

U.S. J/24 Class Association Meeting Minutes

Date: 8/31/2026

Start: 7:05 p.m. EDT

Adjourn: 8:05 p.m. EDT

Present (X):

Chris & Julie Howell X

1 – Steve Callison X

2 – Hillary Keimig

3 – Chris Fischer X

4 – Ted Wiedeke X

6 – Alan Bomar X

7 – Mike Stasko X

8 – James Howard X

10 – Rick Jarchow X

12 – Bob Hickok X

14 – Chris Holmes X

15 – Cory Huseby

18 – Cameron Robinson

19 – Piper Easton X

20 – Jasper Van Vliet X

21 – Victor Felice

22 – James Foster

Lee Ann Zaretsky X

Kelly FitzGerald X

Joe Buonasera X

Aidan Glackin

James Freedman X

Marcus Rogers X

Agenda:

1. Call to order and attendance
2. Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting
3. President's Report
4. Class Office Report
5. Committee Updates
6. Championship Planning
7. Youth Program Update
8. Technical Report
9. New Business
10. Annual Meeting

Description:

1. **Call to Order and Attendance** – A quorum is present.
2. **Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting** – Chris H. distributed the previous meeting minutes via e-mail. *No comments were made via e-mail or on this call, and the minutes were approved.*
3. **President's Report** – Welcome new District 12 Governor Bob Hickok and for District 19 Piper Easton. Piper is calling in from a boat on the way to Australia, arriving in a few days...fantastic! The team will be racing in the Worlds in Australia and then the Sydney to Hobart Race.

Marcus congratulated District 1 for the most Full members and District 15 in second.

4. **Class Office Report** – Chris H. reported that the USJCA has 327 members so far in 2026, including Associates and Juniors (budgeted 350). You can view current members at <http://j24usa.com/j24-fleet/view-members/>. \$755 in youth donations have been received in calendar year 2026 to date. \$2,395 has been raised thus far in calendar year 2026 charitable contributions. Following approval at the June meeting, Chris H. moved \$35,000 from the checking account into a CD. He circulated a current projected 2026 budget. No surprises but hoping to bump the membership numbers still this year. Cash on hand at the end of 2025 was approx. \$73,000, and estimated \$72,000 this year. Chris H. reiterated that the youth grant funds have carried over through the years as noted. Marcus asked about the budget items for trophies and Vakaros, which were both at the end of 2025.

Wall calendars – eight months to fill! Chris Fischer, Chris Holmes and Fleet 71 committed here and Jasper via e-mail.

5. **Committee Updates** – Kelly is working with a social media team on highlighting summer activities, District spotlights, Nationals, youth updates, etc. The goal is quarterly timing. Send your photos to Kelly!

The Championship Committee is happy to see the 2027 calendar set (details below). Thank you Marcus for all the communications and to all our hosts! Further updates for 2028 are listed below, and looking forward to setting the future schedule.

For 2027, Corinthian Nationals was not included in the calendar due to Worlds in the USA and other major Championships. Corinthian Divisions will be included and awarded at various events. Let's discuss the long-term plan for Corinthian Nationals.

6. **Championship Updates/Planning** –

--2026 US National Championship, Portland Yacht Services, Falmouth, ME, September 9-13

--2026 North American Championship, Port Credit YC, Mississauga, ON Canada, September 30-October 4

--2026 World Championship, Sandringham YC, Melbourne, Australia, November 9-16

--2027 Midwinter Championship, Houston YC, La Porte, TX, March 10-14

--2027 North American Championship, Seawanhaka Corinthian YC, Oyster Bay, NY, May 20-23

--2027 National Championship, Southwestern YC, San Diego, CA, September 8-10

--2027 World Championship, Rochester YC, Rochester, NY, October 2-9: Lee Ann said that their focus is on sponsorship. The large/mega sponsors have been a challenge. RYC is looking to buy bots, and Vakaros will be used. Chris H. circulated the expanded qualification process, which will be an addendum to the Worlds NOR. Judges, PRO (Mark Foster) and Technical team are being finalized. Let's ramp up the promotion in the US. Joe noted previous sponsor success with hospital systems.

2028 Potential Hosts

--Midwinters - Sarasota, Columbia, Davis Island

--North Americans - Newport (in discussion with Sail Newport), Corpus Christi (proposal received)

--Nationals – Hampton VA (new proposal received), Fort Worth, Milwaukee

--Corinthian Nationals?

(Note the Worlds is scheduled in Italy but dates have not been confirmed.)

2029 Potential Hosts

--Midwinters - Miami, Jacksonville, Davis Island

--North Americans - Corpus Christi

--Nationals & Corinthian Nationals – TBD

--For 2029, the IJCA is seeking a World Championship proposal from North America.

Chris shared information from J/Boats that they would support the 2028 NAC and 2029 Worlds in Newport (Worlds approval is at the IJCA level) to celebrate the 50th anniversaries of the Championships. There's a lot of excitement for this!

7. **Youth Program Update** –

Alex Tooker - *Forward Pressure Racing* - District 7 Upstate NY Mentor Kirk Reynolds: participating in the District Series, very enthusiastic, learning a lot.

Piper Easton - *Saltine & Pringle* - District 19 Portland, OR - Mentor Keith Whittemore: both boats are used actively.

Elliott Gear - *Tasmanian Devil* - District 1 Casco Bay, ME - Mentor Carter White: fourth place in the local series, excited for Nationals and maybe ECC.

8. **Technical Report** – Finn and the Nationals Committee, with Stephanie Helms as their Class Measurer, will be doing spot checks with a primary focus on optional equipment.

The International Technical Committee has drafted the following proposals to be voted on at the World Council Meeting and pending World Sailing approval.

Proposal #1:

Moving C.5.1(a)(6) for the water-resistant flashlight as required equipment while racing to C.5.2(a)(xx) optional equipment.

Proposal #2:

B3. DOCUMENTATION TO BE CARRIED ABOARD WHILE RACING

B.3.1. The boat's current Measurement Certificate.

New:

B.3 Documentation to Be Carried Aboard While Racing

B.3.1. The boat's current Measurement Certificate shall be carried aboard while racing. The Measurement Certificate may be carried either as hard copy or in a digital format that is readily accessible on board. The boat's current Inventory List shall be carried aboard in hard copy.

Proposal #3:

C.5.1 MANDATORY

(2) One anchor with optional chain. The anchor and its chain shall weigh not less than 6kg ~~not more than 12kg....~~

C.5.2 OPTIONAL

(7) A maximum of four berth cushions ~~with a maximum total weight of 21kg.~~

(8) A companionway step box or ice box located but not attached between the bunks on the cabin ~~sole with an empty weight no more than 14kg.~~

(9) Separate containers ~~with no more than 10 litres~~ of drinking water.

(10) A maximum of one battery capable of powering the electronic devices on board that do not have their own power supply. Battery ~~shall not weigh more than 25kg~~ and shall be secured against movement in the event of capsize.

Proposal #4:

C.7.3(a)(17)

Notwithstanding C.5.2(a)(8), a fixed companionway step box may be installed and securely fastened to the boat with metallic fasteners. The maximum weight shall be 14 kg. The weight of the fixed companionway step box shall be included in the 1270 kg Dry Weight. The step box shall be removable for weighing.

This makes it explicitly clear that C.7.3(a)(17) provides an alternative to C.5.2(a)(8) and does not override or conflict with the existing “not attached” wording in C.5.2(a)(8).

The ITC and sailmakers are demoing sail material for genoas in regard to an effort to save costs.

Rick passed along feedback about consideration of a crew weight change, similar to more modern one-design Classes. He is interested in formalizing the request for the Technical Committee.

9. **New Business** – There were some emails about the terms of the Executive Committee, which is two years (meaning no change at this year's AGM).

Kelly submitted a proposal to support the Under 30 teams at J/24 Nationals from the

Championship Committee. Key Info:

- Entry fee is \$500, and regatta dinner tickets add another \$250, for a total cost of \$750
- We have previously discussed the USJCA providing funds for media support for Nationals.
- Nationals has now found a media person at no cost, so these funds are not needed.
- There are four youth teams attending J/24 Nationals.

Reasoning for Proposal:

- Two youth teams for 2026 have backed out of the grant program, so a total of \$2000 earmarked funds are not being spent this year.
- This is an expensive regatta, particularly for younger teams who are still building their programs. Earmarking our regatta funding to directly support these teams accomplishes multiple goals of the USJCA.
- While this is not a specific line item in our 2026 budget, we have significant funding in the bank and we are merely shifting \$1000 from one of the youth teams that backed out and re-distributing among four Under 30 teams.

Proposal:

The USJCA will provide funds to cover half of the entry fee (\$250/team) for the four Under 30 teams attending J/24 Nationals.

Total Cost: \$1000

Not all of the teams are within the USJCA Youth Program 2026, but Elliott is.

Joe made a motion to accept the proposal as stated, seconded by Chris F. The motion passed, with one opposed.

Kelly and Rick have been researching ideas for a marketing/social media professional. We should decide whether the focus is event-specific or more of a monthly retainer or a combination of both. The best in the business are booked years in advance. Some initial numbers are in the range of \$1,000/month at 2-3 posts per week. Full-day event coverage would be budgeted separately as OA funds allow. There's a lot of potential here with drones, etc. Chris H. shared social media activity trends, highlighting the value of event posts, showing that the Class is vibrant (lots of boats, lots of happy people!). Many Classes are partnering with OAs to share 24media costs. Lee Ann has talked with Tim Wilkes about the 2027 Worlds and will also discuss the bigger vision. More information to come. Alan shared some success with grassroots promotion locally by growing excitement and involving younger sailors.

10. **Next Meeting** – AGM on Monday, December 14 @ 7:00 p.m. EST

Action Items:

- Kelly and Julie will send an e-newsletter.
- The USJCA will issue \$1,000 toward the youth teams at Nationals.

Next Meeting: AGM on Monday, December 14 @ 7:00 p.m. EST