

Agenda for the 2017 IDNIYRA NA Annual Meeting

1. Call to order and Welcome, Commodore as Chairman
2. Roll Call
3. Additions or changes to Agenda
4. Secretary's Report
 - a. Request motion to approve minutes of the 2017 Annual Meeting
(published in the May 2017 issue of *Runner Tracks*)
5. Treasurer's Report
 - a. Distribute 2017 Financial Report
 - b. Request motion to approve Financial Report
6. Vice Commodore's Report
7. Report on perpetual trophies
8. Technical Committee Report
9. Junior Program Report and Discussion.
10. Old Business – nothing tabled in 2017
11. Nomination of Candidates for the 2017? NA Officers
 - a. Nominating Committee: Lou L.
 - b. Open Nominations to the floor
 - c. Request a motion to close nominations
12. Vote on Candidates for 2018 NA Offices
13. Nomination and Election of NA Technical Committee Member
14. New Business
 - a. Proposal 1: Change Constitution, Electronic Voting, Warren Nethercote KC3786
 - b. Proposal 2: Change Bylaws, Define Terms, Eric Anderson US5193
 - c. Proposal 3: Change Bylaws, Regatta Registration, Eric Anderson US5193
 - d. Proposal 4: Change Bylaws, Adds Scoring Option to Proposal 3, Warren Nethercote KC3786
 - e. Open floor for proposals.
15. Request a motion for adjournment

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4 PROPOSALS FOR THE 2018 IDNIYRA ANNUAL MEETING

Proposal 1: Change Constitution, Electronic Voting, Warren Nethercote KC3786

Proposal 2: Change Bylaws, Define Terms, Eric Anderson US5193

Proposal 3: Change Bylaws, Regatta Registration, Eric Anderson US5193

Proposal 4: Change Bylaws, Adds Scoring Option to Proposal 3, Warren Nethercote KC3786

PROPOSAL #1

MODIFY THE LANGUAGE OF THE IDNIYRA CONSTITUTION

ELECTRONIC VOTING

IDNIYRA CONSTITUTION

ARTICLES VI, VII, VIII, XI, XII

Submitted By Warren Nethercote, Vice-Commodore

Motion:

Whereas the IDNIYRA Constitution currently requires voting by members outside of a general meeting of members to be conducted by mail vote, and

Whereas electronic voting in non-profit organizations is a commonly accepted alternative in such circumstances, if not even the only method of voting,

Be it resolved that the IDNIYRA adopt electronic voting for voting outside of a general meeting of members by making the following changes to IDNIYRA Constitution:

CONSTITUTION ARTICLE VI - ELECTIONS AND DUTIES OF OFFICERS

ORIGINAL TEXT:

A Commodore, Vice Commodore, Secretary, Treasurer, and Past Commodore shall be nominated at the annual meeting. They will be voted for by mail vote.

PROPOSED: (NEW IN RED)

A Commodore, Vice Commodore, Secretary, Treasurer, and Past Commodore shall be nominated at the annual meeting. **They will be voted for by electronic vote, with ballots being sent to an email address provided by the member.**

CONSTITUTION ARTICLE VII- GOVERNING COMMITTEE

ORIGINAL TEXT:

The Governing Committee consists of its Officers, acting as a group. Its powers are to render final decisions on appeal, sanction or prohibit races in the North American and Gold Cup Regattas (when held in North America), accept or reject membership applications, approve the Race Committee for the North American and Gold Cup Regattas (when held in North America) and perform other duties mentioned in the By-Laws. The Governing Committee may initiate changes to the Constitution, By-Laws, Official Specifications, or Racing Rules by proposing such changes to the entire membership at the Annual Meeting, or by mail. Membership vote is required for enactment of all proposed changes. Otherwise, the Governing Committee may not change or modify any of the above documents, although it has the power to interpret them.

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Proposal 1, continued.

PROPOSED: (NEW IN RED)

The Governing Committee may initiate changes to the Constitution, By-Laws, Official Specifications, or Racing Rules by proposing such changes to the entire membership at the Annual Meeting, or **by electronic communications using an email address provided by the member.**

CONSTITUTION ARTICLE VIII- MEETING AND QUORUM

ORIGINAL TEXT:

The Annual Meeting shall be held during and in the vicinity of the North American Championships, or the DN World Championship when held in North America if possible. Special meetings may be called on the order of the Governing Committee or upon demand in writing by twentyfive percent of the membership. Exact time and place of all meetings shall be fixed by the Governing Committee. If a special meeting is called, the purpose thereof must be stated in such form as to permit voting by mail, and no other business may be transacted. All proposals to be made at the IDNIYRA Annual Meeting shall be submitted to the Governing Committee in writing ninety (90) days prior to the meeting. All proposals so submitted.

PROPOSED: (NEW IN RED)

The Annual Meeting shall be held during and in the vicinity of the North American Championships, or the DN World Championship when held in North America if possible. Special meetings may be called on the order of the Governing Committee or upon demand in writing by twentyfive percent of the membership. Exact time and place of all meetings shall be fixed by the Governing Committee. If a special meeting is called, the purpose thereof must be stated in such form as to permit **electronic voting using an email address provided by the member**, and no other business may be transacted. All proposals to be made at the IDNIYRA Annual Meeting shall be submitted to the Governing Committee in writing ninety (90) days prior to the meeting. All proposals so submitted must be published in the DN newsletter by December 15. A quorum at a meeting is any number present. However, if less than twenty percent of the then-paid membership is present, all action must be ratified (unless rejected) **by electronic voting using an email address provided by the member**. In addition, any action requiring a majority of two-thirds (such as amendments to the Constitution or By-Laws, or changes in the Official Specifications or Racing Rules) shall be put **to an electronic vote using an email address provided by the member**, regardless of the number present at the Annual Meeting. All meetings shall be conducted according to Roberts Rules of Order.

CONSTITUTION ARTICLE XI- AMENDMENTS AND CHANGES

ORIGINAL TEXT:

Amendments to the Constitution or By-Laws, and changes to the Official Specifications* or the Racing Rules, may be made only after approval of the membership by a mail vote.

PROPOSED: (NEW IN RED)

Amendments to the Constitution or By-Laws, and changes to the Official Specifications* or the Racing Rules, may be made only after approval of the membership **by electronic vote, with ballots being sent to an email address provided by the member.**

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Proposal 1, continued.

CONSTITUTION ARTICLE XII- TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

ORIGINAL TEXT:

The Technical Committee shall consist of six members, three elected from North America and three elected from Europe. One new member shall be elected each year at the Annual Meeting for a term of six years. Upon resignation prior to six years, a replacement member shall be elected at the Annual Meeting to serve the unexpired term. Term of office will begin July 1, and expire June 30 of the appropriate year. Each year the Committee shall elect from its membership a Chairman to serve until June 30 of the following year. The Chairman shall report to the Governing Committee on all recommendations of the Technical Committee. The Committee may initiate changes in the Official Specifications by proposing such changes to the Governing Committee, who may submit them to the membership on a mail ballot requiring two-thirds majority for approval. The Committee shall, upon the request of any member or at the direction of the Governing Committee, provide interpretation of the Official Specifications. These findings shall be published in the Association Newsletter. Such Interpretations shall prevail as Supplements to the Official Specifications unless and until voided by a simple majority vote by mail ballot. If a Committee seat becomes vacant for any reason, the Commodore may appoint a replacement until the next Annual Meeting.

PROPOSED: (NEW IN RED)

The Technical Committee shall consist of six members, three elected from North America and three elected from Europe. One new member shall be elected each year at the Annual Meeting for a term of six years. Upon resignation prior to six years, a replacement member shall be elected at the Annual Meeting to serve the unexpired term. Term of office will begin July 1, and expire June 30 of the appropriate year. Each year the Committee shall elect from its membership a Chairman to serve until June 30 of the following year. The Chairman shall report to the Governing Committee on all recommendations of the Technical Committee. The Committee may initiate changes in the Official Specifications by proposing such changes to the Governing Committee, who may submit them to the membership **on an electronic ballot using an email address provided by the member** requiring two-thirds majority for approval. The Committee shall, upon the request of any member or at the direction of the Governing Committee, provide interpretation of the Official Specifications. These findings shall be published in the Association Newsletter. Such Interpretations shall prevail as Supplements to the Official Specifications unless and until voided by a simple majority vote **by an electronic ballot using an email address provided by the member**. If a Committee seat becomes vacant for any reason, the Commodore may appoint a replacement until the next Annual Meeting.

Discussion:

This motion does not modify the Specifications Management System.

For the IDNIYRA membership as a whole, communications by use of postal services are now much less important than communications by electronic means, whether e-mail, texting or social media. For younger members of IDNIYRA the preference for electronic communications may be assumed with reasonable certainty, but a small minority of older members still rely upon 'snail mail' and eschew email accounts. For many if not most of us, a mail-in ballot is nothing but an inconvenience. We pay bills electronically and may visit the post office but once a year, to send Christmas presents to distant family. Do we have stamps, or if we do, are they of the right denomination (for us Canadians)? It is all too easy to leave a mail ballot for another day, until you realize that the closing date has passed.

This proposal *replaces* postal ballots by electronic ones, because those not having email accounts are very few, and the current proposal would allow them to designate a friend or relative's email address as the recipient of their invitation to vote electronically. An alternative approach would *add* electronic voting to the constitution, allowing those without email addresses to continue to receive postal ballots, at some administrative cost to IDNIYRA.

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Proposal 1, continued.

Remote balloting has four phases: sending the ballots to members; consideration of the ballots by members; return of completed ballots by members; and counting/validation of ballots.

Postal ballots require adequate allowance for time in the postal system, twice. Electronic ballots can be sent or returned in a nominally negligible time frame.

IDNIYRA allows its members generous time to complete and return ballots, recognizing that members may be away or have other priorities when ballots are received. But for every day of delayed response, the greater is the chance that the ballot will be forgotten and not returned at all. Most electronic voting systems allow reminders to be sent to those who have not yet voted, without prejudicing the confidentiality of the vote.

Counting and validating paper ballots is not a difficult process, but it does require time, care and attention. Electronic voting packages, on the other hand, generally validate and count ballots automatically as voters respond to the ballot. All commercial electronic voting packages also include measures that ensure that only single votes are cast by each addressee.

Finally, electronic voting offers opportunity for minor cost savings as fees are charged on a per-ballot basis, at less than national letter postal rates.

WCEN, October 25, 2017

PROPOSAL #2

MODIFY THE LANGUAGE OF THE IDNIYRA BYLAWS - DN RACE SYSTEM & DN RACING RULES

Submitted by Eric Anderson, IDNIYRA Commodore

*I am proposing 5 changes to the current bylaws. The first 4 changes will be offered as one item to vote on because they are all related. These changes are not intended to change how we actually conduct regattas, they serve to clarify existing language and reflect the times registration is typically conducted. **The exact language changes are in Red.***

Proposal 2.1

IDNIYRA BYLAWS DN RACE SYSTEM 5B

ORIGINAL TEXT:

DN race system 5b

Scoring will be done by assigning points in the following manner: first place, 1 point; second place, 2 points; third place, 3 points; fourth place, 4 points; fifth place, 5 points; etc. -lowest score to win. DNS, DSO, and DNF one worse than the number of yachts in the fleet after the mini-qualification races.

PROPOSED: (NEW IN RED)

DN race system 5b

Scoring will be done by assigning points in the following manner: first place, 1 point; second place, 2 points; third place, 3 points; fourth place, 4 points; fifth place, 5 points; etc. -lowest score to win. **DNS, DNF, DSO, and DNE are assigned points equal to 1 plus** the number of yachts in the fleet after the mini-qualification races.

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Proposal 2, continued.

Discussion

This makes it clear that DNE carries the same points as a DSQ. This is not clear in the current bylaws. It clears up the language for the points score for DNS, DNF, DSQ, and DNE

Proposal 2.2

IDNIYRA BYLAWS DN RACE SYSTEM 5D

ORIGINAL TEXT:

5. DN race system

d) Throwouts: After 5 races are completed, the points for each yacht's poorest race (including DNS, DNF, and DSQ) will be eliminated from the scoring with the exception that, following a hearing, the protest committee may, at its discretion, award a score of DNE to a disqualified yacht that has been found to have dangerously violated NIA Rules Part IV, Sailing Rules, and this race shall not be eliminated from the scoring. The next-worse score shall be eliminated. After 12 races are completed, the points for each yacht's second poorest race (including DNS, DNF and DSQ) will be eliminated from the scoring, with the exception that, following a hearing, the protest committee may, at its discretion, award a score of DNE to a disqualified yacht that has been found to have dangerously violated NIA Rules Part IV, Sailing Rules, and this race shall not be eliminated from the scoring. Then next worse score shall be eliminated.

PROPOSED: (NEW IN RED)

5. DN Race System

d) Throwouts: *When fewer than five (5) races are completed a yacht's score shall be total of her race scores. When from five (5) to eleven (11) races are completed, a yacht's score will be the total of her race scores, excluding her worst score, except that a DNE (Disqualification Not Excludable) may not be excluded. When twelve (12) or more races are complete, a yacht's score will be the total of her race scores, excluding her two worse scores, except that a DNE may not be excluded.*

Discussion

This change simplifies the language for when and how throw-outs occur. The part about how a competitor gets a DNE is addressed elsewhere in a more appropriate place in the bylaws. It does not change any actual rules, it just makes it easier to understand.

Proposal 2.3

IDNIYRA BYLAWS DN RACE SYSTEM 5E

PROPOSED: (NEW IN RED)

Add new section and text

5e) Definitions: The following definitions apply to regatta scoring.

DNS (Did Not Start): a competitor who did not start a race.

DNF (Did Not Finish): a competitor that started a race but did not finish.

DSQ (Disqualified): a competitor who is disqualified by the race committee and or protest committee.

DNE (Disqualified Not Excludable) : a competitor who is disqualified by a race committee or protest committee, where that disqualification may not be excluded from the score.

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Proposal 2, continued.

Discussion:

These terms are used but are not defined in the NIA rules or IDNIYRA bylaws. Now we will define them so that it is clear what we mean.

Proposal 2.4

IDNIYRA BYLAWS DN RACING RULES

PROPOSED: (NEW IN RED)

Add New section L to the Racing Rules

Racing Rules:

L. A protest committee may, at its discretion, award a score of DNE (Disqualified Not Excludable) to a disqualified yacht that has been found to have dangerously violated NIA Rules Part IV, Sailing Rules.

Discussion.

In proposed change 2.4 we clarify that a Protest committee has the right to award a DNE under certain circumstances. Since 2012 we have had the option of awarding a DNE but it was never clear what it was and what it was for.

Bylaws Change 2.1 through 2.4 go together.

The purpose is to eliminate confusion and simplify the existing rules. These changes are not intended to change the **meaning** of the existing Bylaws, they are designed to offer simpler and clearer text so it is more understandable. The Class changed the bylaws to allow the protest committee to award DNE instead of a DSQ in certain situations in 2012. However, the term DNE was never defined, and there was no score assigned to a DNE, this was confusing. This change makes it clear that a DNE carries the same points as a DSQ which was not stated in the current bylaws. The second part of this is to define the terms DNS, DNF, DSQ and DNE. Neither the current IDNIYRA bylaws nor the NIA rules define what those terms mean. Now we do.

These changes are for the purposes of clarity only and are not intended to affect the intent of the actual rule. The necessity of changing this came about when Reviewing the Bylaws relative to the Sailing Instructions for the North Americans. Myself as commodore and the 2 PRO's both disagreed on what the current bylaws meant and neither of them had any idea what a DNE was.

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PROPOSAL #3

MODIFY THE LANGUAGE OF THE IDNIYRA BYLAWS RACING PROCEDURE

ORIGINAL TEXT:

8) Racing Procedure

1. Every skipper must check-in at the registration desk, no later than 15 hours before the first scheduled race. Skippers checking in after that deadline will be assigned arbitrarily to the Silver or Bronze Fleets by the regatta officials, with no regard for the past racing record of the skipper and positioned at the end of the line in the first race. Check-in by phone prior to the deadline may be accepted by the officials, if they so choose.

PROPOSED: (NEW IN RED)

8) Racing Procedure

1. Every skipper must check-in at the registration desk, no later than **12** hours before the first scheduled race. **This requirement can be waived by the Race committee with the consent of a majority of the governing committee members present.** Skippers checking in after that deadline will be assigned arbitrarily to the Silver or Bronze Fleets by the regatta officials, with no regard for the past racing record of the skipper and positioned at the end of the line in the first race. Check-in by phone prior to the deadline may be accepted by the officials, if they so choose.

Discussion:

Regatta registration often extends until 9 pm the night before racing. Shortening the interval allows racing on day one to start before noon at the discretion of the RC. Under extenuating circumstances like multiple moves of location and time constraints, it may be necessary to hold registration on the same day as sailing. This is currently against the bylaws. The second situation that comes up is when you have completed all but a few races in the gold cup. It is possible under some conditions to sail a few races, finish the gold cup, register and get at least the qualifiers in for the North Americans. I am not saying this will be likely or normal, but it is a way to save time under extraordinary circumstances. So the regatta can be completed.

*Proposals 2 and 3 Submitted by
Eric Anderson IDNIYRA Commodore*

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PROPOSAL #4

MODIFY THE LANGUAGE OF THE IDNIYRA BYLAWS DN RACE SYSTEM ADDING RETIREMENT AS A SCORING OPTION

Submitted by Warren Nethercote, Vice Commodore

Motion:

Whereas the IDNIYRA By-Laws (DN Race System) currently refers to DNS, DNF, DSQ, and DNE as scores, and

Whereas the IDNIYRA By-Laws (DN Race System) does not recognize (except for mini-qualifier races) that a competitor may finish a race, but subsequently wish to withdraw from that race, and

Whereas neither DNS, DNF, DSQ, nor DNE describe this circumstance,

Be it resolved that the IDNIYRA adopt the following amendments to the IDNIYRA by-laws, assuming prior passage of a motion presented by Eric Anderson:

PROPOSAL 4.1

IDNIYRA BYLAWS DN RACE SYSTEM 5B

In Proposal 2.1 submitted by Eric Anderson, replace "DNS, DNF, DSQ, and DNE" by "DNS, DNF, RET, DSQ, and DNE."

PROPOSAL 4.2

IDNIYRA BYLAWS DN RACE SYSTEM 5E (NEW)

In Proposal 2.3 submitted by Eric Anderson, after "DNF (Did Not Finish): a competitor that started a race but did not finish" insert a new line "RET (Retired after finishing): a competitor that started and finished a race but advised the race committee that he/she would withdraw from the race instead of being scored in his/her finishing position. Other yacht's scores are to be adjusted accordingly."

Discussion

The proposed change is administrative in a sense, but resolves an occasional ambiguity in results when existing nomenclature does not properly identify the reason for a penalty score.

This amendment adds a scoring option that is not provided by existing by-laws. Paragraph 2 of the 'Mini Qualification Series' section of the by-laws refers to "acknowledgement of guilt and withdrawing" but offers no scoring option to implement the withdrawal. In past practice, boats withdrawing from a race have typically been scored as DNF (when they in fact finished) or as DSQ (when they were not disqualified by the race committee for starting early or a protest committee as a result of a protest).

The proposed change recognizes that two competitors may discuss a situation after racing and come to agreement that a rule was broken. The competitor whose yacht broke a rule may choose to withdraw from the race rather than require a protest to be filed and heard.

Should a competitor advise the race committee of her retirement shortly after completion of a race, there is a possibility that the next start will be delayed by the need to adjust starting positions. This is no different from the present situation where a yacht that finished may advise the race committee that she was withdrawing (often because she realized that she broke a rule) and the race committee changes her finishing position to DNF or DSQ, absent any other option.