

HOWTH SAILING CLUB SEVENTEEN
FOOTERS ASSOCIATION

CLASS RULES

AMENDED JANUARY 2024

Rules of the Howth Sailing Club Seventeen Footers Association

1. NAME
The name of the association is the "HSC Seventeen Footers Association".
2. OBJECTIVES
The objectives of the Association are:
 - a) To preserve the HSC Seventeen Footers as a One Design racing class in accordance with the Schedule given hereunder.
 - b) To promote the interest of the class in any way which may be considered desirable.
3. MEMBERSHIP
The Association shall consist of a President and all the owners (including joint owners for the time being of the HSC Seventeen Footers and such Associate members that may be elected from time to time).
4. THE PRESIDENT
The President of the Association need not be an owner and will be an ex-officio member of the Association.
5. THE CLASS CAPTAIN
The Association shall have a Class Captain who shall, in addition to the usual functions of a class captain, be responsible for the following matters:
 - a) Keeping the minutes of all Association meetings.
 - b) Keeping a Register of Owners and a record of any changes that take place from time to time.
6. THE ASSISTANT CLASS CAPTAIN
The Association shall have an Assistant Class Captain who will deputise for the Class Captain in his/her absence and assist in organising class activities.
7. THE CLASS SECRETARY
There shall be a person nominated by the Class to charge of all records and property of the Association.
8. MEETINGS
Meetings of the Association may be called at any time by the Class Captain or by a notice signed by not less than one third in number of the Voting Members. In any case, not less than fourteen days notice in writing of such meetings shall be given to each Voting Owner by sending the notice to the address shown in the general register of owners.
The Annual General Meeting of the Association shall be held in each year on a date determined by the Class Captain between the months of October and December (inclusive).
9. QUORUM
The Quorum at all meetings shall be six Voting Members.

10. VOTING AT MEETINGS

There shall be one vote in respect of each Yacht in the fleet and shall be exercised by the Owner voting in Person or by Proxy. In the case of Joint Ownership the onus will rest with them as to which owner shall vote. On an equality of votes the Chairman of the meeting shall have a casting vote. This rule governs all subsequent rules.

11. CHAIRMAN

The President shall chair all meetings at which he/she is present, in his/her absence the Class Captain shall take the chair, in his/her absence the Assistant Class Captain shall do so.

In the absence of all three the meeting shall elect one of the Voting Members to take the chair.

12. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The President, the Class Captain, The Assistant Class Captain, and the Class Secretary shall be elected annually by a simple majority of all Voting Owners present and voting at the Annual General Meeting. Nominations for the above positions must be received by the Class Captain at least 48 hours before the meeting. Should there be no nominations for any of these positions, proposals may be made during the meeting.

13. AMENDMENT OF RULES

These rules may be amended by the vote of not less than Three Quarters in numbers of the eligible Owners voting in person or by Proxy at the meeting specially called for that purpose. Details of the Proposed Amendments shall be sent with the notice convening the meeting.

14. PROXIES

All Proxies shall be in writing and signed by the Owner and must have been received by the Class Captain before the meeting.

15. ANNUAL FEES

Each Boat shall pay annually to the Association the Fee determined at the previous Annual General Meeting. This Fee must be paid prior to competing in the Class Races for the current year in order to be recorded as a starter in those races.

16. ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

The Association shall admit as Associate Members such present crew, spouses of Owners, Past Owners and Crews of Seventeen Footers, as make application and are approved by a majority of Two Thirds of the Members of the Association present and voting at a General Meeting of the Association.

17. ASSOCIATE MEMBERS FEES

That each Associate Member shall pay annually to the Association a fee to be determined at the Annual General Meeting.

18. Associate Members may attend the Meetings of the Association other than General Meetings.

SCHEDULE

- (1) The Boats shall, subject to the exceptions listed below, be built and rigged, in accordance with the Design and Specifications for this Class prepared for the Howth Sailing Club by its Commodore, Sir Walter Boyd, Bart, K.C., as annexed here to and shall be recognised by the Association as eligible to compete in the Class.
- (2) No alteration to the Design and Specifications of the Yacht including rig is permissible, except for the alterations resulting in the substitution of wire for rope rigging, unless authorised below or by agreement of the Association at an Extraordinary General Meeting.

The following are allowed:-

(a) A weight not exceeding ten pounds may be affixed to the rudder for the purpose of balancing the tiller and a wooden or partly wooden tiller may be used.

(b) The rails may be in their original position or alternatively, may be screwed to any part of the covering board, the inner edge of the rail to be not more than 4.5" inside the outer edge of the covering board. The rail must be not less than 1" high from a point 18" abaft the foreside of the stem to a point 4' from the transom, from which point it may taper to the transom to a height of not less than 0.75". The thickness of the rail may be optional

(c) Alternative or additional fittings, for example cleats, bolts and blocks which are currently in use as of the HSC Association E.G.M. 1993, are hereby approved by the Association. Plans giving effect to these changes will be prepared by the Association Class Captain.

(d) Structural repairs and reinforcements rendered necessary by accidents or by the passage of time may be made if reported to and approved by the Association. The modified mast step installed in Aura is approved and such similar applications can be approved by the Association provided they do not alter the design construction of the boat materially.

- (3) The spars must not exceed in length the dimensions given on the Design Specification and Sailplan. A tolerance of 15% in the diameter of the mast measurements shall be permissible, however. No hollow spars may be used. The use of laminated masts is allowed.
- (4) Only sails up to a maximum of one suit shall be allowed for each boat per annum, except in the case of accident, or by special permission of the Association.
- (5) In all races the boats must sail in cruising trim with an anchor of 7kg or greater with at least 15ft of 8mm thick chain, a working bilge pump, bucket, lifebuoy or floating cushion, a lifejacket for each member of the crew and at least one oar of at least 8ft. No extra ballast or heavy gear or fittings not allowed for above shall be carried.
- (6) The number of persons on board during a race shall be not less than two nor more than four.
- (7) The spinnaker sheet shall not be led to leeward of the forestay.

RULES RELATING TO SAIL MEASUREMENTS

GENERAL

Sails shall be in accordance with the plan above. The sails must be made of woven (not film) sailcloth. Minimum cloth weights, Main and Genoa 5 oz. U.S., No. 1 Jib 5 or 6 oz. U.S., Spinnaker 1 oz U.S.

All measurements are intersections, i.e., head is defined as where leach and luff intersect when projected.

From 1st February 2006, jibs and mainsails shall be made in woven Dacron, Terylene or Polyester cloth. The cloth shall be a minimum 7oz. weight and a hard (firm) finish is not permitted. For example: A suitable cloth is Hood 7.0 oz Dacron. This specification is not retrospective.

There is an option that a single rectangular transparent panel for observing other boats with an area not exceeding 0.3 square metres is allowed in the main and/or the jib.

Mainsail - All cloths to be parallel to the leach or at right angle to the leach.

Maximum Lengths:

Hoist	11' 6"
LowerLuff	10' 0"
UpperLuff	17' 6"
Foot	22' 4"
Diagonal Clew/Throat	20' 4"

Genoa - Wire Luff

Luff	16' 6"
Leach	14' 6"
Foot	11' 6"
Head to Foot	16' 0"

Spinnaker

Luff	19' 0"
Leach	16' 6"
Foot	14' 0"
Head to Foot	18' 6"
Mid Luff to Mid Leach	7' 3"

- (1) Sails used in racing must comply with the above measurements.
- (2) No sail may be used in racing until it has been measured by the Hon. Class Sail Measurer.
- (3) The appointed Hon. Class Sail Measurer shall be appointed by the Association and is currently Mr. Rupert Jeffares.