sailing.

## **G. Meetings**

The annual Business Meeting may be held in conjunction with the Annual Banquet. Other meetings may be held during the year, as required.

## **H. Bylaws**

1. World Sailing Racing Rules of Sailing are modified by CRAM Racing Rules and class rules (including weights), in that order, shall be adhered to unless otherwise noted below.
2. The Governing Body will consist of all Officers listed in Item A above.
3. The Governing Body will have absolute authority in any matter pertaining to CRAM, except for the veto power vested in the general membership as described in Para. 5. **This includes making modifications and amendments to the Bylaws.**
4. A majority of votes of the members of the Governing Body are necessary to conduct the business of the Club.
5. Any decision of the Governing Body may be vetoed by a 2/3 vote of the membership. The voting will be conducted by a mailed/electronic ballot, and the vote can only be initiated by having a written protest signed by at least fifty percent (50%) of the membership.
6. The racing schedule shall be established at the Club business meeting. The Governing Body retains the right to modify the schedule during the year, as required.
7. Race Committees, the number of regattas, starting time, and race cancellations will be determined by the Commodore in conjunction with the Governing Body. Any one-design fleet with four or more boats registered at a race will be scored separately. The starting order and number of fleets in a specific start is determined by the Race Committee for that regatta.
8. Season point scoring shall be awarded according to the number of boats in the regatta. All scoring is as defined in the CRAM Racing Rules.
9. Seasons points trophies will be awarded at the Annual Banquet. Only active members are eligible for season points. Points cannot be carried over from one class to another.

10. The **Commodore** will handle all racing protests unless he/she is involved whereupon he/she will be excused from the protest committee selection. The **Vice Commodore** shall appoint the committee in this instance.
11. A skipper accrues season points, not a yacht.
12. Race committees must always include a minimum of two (2) adults on the committee boat. The Commodore, whenever possible, shall appoint Race Committees in accordance with the recommended training sequence, which is:
  - 1) A first-time race committee member shall be paired with, and take direction from, an experienced committee member.
  - 2) A second-time race committee member shall again be paired with an experienced committee member. This time, however, the second-timer shall take the lead and issue directions to the race committee, although the experienced member retains the authority to overrule any decisions. Assuming that the second-timer demonstrates competence in this outing, that person shall then be considered "experienced."
  - 3) The qualification of a person to serve as Race Committee shall then be determined by the Commodore, Race Committee Chairman, and the training Race Committee. If not approved, additional training regattas will be required. Likewise, the second time requirement can be waived for an experienced and qualified person, as determined by the Commodore, Race Committee Chairperson and the first-time training Race Committee.
13. The current Commodore is exempt from regatta fees and banquet fees.

#### **I. Policies and Procedures**

In order to manage the proper functioning of the club, the Officers may create a CRAM Policies and Procedures document that defines all operational policies of the club. This document shall be made available to the membership to provide a common understanding of expectations and aid the smooth operation of the club. The document shall be subordinate to the Constitution and Bylaws.