

BENETEAU FIRST 21 CLASS ASSOCIATION (IRELAND) - CLASS RULES

1 Name

- 1.1 The full name of the class association shall be the “Beneteau First 21 Class Association (Ireland)”, hereinafter referred to as the “Class Association”.
- 1.2 For the purposes of one-design racing, the Class will include the Beneteau First 210, 210 Spirit, 21.1, 21.7, 21.7S and other variants which do not radically alter the basic hull and rig forms established by Beneteau for the First 21 series (collectively “Beneteau First 21”).
- 1.3 Future variations of the Beneteau First 21 design may be allowed to race as part of the one-design fleet following a majority vote at a Class Association AGM or EGM.

2 Objectives

- 2.1 To encourage and develop the use of the Beneteau First 21 boat as a one-design keelboat in Ireland.
- 2.2 To support Beneteau First 21 racing in handicap fleets in Ireland.
- 2.3 The Class Association may from time to time bring in Class Association Regulations to further these objectives.

3 Officers and Committee

- 3.1 The Officers of the Class Association shall consist of the Class Captain, Class Vice-Captain who will act as Hon. Secretary during his term as Vice-Captain, Hon. Treasurer and Safety Officer. The Safety Officer will also be the Class Measurer. All Officers must be Owner Members. Candidates must be proposed and seconded by Members by notification in writing to the Hon. Secretary at least 14 days in advance of the Annual General Meeting.
- 3.2 The first Officers of the Class Association shall be:

Hugh C Kelly	Class Captain
Joe Conway	Class Vice-Captain & Honorary Secretary
Peter Carroll	Honorary Treasurer
Rowan Fogarty	Safety Officer
- 3.3 The first Committee of the Association shall comprise the above Officers and up to 4 other Members.
- 3.4 At the Annual General Meeting the Officers and Committee shall be elected by Owner Members and Members to hold office until the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting. Retiring Officers and Committee Members shall be eligible for re-election. In the event that there is more than one candidate for an Officer's position, or more candidates than positions available on Committee, the candidate or candidates who receive the most votes in each case will be deemed elected.
- 3.5 In the event of the resignation or incapacitation of a Class Captain, Class Vice-Captain, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer, Safety Officer or Hon. Measurer, the Committee may appoint one of themselves or some other Member of the Class Association to act until the next Annual General Meeting.

- 3.6 The Committee will have the power to co-opt additional Committee members if any Committee Member retires or to fill vacancies if required before the next following AGM.
- 3.7 Meetings of the Committee shall be held at such times and places as it shall itself decide.

4 Membership

- 4.1 There shall be two classes of membership – Owner Member and Member (together a “Member”). Only those owning or part-owning a Beneteau First 21 shall be eligible to become Owner Members. Beneteau First 21 crew may apply to become Members.
- 4.2 Every candidate for membership shall be proposed by an Owner Member. An Owner Member may propose himself.
- 4.3 The names of all candidates for election shall be submitted to the Committee in writing on the Class Association Application Form which is available on the Class Association website www.b21ireland.ie.
- 4.4 The Committee may in the interests of the Class Association and at their discretion, decline or postpone such candidature. Otherwise a candidate is deemed elected on receipt of payment of his subscription.
- 4.5 Any application for election shall expire if the candidate fails to pay his first subscription within a period of six weeks after his application to become a Member.
- 4.6 The Hon. Secretary shall upon receipt of his subscription add any elected candidate to the list of Members maintained by the Class Association. The Member shall be bound by the Class Association Rules and Regulations currently in force which can be viewed on the Class Association's website www.b21ireland.ie.
- 4.7 The Committee shall have power to suspend from membership any Member who behaves in a manner prejudicial to the Class Association. The Committee shall in each such case give adequate effective notice to the Member giving the Member every reasonable opportunity of explaining his conduct.
- 4.8 The Committee shall have the power on receiving satisfactory explanations to reinstate as a Member of the Class Association any person who may have been suspended from membership under any provision of these rules.
- 4.9 The Committee shall have power to elect any person as an Honorary Member of the Class Association for such time as is thought fit but not beyond the next Annual General Meeting.

5 Subscriptions

- 5.1 The annual subscription shall be proposed by the Committee and approved by a majority of the Members who are liable to pay a subscription and who are in attendance at the Annual General Meeting.
- 5.2 A subscription must be paid on behalf of each boat sailing under the Class Association flag and such subscription covers one Owner Member and five other Members as nominated by the boat owner subject to the acceptance of their candidacy by the Committee.
- 5.3 While a boat's owner(s) is not a paid up Member, that boat's racing results will not count towards the awarding of Class Association Trophies. Results may be reinstated at the discretion of the Committee where they are satisfied there was good reason for delayed payment of subscriptions or entry fees.

- 5.4 Officers whose subscriptions remain unpaid within 6 weeks of due date shall be deemed to have resigned and a replacement shall be appointed within 2 weeks thereafter in accordance with Clause 3.5.

6 General Meetings

- 6.1 The Annual General Meeting of the Class Association shall be held in the month of January or February each year, on a date to be fixed by the Committee. The Hon. Secretary shall, at least 21 days before such date, e-mail or otherwise communicate to each Owner Member and Member a notice thereof, and of the business to be brought forward.
- 6.2 The business at such Meetings shall be the election of Officers and Committee, the passing of the Accounts and any other business proposed by the Committee, or which has been proposed by any Member at least 14 days before the Annual General Meeting, which business shall be circulated to Members by the Hon. Secretary by way of an amended agenda for the Annual General Meeting at least 7 clear days before the Meeting.
- 6.3 The Hon. Secretary shall, on a resolution by a simple majority of the Committee or on a requisition signed by any ten Members whose subscriptions are paid up-to-date, summon a special General Meeting ("EGM") of the Class Association for any specific business, the nature of which shall be stated in the convening notice and the discussion at such an EGM shall be confined to such stated business.
- 6.4 The Chairman at General Meetings will be the Class Captain. If the Class Captain is not in attendance, then General Meetings will be chaired by the Class Vice-Captain. If neither the Class Captain nor the Class Vice Captain are in attendance then another Officer shall at the request of the Class Captain chair the meeting. If the Class Captain fails to nominate a Chairman, a Chairman shall be elected from the Owner Members present by a majority of Members in attendance at the start of the General Meeting.
- 6.5 At all General Meetings each Member shall have one vote and the Chairman of the Meeting an additional casting vote if required except where the decision being made will require financial expenditure on boats in excess of €100 in which case only Owner Members shall have a vote and the Chairman.
- 6.6 Every resolution shall be decided by a majority of Members eligible to vote. Members absent from a General Meeting may vote either by written proxy or by previously sending their vote in writing to the Hon. Secretary.
- 6.7 The quorum for a General Meeting shall be 50% of Owner Members or 25% of Members.

7 Honorary Treasurer

- 7.1 Accounts for the Class Association shall be made up to 31 December each year.
- 7.2 The Hon. Treasurer will report on the accounts at the Annual General Meeting .
- 7.3 The accounts must be approved by a majority of the Members in attendance at the Annual General Meeting

8 Amendments to Class Association Rules

- 8.1 The Class Association Rules shall not be altered, added to or rescinded except in accordance with Clause 10.4. If such changes are required immediately on grounds of safety, the Class Association Rules may be altered, added to or rescinded with the consent of two-thirds of the Committee and the changes shall apply

forthwith. They must be ratified in accordance with Clause 10.4 at the next following General Meeting of Members if not rescinded previously.

- 8.2 In the event of a change to a Class Association Rule, boats shall be given four weeks to comply unless the change has been made on the grounds of safety in which case the alteration must be made as soon as practicably possible as determined by the Committee.

9 Intent

- 9.1 These rules, as adopted by the Class Association are set in place to maintain the Beneteau First 21s exceptional performance features; ease of handling, safety and comfort while taking full advantage of them at all Beneteau First 21 events.
- 9.2 The racing of boats within these rules is for the purposes of promoting amateur sailing and it shall be prohibited to use professional helms or crew whilst participating in Class Association events ("Class Events"), save as expressly authorised by the Committee or as otherwise provided or permitted in the sailing instructions governing an event run or organized by this Class Association. A professional for the purposes of these regulations is a person who derives his/her main income from sailing and is available for hire or reward to sail boats or is otherwise a person whose business would be promoted by the sailing of a Beneteau First 21. Boats may only be helmed in Class Events by the owner or part-owner, or by a crew member who has helmed the boat in the majority of sailing races in which it has competed in the same calendar season prior to the Class Event in question.

10 Class Association Rules and Interpretation

- 10.1 Boats may be subject to inspection at any time at the sole discretion of the Committee of the Class Association or of a race committee to ensure compliance with all regulations contained herein. One or 20% (whichever is the greater) of the boats racing for any Class Association Trophies or in Championships shall be assessed for compliance. These boats will be chosen by lottery. Breach of any of these rules renders a boat ineligible to compete for Class Association Trophies until the breach has been rectified to the satisfaction of the Committee.
- 10.2 The Class Association does not accept any legal responsibility in respect of these rules and regulations or any claims arising there from. Neither the establishment of these rules, their use by race organisers, nor the inspection or measurement of a boat under these regulations in any way limits or reduces the complete and unlimited responsibility of the owner or owner's representative.
- 10.3 A maximum of five people are permitted aboard any Beneteau First 21 whilst racing in fixtures promoted and/or sponsored by this Class Association, without prejudice to the rules governing any other event and/or fixture within which events the boat shall from time to time race.
- 10.4 The Class Association regulations can be changed by a majority decision of the Members voting and present at a General Meeting of the Class Association at which at least one-third of the Owner Members are present

11 Measurement

- 11.1 The principal objective of the Class Association Rules is to maintain all competing Beneteau First 21 variants to a standard specification so that all boats can race on an equal basis.
- 11.2 It is the responsibility of all the Members of the Class Association to ensure that the Beneteau First 21 boat

that they sail on complies with these Class Association Rules.

- 11.3 Though there have been some alterations to the design and the standard specifications of the manufacturers, these have been minor. The existing standard specifications can be found on the website www.beneteau.com. These are deemed to be the standard specifications. Only alterations of a minor nature as determined shall be permitted. Where the boat was purchased with an earlier standard specification, this is considered to match the current one.
- 11.4 The interior of any boat may not be modified or in any significant way altered and must have for the purposes of competing in Class Association events the standard cushions and battery carried in their proper place whilst competing.
- 11.5 The Committee shall have absolute discretion to decide if an alteration is minor in nature or if any change to a boats interior is significant. If the Committee so consider necessary, it may require the competitor to supply independent proof that the alteration made is of a minor or insignificant nature and will not confer other than a minor competitive advantage.
- 11.6 The Measurer will ensure that boats conform to these rules and his decision shall be final subject to an appeal to the Committee.
- 11.7 A measurer will not measure a boat in which he or she has a special interest as determined by the Committee. In this event, another member of the Committee will be chosen by the Committee to measure the Measurer's boat.

12 Equipment

- 12.1 The equipment used shall be as supplied by the manufacturer as standard or equivalent replacements.
- 12.2 The maximum permitted symmetric spinnaker pole length shall be 3.52 metres, and the maximum asymmetric pole length shall be 2.145m.
- 12.3 The hull, keel, and rudder shall be in compliance with the manufacturer's standards and shall not be changed in shape or weight.
- 12.4 The keel shall remain fully down at all times when racing.
- 12.5 All deck fittings may be subject to change or modification provided only that the deck structure and layout as designed by the manufacturer shall not change and the use of carbon compounds for the production of rudders, tillers, booms and masts shall be forbidden.
- 12.6 A boarding ladder must be attached to the transom of all boats racing as a one-design class under the Class Association flag.
- 12.7 The outboard engine will be of a minimum of four horsepower. While the propeller may be lifted out of the water, the engine must remain on its bracket at the stern when racing.
- 12.8 All boats shall carry an anchor, at least 5m of chain and at least 25m of warp in the bow anchor locker. In the case of early Beneteau First 21s without anchor lockers, these items shall instead be carried in an easily accessible location.
- 12.9 Any Beneteau First 21 may fit a mainsheet traveller.

- 12.10 Boats may race with either a furling or a conventional headsail.
- 12.11 Boats may race with either symmetric or asymmetric spinnakers, but may not use both during any one race.
- 12.12 Boats may use a maximum of 2 headsails in any one race.
- 12.13 The following electronic navigation guides are permitted when racing: compasses, logs, depth-sounders and GPS. Wind instruments showing apparent wind speed, apparent wind direction, true wind speed and true wind direction are also permitted. All other navigation and decision support systems are prohibited for racing.
- 12.14 Dry sailing is not permitted and all boats racing in a Class Event shall not be removed from the water for the purposes of cleaning or modifying the hull (save for repairs required for reasons of safety or to comply with these Class Rules) for the duration of a Class Event.

13 Sails

13.1 The intent of this Class Association *inter alia* is to encourage uniformity in relation to sails, without prejudice to the right of any boat owner to continue to use a sail in existence at the date of adoption of these regulations and ordinarily used on a Beneteau First 21. Where boats are joining the one-design fleet for the first time, the Committee may also approve the continued use of sails in existence at that time. Otherwise, all sails shall comply with these regulations and any sail not complying with the specifications hereinafter mentioned shall be considered illegal and not suitable or eligible for use whilst racing in Class Association events.

13.2 The sail measurements shall be in accordance with the following maximum dimensions

13.2.1 Mainsail

- P. Hoist= 8.30 metres
- E. Foot = 2.85 metres
- Roach = I.R.C. maximum dimensions
- M.U.W 0.60 metres
- M.T.W. 1.05 metres
- M.H.W. 1.78 metres

13.2.2 Headsail

- L.L. Luff length = 8.6 metres
- L.P. Luff perpendicular = 2.542 metres
- HHW 1.28 (half width)
- HTW 0.665 (three quarter width)
- HUW 0.35 (seven eighths width)

13.2.3 Spinnaker (symmetric)

- SLU (luff length) 8.6 metres
- SFL (foot length) 4.685 metres
- SHW (half width) 4.790 metres

13.2.4 Spinnaker (asymmetric)

- ALSU (luff length) 10 metres
- ASLE (leech length) 8.45 metres
- ASF (foot length) 4.9 metres
- ASHW (half width) 4.985 metres

13.2.4 The Class Association has chosen not to nominate a Class sail-maker.

14 Safety and Equipment

14.1 It is the responsibility of every boat owner and helm to ensure that the boat in which he/she is sailing is adequately equipped with all necessary safety equipment and that the boat is in a condition fit to sail in Class Association events. Each boat must comply with any additional safety requirements which may from time-to-time appear in sailing instructions. For the avoidance of any doubt it is to be understood by all Members of this Class Association that the Committee accepts no legal responsibility in relation to any injury or damage howsoever arising in the operation of these rules or in the organisation and running of events envisaged by these rules. It is the primary responsibility of each boat owner and helm to ensure that the boat is suitably equipped with all necessary safety equipment and that the boat is in a condition suitable to undertake the events envisaged by these rules. Furthermore, it shall be the responsibility of every boat owner to ensure that the boat is adequately insured in respect of injury or damage caused howsoever arising. The adoption of these rules shall not be deemed to create any legal responsibility on the part of the Committee or the Class Association in respect of any injury or loss howsoever arising in any event.

15 Beneteau First 21 Safety Regulations

15.1 Issued March 2012. Items and numbers required are listed below:

- Lifejackets for helm and all crew members
- Lifejackets must be appropriate to the weight of crew members
- **Lifejackets must be worn at all times when racing**
- Lifebuoy with whistle must be mounted on rail when racing
- Light floating safety line of 15 metres with quoit
- Portable fuel tank with minimum 2 litres of fuel.
- 1 fire extinguishers in cabin
- Anchor with at least 5 metres of chain combined min. weight 12kgs
- 25 metres anchor warp of diameter capable of easy attachment
- One manually controllable bilge pump and handle accessible on deck
- Working VHF Radio
- Compass in working order
- Echo sounder in working order
- Foghorn
- First aid kit in date
- Knife immediately accessible from deck
- 2 No. buckets of a capacity of at least 2 litres with lanyards attached.
- All heavy equipment must be secured