

8th October 2026

Dear Council members

We are writing to update you on a few matters concerning the IFA, the Executive and our incorporation arrangements.

Vice President Masters

Following some communication from members, we became aware that Andy Denison's tenure on the IFA Executive had exceeded the limits permitted under the Constitution.

As some of you will recall, a constitutional change passed in 2022 introduced a maximum period of eight years continuous service as a President or Vice President. Andy has served for approximately 13 years and, on that basis, is no longer eligible to continue as a member of the IFA Executive.

Following discussions with the Masters Committee, we have agreed that Andreas Bollongino will act as Interim VP Masters until the Masters meeting in Forio d'Ischia, when there will be a democratic election for a new Masters President who is eligible to serve on the IFA Executive. In the meantime, Andy will remain as Masters President.

It is an unusual arrangement, but we think it is a sensible one. It allows an orderly transition, provides some continuity for the Masters and, importantly, brings the IFA Executive back into compliance with the Constitution.

It goes without saying that we are all very grateful to Andy for his many years of service to both the IFA and the Masters community. Thirteen years is a significant commitment to the Class and we thank him for that contribution and wish him well for the future.

IFA Incorporation and Insurance

For those who pay close attention to these things, you may be aware that the IFA is incorporated in Victoria, Australia.

This was done a long time ago, largely because Australia offered a relatively simple and low-cost incorporation and compliance regime. At the time it made good sense. Times have changed.

As our sport has developed, issues such as public liability, event responsibility and the consequences of operating in an increasingly litigious environment have become much more important.

One of the immediate issues for us is public liability insurance.

International Finn Association Inc,

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The IFA is a promoter of our major events and, in the recent past, has also found itself described as a “Co-Organising Authority” for some events. We are struggling to find appropriate European public liability cover for these activities while the IFA remains solely incorporated in Australia.

In short, the advice we have received is that unless we are incorporated in Europe or the United Kingdom, we cannot obtain the European PL cover we need.

We are currently looking at how best to deal with this and will keep you informed.

In the meantime, there is an important point for all NFAs.

If your NFA finds itself named as a “Co-Organising Authority”, “Co-Organiser” or similar in a Notice of Race, Sailing Instructions or other event documentation, our advisers have been very clear that appropriate public liability cover and other executive safeguards need to be in place.

I would therefore strongly encourage every NFA Secretary to satisfy themselves as to their own insurance position and, importantly, to understand what you are accepting if your NFA is named as a co-organiser of an event.

We will be doing exactly the same at IFA level.

Finally, back to sailing.

Congratulations to Bas de Waal on winning the Finn Grand Slam.

I am sure we all shared some level of envy looking at the spectacular images coming out of Garda last week. What a spectacle and what a great advertisement for the Finn.

Overall, the Grand Slam has been a great success, with more than 400 sailors from 25 countries taking part. That is a great result for the Class.

For those heading to Mar Menor, we wish you good winds, good racing and plenty of Finn fun.

I’ll see many of you back on the water next year and look forward to joining in the fun myself.

Best wishes,

Rob McMillan

President

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