

The Australian 18 Footers League

Rules Committee - Terms of Reference

4 Nov 2023, Version 2.1

1. Purpose

The purpose of the Rules Committee is to advise and report to The Australian 18 Footers League Board on any class projects or matters that relate to the Class Rules and Racing Documents.

2. The Rules Committee

The Rules Committee provides a forum to positively evolve the 18 Footer Class Rules, whilst providing a process where rule matters and exemption and/or dispensation requests can be discussed and resolved.

3. Membership

- 3.1 Members will be appointed by the Australian 18 Footers League board. The number of active appointments to the Rules Committee may vary, a minimum of three members are required to form the committee.
- 3.2 The Committee shall have a Chair who is a member of the Australian 18 Footers League Board.
- 3.3 The committee may source input from non committee members or consultants for technical advice.

4. The Objectives

The objectives of the rules committee are:

- a. Continue to evolve the 18 Footer Class Rules for the betterment of the International Class.
- b. Provide a well considered and timely response to rules matters.
- c. Consult where necessary, design, review, approve updates to the Class Rules, followed by implementing and communicating the changes through the Australian 18 Footers League website (and email as required).
- d. Ensure potential rule changes maintain the constitutional values of the 18 Footers League.

4. Remit

- 4.1 The remit of the Rules Committee is to advise and report to the Board on the following :
 - a. The formulation, revision, continued improvement, and approval of any material published by The Australian 18 Footers League concerning the 18 Footer Class Rules and Racing Documentation.
 - b. Recommendations from, and decisions of, other committees that might affect the Class Rules and Racing Documentation.

- c. The Rules Committee will collaborate with the Race Committee and contribute to the standardization and improvement of The Australian 18 Footers League Notices of Race and Sailing Instruction documents.
- d. Assisting the Class Measurer or Technical delegate (when requested) to confirm or deny a Boat's request for equipment dispensation.
- e. Ensure the updating and publication of the Class Rules prior to the end of April each year.

5. Authority

5.1 The role of the Committee is to advise and report to the Board on matters within its remit. It does not make decisions on behalf of The Australian 18 Footers League except:

- (a) as set out in this section 5; or
- (b) or as permitted by any minuted decision of the Board.

5.2 The Committee is authorised to make, amend, interpret and revoke Class Documents that relate to the Class Rules and related Racing Documentation.

5.3 The committee is authorised to make decisions on items 4.1d in the remit.

6. Procedures

6.1 Requests for rule changes must be made in writing to the Sailing Manager, Class Measurer or Club CEO (as appropriate). These requests are to be forwarded on to the Rules Committee in a timely manner. Requests are to include boat name and reason for request.

6.1.1 The rules committee will gather any further information if required

6.1.2 Rules committee to determine whether rule change is deemed appropriate for further consideration.

6.1.3 Rules committee to determine the time frame for implementation.

6.1.4 The rules committee will present the requested rule change to the board with supporting information for adoption or rejection

6.1.5 Rules committee to process rule change when required.

6.1.6 Rules committee to send to the Sailing Manager for distribution.

6.1.7 Rules committee to inform the Class Measurer of rule changes

6.2 Requests for equipment dispensation must be made in writing to the Club Measurer, Club CEO (as appropriate). These requests are to be forwarded on to the Rules Committee in a timely manner.

6.2.1 For boat equipment dispensation requests, requests must be made by the skipper, or boat representative.

6.2.2 The Rules committee shall assess requests with due consideration and in a timely manner as appropriate.

6.2.3 The Rules Committee Chair (or delegate) will respond to the Club Measurer with the outcome of the request.

6.2.4 The Club Measurer will respond to the person making a request in a timely manner

6.2.5 For the purpose of equipment dispensation requests, the requests are at the discretion of the rules committee, with the intent of dispensation approval to support higher handicap boats

and/or prolonging the life of aging equipment. Exemptions for spare sail requests will be considered on a case by case basis, including the boat's handicap at Sail Registration Day (SRD).

7. Definitions

References to the **Board** shall mean The Australian 18 Footers League Board.

References to the **Class Rules** shall mean The Australian 18 Footers League Class Rules.

References to **Racing Documentation** includes the Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions.

Reference to **Class Measurer** shall mean the 18 Footers League appointed measurer.

7. Meetings

- a. The rules committee will meet at least once a year to review the rules at the completion of the sailing season by April.
- b. The rules committee will meet from time to time to discuss rules matters as, and when, required.

8 Reporting

8.1 The Chair of the Rules Committee shall provide a monthly update to the board on rules matters

9 Terms of Reference

- 9.1 The Board may amend these terms of reference from time to time and the Committee may propose amendments for the Board's consideration.
- 9.2 The Committee must review these terms of reference at least once every four years.
- 9.3 These terms of reference must be published on the Australian 18 Footers League website.