



Lilongwe Sailing Club

Constitution

1. **TITLE**

The Title of the club shall be the “Lilongwe Sailing Club” hereafter called THE CLUB

2. **OBJECT**

The object of the club shall be to encourage sailing and aquatic sport for the benefit of the members of the club.

3. **SECTIONS**

(a) Sections of the Club may be established to pursue sailing of a particular class or at separate venue.

(b) A section shall draw up rules for the proper running of its affairs but such rules shall not be binding until ratified by the Club Committee. The making or alteration of such rules shall be notified in writing to all members of the Club Committee not less than two weeks before the next Club Meeting.

4. **MEMBERSHIP**

(a) Any person may become a member if accepted by the Committee and on payment of such dues as determined by the Committee, based on the annual subscription rates ratified by a General Meeting of the Club.

(b) Members shall be:--

i) Life Members

ii) Honorary Members

iii) Ordinary Members

iv) Volunteer Members—a person who is working in Malawi with an organization of a charitable nature and to whom the Committee at its discretion may award membership at less than full subscription.

v) Members may apply to be classified as “family” or “single”. The spouse or domestic partner and children under 21 years old of a Family Member are entitled to the privileges set out in section 4(c) with the exception of subsection (v).

vi) Members shall be further classified as “Sailing” or “Non-Sailing”. A Sailing Member shall be the owner of a sailing dinghy, sailing catamaran or

sailboard which is registered with the Club in accordance with the Club Rules and is regularly sailed there.

- (c) Members may:--
 - i) use any of the facilities of the Club under such rules as the Committee may make.
 - ii) enter for regattas and races organized by the Club.
 - iii) fly the Club Burgee on the boat of which they are skipper
 - iv) wear the Club tie or badge as the Committee may approve.
 - v) attend and vote at a General Meeting of the Club. The spouse of a Family Member who is entitled to vote may also attend and vote.
 - vi) host guests under Club Rules.
- (d) Reciprocal members and guests of members may use the property and facilities of the Club under such rules as may be made by the Committee.
- (e) Life Members and Honorary Members for one year may be elected by the members at a General Meeting.
- (f) Membership of the Club shall be deemed to imply an acceptance of the terms of this Constitution and the rules made hereunder.
- (g) A person shall cease to be a member of the Club if he or she:--
 - i) resigns by giving notice to the Honorary Secretary.
 - ii) fails to pay the annual subscription by the 31st March in the year in which the subscription falls due, provided that, any person losing membership hereby may apply to the Committee for re-election on payment of the subscription due.
- (h) The Committee may cancel or suspend the membership of any member whose conduct is, in its view, prejudicial to the interests of the Club and such a person shall have no claim for recovery of any subscription or part thereof, provided that any person losing membership may apply to be reinstated by a General Meeting.

5. **CLUB COMMITTEE**

The Club Committee shall be elected by open ballot at a General Meeting and shall serve for one year, or until the next Annual General Meeting and shall comprise:--

Commodore, Vice Commodore and three members who shall elect amongst themselves an Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer.

- (a) Any member who agrees to serve may be elected or re-elected to the Committee.
- (b) The duties of the Committee shall be:--
 - i) to manage club property, finances and affairs of the Club
 - ii) to liaise with other Yacht Clubs in the promotion of aquatic sports.
 - iii) To make rules to further the aims and objects of the Club.

- (c) The Club Committee shall meet not less than four times or whenever required by the Commodore, or at the request of at least two Committee Members.
- (d) A quorum shall consist of three Committee Members
- (e) The Commodore, or in his absence the Vice Commodore, shall preside over Committee Meetings unless neither is present in which case the members present shall elect a Chairman for the meeting from amongst their number.
- (f) Voting shall be by simple majority, the Chairman having the casting vote.
- (g) Any Club member may attend and address any Committee Meeting, but they shall not vote.
- (h) Any Committee Member having financial interest in any matter under discussion shall declare this interest and may speak thereon but not vote.
- (i) The Committee may invite any person to attend any Meeting for a specific purpose, but that person shall not vote.
- (j) The Agenda shall be forwarded to the Committee Members not less than one week before a Committee Meeting.
- (k) The Committee may appoint from amongst its Members and/or Club Members any Sub-Committee that may be deemed necessary to arrange any special business of the Club.
- (l) Annual subscriptions shall be proposed by the Committee for approval by the members at a General Meeting. Any member who has not paid his dues by 31st March of the same financial year shall cease to be a member.

6. **CLUB PROPERTY AND FUNDS**

- (a) All property of the Club shall be vested in such Trustees as may be appointed by a General Meeting.
- (b) The financial year of the club shall be from the first day of January to the last day of December.
- (c) The funds of the Club shall be deposited in such an account at a Commercial Bank as the Committee sees fit.
- (d) The Committee shall appoint and Auditor who shall not be a member of the Committee, to audit the accounts of the Club before the Annual General Meeting.

7. **DUTIES OF THE COMMODORE AND VICE COMMODORE**

The Commodore shall, with the assistance of his/her deputy the Vice Commodore, be responsible for the general running and well being of the Club, through the Committee.

8. **DUTIES OF THE HONORARY SECRETARY**

The Honorary Secretary shall be responsible for:--

- i) conducting the correspondence of the Club.

- ii) Attending all committee meetings and taking minutes thereof.
- iii) Producing and keeping the membership list.

9. **DUTIES OF THE HONORARY TREASURER**

The Honorary Treasurer shall be responsible for:--

- iv) handling the Club's monies.
- v) keeping accounts of the Club.
- vi) Producing a statement of the accounts to each committee Meeting and an audited balance sheet to each Annual General Meeting.

10. **CLUB COLOURS**

The Club Burgee shall be royal blue and the Committee may determine designs for the insignia.

11. **SAILING AND REGATTA RULES**

The Committee may make rules for the conduct of sailing and regattas, but except where otherwise provided in such rules, all sailing and regattas arranged by the Club shall conform to the rules of the Royal Yachting Association and of the International Yacht Racing Union. Except as otherwise provided in any rules made by the Committee, no boat shall be entered for any race or sailing competition arranged by the member or members of a reciprocal Club.

12. **GENERAL MEETINGS**

A General Meeting of the Club shall be held at least once a year at a suitable place for the convenience of its members, or at the request of not less than 10 members of the Club. One month's notice of the date and Agenda of the meeting shall be given by the Hon. Secretary in writing to all members. The quorum for a General Meeting shall be 1/4 of the voting members.

13. **AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

This constitution may be amended, added to, or revoked, and replaced, by a resolution carried by 2/3rds majority at a General Meeting.

14. **DISSOLUTION**

By a resolution carried by 2/3rds majority of members present at a General Meeting, the club may be dissolved and after the discharge of its liabilities, its assets may be disposed of in accordance with such resolution.

