

**12**  
**INTERNATIONAL TWELVE METRE ASSOCIATION**  
**7 Warner St.**  
**Newport RI 02840**

29 July 2018  
By Email

Secretariat  
World Sailing  
20 Eastbourne Terrace  
Paddington, London W2 6LG  
UNITED KINGDOM

Ref: SUBMISSION of the Twelve Mete Class

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I write on behalf of the International Twelve Metre Association (ITMA) pursuant to informal email correspondence between myself and representatives of World Sailing beginning on 3 July, 2018.

My purpose in writing is to request that World Sailing authorize ITMA to award a world championship in each of the significant divisions into which 12 Metre Class yachts now fall. In short, our request is that under the administrative umbrella of ITMA, and upon payment to World Sailing of the required individual class fees for each class division, that ITMA be allowed to award a world championship in each division in which a minimum of five (5) yachts are entered, and with respect to the other provisions of World Sailing Regulation 10.

An explanation follows.

The International Rule and the Twelve Metre Class were first established with the founding of the International Yacht Racing Union in 1906/7. The first 12 Metres were built in 1907 to the First International Rule. The Class was selected as Olympic equipment in 1908, 1912 and 1920. This was followed in 1920 by the Second Rule, and then the Third Rule in 1933. The Third International Rule remains the basis for the present 12 Metre Class Rule, although substantial amendments were made during the period when the 12 Metre was used in

America's Cup competition from 1958-1987 (such as removing interior accommodation requirements). In total, about 185 yachts have been built under all of these versions of the International Rule for 12 Metres. Many of these yachts have been lovingly restored by their owners.

In 2000, with a revival of interest and increased activity in the Class, the Class Rule was amended to include an Appendix E to recognize that older yachts were subject to what we call "natural age sinkage" due to the installation of equipment and engines not anticipated in previous versions of the Rule, as well as water absorption in wooden hulls. These older yachts were divided into divisions based upon their underwater hull configuration and age date. These Divisions are:

Division A – Grand Prix – state-of-the-art designs with winged keels (1983 to present).

Division B – Modern – designs with separate keel and rudder (1967 to 1983).

Division C - Traditional – designs with keel-hung rudder built after 1950.

Division D – Classic – designs with keel-hung rudder built before 1950 including yachts converted from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> Rule.

Division E – Antique – designs built to the 1<sup>st</sup> Rule with gaff-headed or Bermudian (Marconi) rigs.

Since the adoption of the 2000 version of the 12 Metre Class Rule, it has become increasingly apparent that it is nearly impossible for yachts of each division to compete on a "bow-to-bow" basis with yachts of a different division all rating 12.000 Metres or less. Not surprisingly, this is because of advancements in the design of hulls, appendages, rigs, and sails.

It also must be noted that the activity in the Class is centered in three geographic areas. The Northern European Fleet (including the Baltic), under the guidance of Class Vice-President Patrick Howaldt, is composed principally of Division D and E yachts; the Southern European Fleet (Mediterranean) under the guidance of Vice President Luigi Lang is composed principally of Division C and D yachts; and the North American Fleet (centered in Newport, RI) under the guidance of Vice

President Peter Gerard is composed principally of Division B and C yachts. Yachts of Division A are scattered throughout each area.

Because of the high costs of shipping a 12 Metre, it takes considerable effort to encourage racing activity between yachts from one area to another area. However, in 2019 the Class is holding a series of races in Newport, RI including a World Championship organized by the Ida Lewis Yacht Club of Newport, and a 12 Metre Jubilee during the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Regatta of the New York Yacht Club. Participation looks like it could reach 30 yachts among all divisions, mostly from Class Divisions A, B, C, and D. Early indications are that Class Division E yachts will not participate.

The current Twelve Metre Class Rule (2016) is published on the World Sailing website at: [http://www.sailing.org/tools/documents/12M2016CR140316V2-\[20463\].pdf](http://www.sailing.org/tools/documents/12M2016CR140316V2-[20463].pdf). ITMA has also submitted an updated version of the Class Rule (2018 Draft) approved by its members to World Sailing and this is currently under technical review.

The governing Class Bylaws and Regulations are published on the ITMA website at: <http://media.12mrclass.com/data/PDFs/ITMAbylaws2011-12.pdf?rev=34E4>

Accompanying this Submission is a listing of Twelve Metre Yachts which are in sailing condition or undergoing restoration. There are others not listed that survive but are in need of substantial restoration.

Finally, at the appropriate time, please advise us of the World Sailing bank details for a wire transfer of any required additional fees.

I will be in London on Wednesday, 29 August 2018 if a meeting would be helpful. Otherwise, please do not hesitate to let me know if there are questions or further information is needed.

Respectfully submitted,



Wm. H. Dyer Jones  
President  
International Twelve Metre Association