

**THE NOVA SCOTIA SCHOONER ASSOCIATION
CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
Adopted at the Annual Meeting April 24, 1963
and amended May 1965, November 1989 and November 2012**

ARTICLE I – NAME

The Association shall be known as the NOVA SCOTIA SCHOONER ASSOCIATION, hereinafter referred to as the Association.

ARTICLE II – OBJECT OF THE ASSOCIATION

The object of the Association is

- a. To preserve, maintain and further interest in Nova Scotia schooners of all types, i.e. vessels built in the Province, fore and aft rigged with two or more masts, the forward mast being no taller than the rear mast(s).
- b. In co-operation with the Fisheries Museum of the Atlantic and the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, to collect all possible information on Nova Scotia schooners: their designers, builders, owners, lines, histories, pictures, etc.
- c. To hold Schooner races in Nova Scotia waters at least once each year to determine the Nova Scotia Schooner Championship.
- d. To stimulate the design and construction of schooner-rigged vessels in the Province of Nova Scotia.
- e. To improve the facilities for yachts and sailors in Nova Scotia.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Association shall be open for:

- a. FULL MEMBERS – those persons wishing to help preserve and maintain an interest in schooner-rigged vessels in Nova Scotia, whose application has been approved by the Executive and whose dues are paid.
- b. SENIOR MEMBERS – those FULL MEMBERS who are owners of schooner-rigged vessels eligible to participate in Association-sponsored races (see Article VII, section 6), and who reside in or maintain their vessels in Nova Scotia.
- c. CHARTER MEMBERS – those members who attended the first Schooner Race at Hubbards on July 25, 1961 and met onboard the schooner “ADARE”.
- d. HONORARY MEMBERS – those persons so appointed by the Executive for a period of one year unless otherwise specified.
- e. LIFE MEMBERS - those FULL MEMBERS so appointed by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast at any general meeting for the lifetime of the member so honoured.

ARTICLE IV – ADMINISTRATION

The administration of the ordinary affairs of the Association shall be vested in a committee of management to be known as the Executive Committee, which shall be elected and administer such affairs pursuant to the By-Laws of the Association.

ARTICLE V – AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Nova Scotia Schooner Association Constitution and By-Laws shall require the approval of a two-thirds majority of the votes cast at the Annual Meeting by SENIOR MEMBERS or their duly appointed representatives. Notice of any proposed amendments must be provided to the membership at least fourteen days prior to the meeting at which the amendments are to be considered. This requirement for prior notice shall not prevent modifications to a proposed amendment within the scope of its original subject matter.

ARTICLE VI - ELECTED OFFICERS

Officers of the Executive Committee will be elected at the Annual Meeting of each year.

ARTICLE VII – BY-LAWS

1. Voting

Voting privileges for amendments to the Association's Constitution and By-Laws and for Schooner Race schedules are extended only to SENIOR MEMBERS or their duly appointed representatives, with the limitation that there may be only one senior member vote per schooner-rigged vessel. All members are entitled to vote on all other business, except for HONORARY MEMBERS, who do not vote. Any member in arrears does not have the right to vote.

2. Dues

The annual dues shall be such as recommended by the Executive Committee, subject to the approval of a two-thirds majority at the Annual Meeting.

3. Meetings

(a) There shall be three regular meetings of the Association:

The Spring Meeting

The annual Race Meeting

The Annual Meeting for the election of the Executive Committee and for the transaction of other business, held in the fall of each year

(b) Special meetings of the Association may be called:

At any time by the Commodore as necessary

When the Commodore is requested to do so in writing by at least five voting members

(c) Fifteen members shall constitute a quorum at any regular or special meeting, of whom at least ten must be SENIOR MEMBERS.

(d) A nominating committee of three members, usually Past Commodores, shall be appointed at the Spring Meeting.

(e) An Officer-of-the-Day shall be appointed at the Spring Meeting.

(e) The order of business at regular meetings shall be

Minutes

Business arising out of the minutes

Correspondence

Reports of Committees

Unfinished business

New business

Adjournment

(f) Fourteen days' notice of each meeting shall be given to members entitled to vote.

4. The Executive Committee

- (a) The general direction of the affairs of the Association shall be vested in an Executive Committee, which shall be elected from the members of the Association. The Executive Committee shall consist of:
- Commodore
 - Vice Commodore
 - Rear Commodore
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer
- (b) The Executive Committee shall meet as often as required for the dispatch of business.
- (c) Three members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum at all Executive Committee meetings.
- (d) The Executive Committee shall have the power to appoint any voting member to the Executive Committee to fill a vacancy pending a General Meeting.
- (e) The executive Committee shall appoint members to the following committees from among the Association members:
- Race Committee
 - Social Committee
 - Archives Committee
 - Membership Committee

5. Duties of Officers

The Commodore represents the NSSA to external organizations and organizes and effects Association events in a professional manner. The Commodore also presides over all of the Association's meetings and general activities. The Membership, Archive, and Nominating Committees report to the Commodore. The Commodore shall appoint two members of the Association who have not served on a committee for that year and who have been approved by the Executive Committee to audit, with the Treasurer, the accounts and financial statements prior to the Spring Meeting.

The Vice Commodore assists the Commodore and presides over all matters pertaining to social events. The Vice Commodore shall chair the Social Committee.

The Rear Commodore presides over all matters pertaining to racing and handicapping. The Rear Commodore shall chair the Race Committee.

The Secretary executes an accurate record of proceedings of all meetings, preserves the records and conducts the correspondence of the Association. The Secretary shall distribute minutes for all meetings to the Executive Committee in a timely fashion.

The Treasurer collects the annual dues and other revenues accruing to the Association and keeps same deposited in a chartered bank to be approved by the Executive committee. All cheques drawn shall be signed by a signatory approved by the Executive Committee. The Treasurer shall make disbursements as the Executive Committee shall order, keeping correct accounts of the same. The Treasurer shall keep all accounts of the Association and submit the same whenever required by the Executive Committee and annually to the Auditors. The Treasurer shall submit a financial statement to the Executive Committee for presentation to the Association at the Annual Meeting. The Treasurer is also bound, by the rules of the Registry of Joint Stock Companies, to annually submit a financial statement, following its specific format, accompanied by the registration fee, to the Registry of Joint Stock Companies.

6. Races

The Association conducts races for schooner-rigged vessels in Nova Scotia waters.

All races sponsored by the Association will, unless otherwise specified in the Race Directions, be sailed by the racing rules of the Canadian Yachting Association (CYA), with due respect to the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (IRPCS). Vessels must respect current regulations as mandated by the Canadian Coast Guard in the "Safe Boating Guide."

Unless specifically indicated in the deed of gift for a trophy, vessels racing may use only those sails which are usual to the working sails of schooners and in no event shall any sails forward of the foremast overlap said foremast.

The Race Committee is the sole authority for handicapping vessels. Owners shall be advised as to the handicap placed on their vessel and time allowances established in good time before any race. Handicaps for all vessels shall be promulgated from time to time.

In order to be eligible to participate in Association-sponsored races a schooner must

- a. be capable of maintaining her crew at sea for five days;
- b. have a traditional hull shape, *e.g.* a full keel and an attached rudder;
- c. have a traditional schooner rig, *e.g.* a gaff or marconi mainsail, a gaff or staysail foresail, and one or more jibs; and
- d. have a waterline length between 19' and 60' inclusive.

The Executive Committee is the final authority of which vessels are eligible to participate in Association-sponsored races and may, at its discretion, waive any or all of the above requirements.

7. Burgee

A suitable Burgee which has been accepted by the majority vote of the members of the Association, shall be worn by all vessels when cruising or racing under the rules of the Association.

8. Vessel Specification

All SENIOR MEMBERS shall supply the Secretary with details of their vessel as requested, and shall make their vessel available to the Race Committee for measurement for handicapping purposes. Any relevant changes made to a vessel's details or measurements must be reported to the Secretary before she participates in an Association-sponsored race.

Certified and Prepared by
Nova Scotia Schooner Association
Constitution Committee
Alex Rhinelander, Chair
17 November 2012