

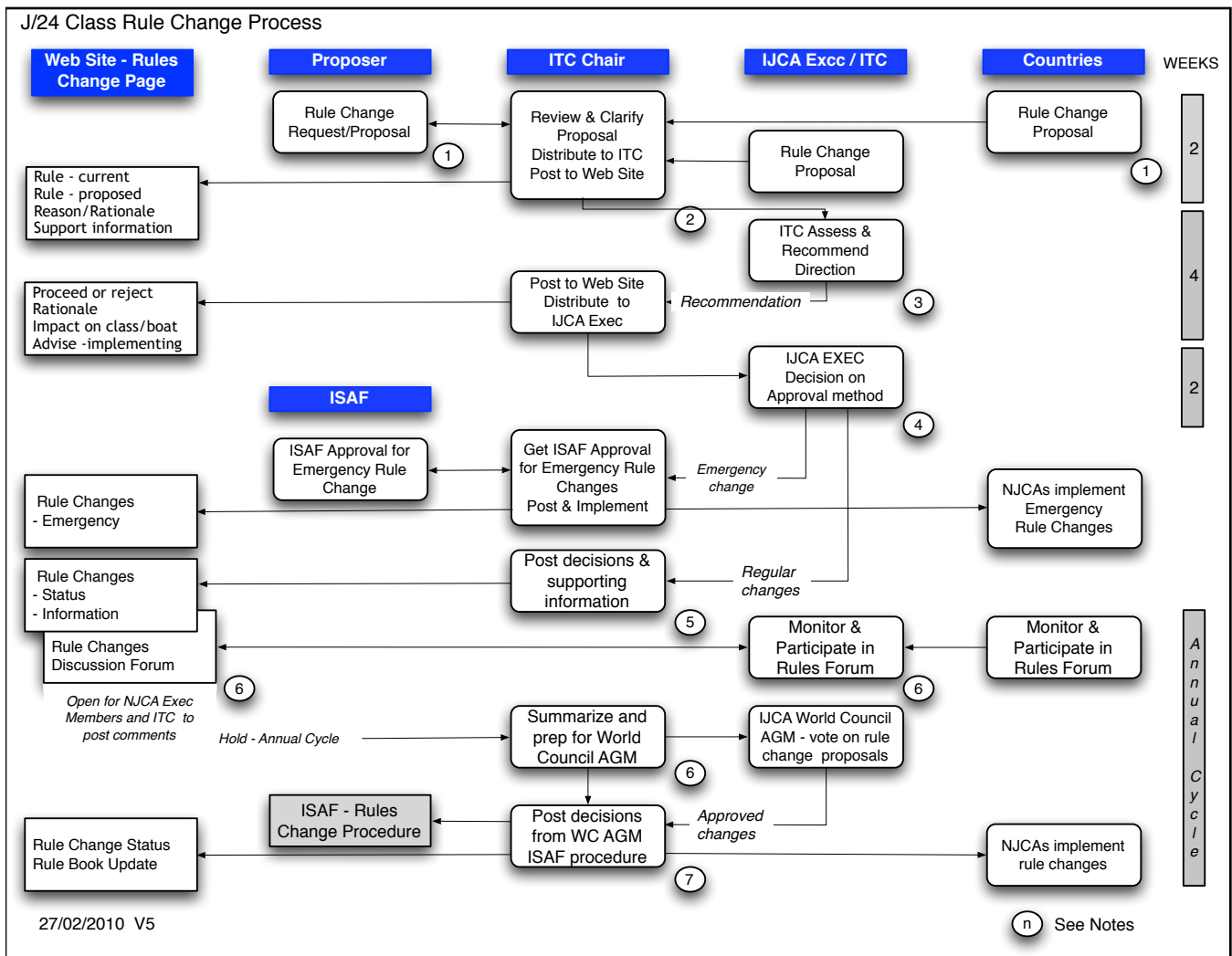
J/24 Class Rule Change Process

Introduction - It is suggested that you review the *Objectives of the Class Rules* in Section 1 of the current rule book, Section 10 of the IJCA Constitution at the back of the current rule book, and the IJCA Bylaws to understand the formal foundation for the process..

The process is highly influenced by the requirement for the International Sailing Federation (ISAF) to approve rule changes for all international classes. As an International Class, J/24 class rule changes require ISAF approval before implementing.

Some history - following the massive rule changes of the late 1980's, the IJCA World Council mandated that after 1990, the class rules could only be changed every two years. The class process was tied to the annual process used by ISAF for consideration of rule change proposals from International Classes, and served to reduce the rate of change in class rules. More recently, the IJCA has been dealing with a smaller number of rule change proposals annually and ISAF has changed to dealing with proposal submissions at any time throughout the year.

The process used by the class is shown in the diagram below.



The rule change process is intended to be open and visible to all class members. This includes:

- the process itself
- time frames for the various steps in processing rule change proposals
- the actual rule change proposals
- their status and disposition

This will be accomplished through the use of the IJCA web site and a forum capability that will allow members to both comment and follow the comments of others. This is intended to provide an avenue for active participation by class members and open communication with the ITC throughout considering a proposed rule change. The Technical committee in the end is responsible for making recommendations to the IJCA Executive Committee and World Council regarding Class Rules, Building Specifications and Measurements.

The intention of class rule changes is to

1. Strengthen and preserve the one design nature of the class
2. Introduce new technologies where there is a demonstrable benefit to the class
3. Close gaps in the class rules and/or measurement process to eliminate deviations from the design intent of the boat
4. Adapt the boat to reflect evolving usage patterns and practices

Proposals that reflect these intentions typically receive broader support both by the ITC and within the general membership. An important factor in considering any change is an assessment the impact the proposed change would have on the class. For example, a change that would require all boats to be remeasured would have to have overwhelming benefits to receive much support. Similarly, changes requiring large expenditures for members to remain competitive would meet the same test. The ITC considers these factors when initially considering a change proposal and the amount and nature of investigation to undertake in evaluating a proposal.

Notes on Diagram

1. The Proposer can be any class member or a builder. The rule change request/proposal shall be submitted to the ITC Chair via e-mail (lor nec@me.com) in the following format:
 - Description of the proposed change
 - Reason/rationale for the change
 - Supporting information and analysis
 - The current class rule number and text of the rule to be changed
 - Proposed new or altered text
2. The ITC Chair will acknowledge receipt of the proposal, and clarify if necessary. The proposal will then be distributed to the Technical Committee, and posted on the IJCA Web site Rules Change status page. (The distribution and web site posting should take no longer than two weeks elapsed time.)
3. The ITC will discuss and assess the rule change proposal. When the ITC reaches consensus, the following will be posted on the IJCA Web site:
 - Recommendation to proceed or reject the rule change proposal
 - Provide rationale for the recommendation
 - Describe the impact on the class and boat of the rule proposal
 - Advice concerning implementation
4. If the ITC recommends to proceed with the proposed rule change, the IJCA Executive Committee must also approve the proposal before it is put to the general membership for vote. Any change to the Class Rules requires a simple majority of the voting members present at the next IJCA World Council AGM.

Historically, there have been a few cases where an emergency rule change was necessary (during the two year no change' period). In those instances, the ITC drafted the proposed change and submitted it to the IJCA EC for approval. After approval, it was then submitted to the ISAF as an Emergency Rule Change. Thus far, the ISAF has recognized the need for the immediate change, and granted our requests.

There may be other cases where there is a recommendation to try an experimental change in one or more countries. The ITC may recommend to the IJCA Executive Committee to allow, and/or support the experiment in order to gather sufficient data to make a recommendation for a permanent change, occurring through the regular cycle.

5. The decision of the Executive Committee will be posted to the IJCA Web site *Rules Change Status* page. Rule changes will accumulate at this point in the process, pending approval at the next IJCA WC AGM.
6. Rule change proposals will then be posted to the IJCA web site *Rules Change Forum* for open discussion by members and class executives. The posting should include the summary of the recommendations and impact assessments by the ITC to inform members as fully as possible about the proposed rule changes. ITC members should monitor the on line Forum discussion and contribute where they can to aid in the understanding of the proposed rule change.

Prior to the WC AGM, the ITC Chair will summarize the consensus of the Technical Committee on the key points from the forum discussion for inclusion on the WC AGM agenda.

7. The IJCA Web site Rules Change status page should be updated by the ITC Chair with the rule change decisions from the IJCA World Council AGM.

Note: Paragraph 13.3 of the Constitution prescribes two methods of approval for rule changes. Historically, the only method used has been that described in paragraph 13.3.1. Therefore, it is suggested that we continue the established procedure for simplicity.