

**GREAT LAKES MULTIHULL RACING ASSOCIATION**  
**BY-LAWS**  
(REVISED 03/01/24)

**IDENTIFICATION**

- 1.1 The name of the Association shall be the GREAT LAKES MULTIHULL RACING ASSOCIATION (GLMRA).

**PURPOSE**

- 2.1 The purpose of GLMRA shall be the promotion of the enjoyment of offshore-capable multihull yacht ownership, of navigation, of seamanship and safety, and of racing all consistent with an awareness of a healthy environment.
- 2.2 GLMRA shall be the sole governing body of offshore multihull racing on the five Great Lakes and Lake St. Clair tasked with the assignment of Ratings/Handicaps of those yachts participating in GLMRA sanctioned events.
- 2.3 For the purpose of accomplishing the foregoing, the following By-Laws and Rules shall govern those who become Members of the Association and who, upon acceptance of membership, agree to abide by these By-Laws and Rules.
- 2.4 GLMRA is not affiliated with or governed by any other body including but not limited to US Sailing®.

**MEMBERSHIP**

- 3.1 Membership shall be recognized as a person who is owner or co-owner of a “**Coastal**” or “**Nearshore**” capable multihull yacht and has applied for and received a GLMRA Handicap rating certificate in the current year. There are two categories of rating certificates defined in section 8 below.

Former members with lapsed/noncurrent GLMRA Handicap Certificates shall NOT be considered Members.

- 3.2 An application for membership implies that the applicant undertakes and agrees to be bound by the By-Laws of the GLMRA upon being accepted to membership.
- 3.3 The Board of Officers may by unanimous action, for good cause shown, suspend or expel any Member by unanimous decision.

- 3.4 GLMRA or its Board of Officers are not responsible or liable for defining, maintaining or auditing safety requirements for member yachts. It is the responsibility of the skipper to ensure the safety of the yacht and crew.
- 3.5 GLMRA or its Board of Officers are not liable for any direct or incidental losses due to a yacht's inability to qualify for a rating certificate under these By-laws.

## **ANNUAL FEE**

- 4.1 A fee shall be charged for membership and the issue and/or renewal of a GLMRA Rating Certificate each calendar year if required.
- 4.3 The fee shall be due at the time of yearly application by the Member. Membership shall not be granted and a certificate will not be issued or renewed until such time as the fee is received.
- 4.4 GLMRA shall set such fee and have the full authority to adjust said fee from time to time.

## **GOVERNMENT**

- 5.1 Association government by the Board:
- a) Government of GLMRA shall be performed by a Board of Officers (Board) of up to seven Members. The Board shall be comprised of one Chairman, one Chief Measurer, one Treasurer, one Appeals Chair and up to four additional Officers. GMLRA shall strive to obtain Officers representing those geographic areas having active multihull racing fleets. The Chief Measurer shall have all the rights of any other Officer excluding a vote on any matter of a yacht's GLMRA rating. In the event of a tie the Chief Measurer shall cast the deciding vote.
  - b) The Board shall have general control and day-to-day management of the affairs and funds of GLMRA. It shall be its duty to carry out the purpose of the Association.
  - c) The Board shall assign Ratings/Handicaps to yachts owned by Members.
  - d) The Board may at any time establish such rules, policy, organization, committees, administration and procedural matters as they may deem appropriate and, in the club's, best interest.
  - e) All written materials directed to the general public, and representing GLMRA, requires the approval of the Board before publication.

- f) The Board shall determine which regattas or racing events to “sanction” as official GLMRA events.

5.2 As nominated and elected by the Board, select Officers shall have the following duties (multiple duties may be held by a single Officer) and shall follow established GLMRA policies, and in the absence of such policy shall obtain the approval of the Board:

**Chairman** is the leader of GLMRA, accountable for achieving the objectives of GLMRA as specified in these By-laws. Liaise with yacht clubs, sailing and racing organizations. Communicate with Members regarding Association business, program status, and other information of interest to Members. Schedule regular meetings of the Board to discuss GLMRA business as necessary.

**Chief Measurer** shall be responsible for the record keeping of the Ratings of GLMRA Members both current and past. The Chief Measurer shall perform calculations on a Member’s submission of yacht data for initial or renewal Certification or bring to the Board reported modification/s of a yacht in need of unilateral review of the Board as reported by Members. These calculations shall be based on facts, mathematics, performance, comparable yacht data and other means as reviewed and accepted by the Board. Further the Chief Measurer shall maintain standard penalties/credits and other measurement data on behalf of and as approved by the Board.

**Treasurer** shall be responsible for the collection and management of the Annual Fee of Membership and shall apply those funds as directed by the Board.

**Appeals Chair** shall manage the Appeals Process for GLMRA should a Member choose to appeal their rating or the rating of another Yacht.

5.3 Election of Officers:

- a) Officers are nominated and elected by the Board by a simple majority.
- b) The Chairman shall be nominated and elected by the current sitting Board by unanimous decision.
- c) The term of Officers shall be lifetime.

- d) In the case of the resignation or death of an Officer, the Board may nominate and vote on a replacement Officer or reduce the number of Officers currently sitting.
- e) The Board may remove an Officer, without cause, by a simple majority.

## MEETINGS, VOTING AND RESOLUTIONS

- 6.1 Board meetings may be scheduled upon notice by the Chairman. Alternatively, any three Officers may call a Board meeting upon seven days' notice.
- 6.2 At any meeting of the Board simple majority of Officers shall form a quorum for the purpose of counting the quorum, Officers may be present in person or attending electronically, or having previously responded on the issue by e-mail, postal mail or telephone and their vote recorded by the Chairman.
- 6.3 Decisions of the Board shall be taken by a simple majority of the votes cast. Officers shall have one vote each.

## FUNDS, ACCOUNTS AND EXPENSES

- 7.1 The Treasurer shall maintain GLMRA funds in a manner approved by the Board.
- 7.2 Records shall be kept showing assets and liabilities of the Association, in addition to receipt and expenditure of funds.
- 7.3 The Board shall approve any expenditures or changes in Fee structure.

## Rating Certificate Categories

- 8. For the purposes of becoming a GLMRA Member and obtaining a GLMRA rating certificate, yachts must be capable, at a minimum of meeting [US Sailing Multihull SER](#) requirements for sections 1 and 2 for the following GLMRA rating categories:
  - a) **Coastal** *"Races not far removed from shorelines, where rescue is likely to be quickly available"*. Yachts eligible for GLMRA Coastal Certificate shall have:
    - i) LOA at least 24 ft. "Length Over All of longest hull, excluding equipment (bowsprit, outboard engine, et cetera)"

- ii) A stability requirement meeting the current Chicago “Race to Mac” and Bayview Mac SER requirements. (i.e. LOA/BOC and BOC/Luff eligibility criteria and definitions in Chicago Mac, section 5.26 and Bayview 1.9.2 “Multihull section”)
  - iii) Yachts shall have Permanently installed accommodations including a minimum of two berths suitable for off-watch crew at sea, and at least 2 exits in each hull which contains accommodation.
  - iv) Permanently installed motor capable of driving the boat at a minimum speed in knots equivalent to the square root of LWL in feet. (i.e. a 35’ yacht able to motor at 6 kts)
  - v) Yachts eligible for GLMRA Coastal Certificate shall NOT have devices or facilities to move a crew member’s body outside of the sheerline. Prohibited devices outside the sheerline include Racks, Wings and Trapezes.
- b) **Nearshore** “*Races primarily sailed during the day, close to shore, in relatively protected waters*”. Yachts eligible for GLMRA Nearshore Certificate shall have a *LOA at least 22 ft.*

## **RATING/HANDICAP ADMINISTRATION**

- 9.1 The Board shall establish a Rating for each Member’s yacht.
- 9.2 The Board shall strive to fairly handicap multihull racing/cruising yachts for competition and with as little expense to the owner as possible. The Board shall research, develop, establish, and maintain an equitable system of performance Ratings for Member yachts racing in GLMRA-sanctioned events.
- 9.3 GLMRA intends to use the Ratings developed by the Board to handicap multihull yachts racing in its sanctioned events, as well as yacht club and other sailing organization events in the Great Lakes, Lake St. Clair and surrounding tributaries and inland lakes. Proof of a valid GLMRA Handicap for a Member yacht shall be evidenced by a current GLMRA Rating Certificate.
- 9.4 GLMRA rated yachts are permitted to compete with any modifications or configurations disclosed and listed on their Rating Certificate. These would be approved exceptions to the “Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS’s), Part 4, Section B, 51 – Movable Ballast, 52 – Manual Powered and 54 – Headsail tacks, as applicable for the individual yacht.
- 9.5 The Board shall develop operating procedures that guide issuing and renewal of rating certificates.
- 9.6 The Board may make unilateral changes to a yacht’s Rating due to a Member’s yacht modifications reasonably affecting racing performance or a change to the composition of the GLMRA fleet in an effort to maintain competitive and fair racing for the ENTIRE fleet.
- 9.7 The Board shall develop a Measurement Document to be completed by a Member on a yearly basis with the yacht’s racing configuration measurement data currently on file with the Board. This document shall provide for opportunity for Member to

communicate any changes from current configuration. Terminology and measurement instruction shall be clearly indicated on Measurement Document. (**Appendix A**) Displacement Weight of a yacht shall mean the net weight of the yacht, Coast Guard required items, engine (no fuel) and racing sails. No other items shall be included in Displacement Weight.

- 9.8 During each and every application, a Member shall declare to GLMRA any modification to a yacht so performed subsequent to the yacht's prior certification. Failure to do so is grounds suspension or expulsion. This includes leaving all declared sails, furniture, doors, steps, stoves, batteries, outboard motors, floorboards, etc... included in yachts rating application and declared weight on the yacht. Cushions should not be included in the weight and may be removed for racing (See **Appendix A**)
- 9.9 The Board shall assign penalties/credits for deviations from a yacht's standard configuration, if a "class boat", or any modifications including but not limited to a yacht's displacement, hull shapes, rig height, foils (rudder, dagger/center board or any appendage that provides lift and reduces wetted surface of the yacht), sprit length, sail area or configuration and the like which are likely to increase racing performance.
- 9.10 GLMRA Rating types shall be as follows:
- a) Permanent (P)- A Permanent Rating is one in which the yacht shall sail with that Rating after being assigned such including any reported modifications and resulting penalties/credits to date. No change will be made to such a rated yacht unless a modification is reported by a Member.
  - b) Temporary (T)- A Temporary Rating is one that is issued in good faith by the Board to a yacht where measurement and performance data is not, in their sole opinion, to be determinant of the racing performance of the yacht in comparison to the entire fleet. Temporary ratings will be automatically reviewed each year by the Board until such time as the board issues a Permanent Rating. Temporary Ratings may be unilaterally changed by the Board at any time.
- 9.11 The Board shall develop an Appeals Process so that a fair hearing of a Member's Rating Appeal can be executed on a timely basis. (**Appendix B**)
- 9.12 GLMRA shall rate yachts using the Time on Distance approach to ratings. Further GLMRA shall develop a Time on Distance to Time on Time conversion equation appropriate to the conditions of the Great Lakes and monitor this conversion equation's effects on racing results with the primary goal being fairness and healthy competition.

9.13 GLMRA shall establish a timeline for the aforementioned processes and make that timeline available to its members. (Appendix C)

9.14 GLMRA shall provide Member with GLMRA Member Appeals Form (Appendix D)

## **AMENDMENTS**

10.1 These Bylaws may be amended only by the Board by a simple majority.

## **LIMITATIONS**

11.1 In the execution of their duties under these Bylaws, no Officer of the Board nor any Member shall be liable for any loss whatsoever to any of the Members or former Members of GLMRA, or to the assets of the GLMRA, by reason of any mistake or omission made in good faith or not, or for any other matter including individual wrongdoing, wrongful omission or fraud on the part of the person or the Board.

## **Referenced Appendices**

Appendix A Yacht Measurement Document

Appendix B Appeals Process Document

Appendix C Certification/Appeals Timeline Document

Appendix D Certification Member Appeals Form