

27th November 2020

Vote for RS Class Association Event Entry Eligibility Rules Change

Introduction

The RS Class Association propose that crews of double-handed boats are required to be members of the RS Class Association to compete in major RS Class events.

Background

The RS Class Association rules have always required that to be eligible to compete in events where an RS International Class or an RS National Class Association is either solely or jointly the organising authority the helm or the crew must be a full, honorary, family, youth, student or block member of the RS International Class Association. See [RS Class Rules para 3 here](#).

At an RS Class Association event the benefit to crews is the same as to helms – racing, photography, prizes and social events. The wider benefits of the RS Class Association are also enjoyed by crews as well as helms; crews can access the website, social media, coaching, and purchase merchandise as well as enter events. There are many instances where crews own the boat or a crew and helm have shared ownership, thus benefitting from the one-design rules and strong second-hand boat values.

The RS Class Association consider crews to be sailing community members with equal status to helms. We insist that crews' names are included with helms' in race results, and award prizes to crews as well as helms.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been challenging for the RS Class Association, requiring the Management Committee to budget carefully to ensure its ongoing viability. The loss of major sponsor, Volvo, from May 2021 has compounded concerns.

Crew membership fees would alleviate financial pressure on the RS Class Association in these difficult times, but beyond this we believe that the running costs of the RS Class Association, in particular the major events, should be shared by all who benefit.

Proposal

A rule change is required at [RS Class Rules para 3 here](#):

to change the current phrase "the helm or crew" to "the helm and crew".

In addition, the RS Class Rules for the RS200, RS400, RS500 and RS800 will require the same change at para 3. Amendment will be also be required in the 2021 Race Documents (Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions) and the Constitution.

Vote

Please vote YES to change the rules to require helm and crew to both be members of the RS Class Association to enter major RS events.

Or NO to change the rules to require helm and crew to both be members of the RS Class Association to enter major RS events.

Please email your answer to membership@rs-association.com. Vote deadline is four weeks from now at 09:00hrs Friday 24 December 2020.

Remember you need to be a full, family or youth member of the RS Class Association to vote. [Join here](#)

Many thanks,

Joanne
RS Class Association Membership Secretary