



Windsurfer Class Association of Australia (WCAA)
 Unit 3, 13 Dymrna Street, Dee Why, NSW 2099, Australia

Discussion Paper – Future Class Structure

Over recent months the WCAA committee has held discussions about planning for the future of the Association. The various committees since 2018 have done a fantastic job since the introduction of the LT to reboot the Class. Without question we are one of the most active, dynamic, fast growing, and successful classes in sailing in Australia and around the world.

Summary

- The Class has grown markedly in recent years and there is an opportunity to enhance opportunities for sponsorship, government grants and direct affiliation to Australian Sailing by moving to a more formal legal structure.
- The current committee has undertaken an extensive review and consultation with key stakeholders. It is recommending to members to support a transition to an Incorporated Association to be completed by December 2023.

Background and Current situation

The Windsurfer Class Association of Australia (WCAA) was established in 1977. At its height it had 3,000+ members per year. We are at 335, up from 77 in 2018!! As the Class numbers declined in the 2000's thanks to Greg Johns support and the efforts of a small hardcore crew of volunteers the Windsurfer Class of Association of Australia survived.

During this period the Class transitioned to its current arrangement as a non-incorporated organisation that is an affiliated sub-body of Windsurfing New South Wales Inc. (which is an incorporated association).

This then rolls up into the Australian Windsurfing Association Inc. (AWA) which is the peak body for all sailboard classes (us as well as IQ foil, Techno, Raceboard) in Australia and is the representative to Australian Sailing. AWA provides our 3rd party insurance which is a tailored policy for windsurfing and is a highly cost effective coverage.

The WCAA is the recognised National Class Association (NCA) for Australia for the International Windsurfer Class Association (IWCA). Peter Monkhouse is the current Vice President of the IWCA.

Locally we have a National Executive supported by State Reps. The idea being to have minimal bureaucracy and maximum flexibility at a local level.



Future considerations

With the growth of the Class there have been suggestions that we should consider becoming an incorporated association in our own right.

This is common for most sailing classes and is a formal legal entity that affords benefits including having the ability to apply directly for grants in our own name, being able to directly affiliate with Australian Sailing and legal protections (even though we have these through AWA).



It also provides a framework for the ongoing management of the Class through standard rules and a constitution. There is some extra paperwork but most of the requirements we do already such as elections, AGM, account keeping and so on. The cost to establish is less than \$500 and ongoing around \$200.

One barrier to moving on this has been that we may lose the AWA insurance cover which would potentially mean a much higher cost if we had to go alone. The AWA has advised that that we can stay part of the program if we were to undertake the transition and the Class can maintain its connection to the AWA through its current alignment with WNSW.

Review and Recommendation

After a review of the current arrangements and various discussions about current performance the full WCAA committee has unanimously:

1. agreed to **recommend to members to move towards becoming an incorporated association in its own right.**

This transition is planned to occur over the next months to align with the upcoming election/committee cycle in late June 2023 to be effective by December 2023. It has been agreed that the jurisdiction will be New South Wales.

In discussions with the Australian Windsurfing Association we will still maintain our direct affiliation to them and crucially, continue to receive coverage under their TPL insurance policy for members.

2. affirmed that the current Class structure consisting of a National Executive, supported by State Representatives is an efficient, effective and flexible arrangement that is appropriate for the current size of the Class and the nuances of local situations.
3. that based on point 2.) above, there is no perceived or actual benefit, or desire to establish State based associations at this time.

Members will be asked to vote on their agreement to proceed with incorporation as part of the 2023/23 Committee Election process.

The Committee asks any member who would like to provide feedback to do so in writing [here](#). Please provide this by June 22, 2023.

Regards,

WCAA Committee
June 2023

President: Nick Bez
Secretary: Jim Kariotis
Treasurer: Paul Grimshaw
VIC State Rep: Justin Page
QLD State Rep: Josh Green
SA State Rep: Tim Lelliott
ACT State Rep: Mark Simpson
TAS State Rep: Tim Bannerman
WA State Rep: Peter Holton
NSW Reps: Al Haynes, Peter Doolan, Scotty O'Connor