



**6.50**  
classe mini

**2021**

**press dossier**



# What a class!

Classe Mini is an association affiliated with the French Sailing Federation.

Made of more than 300 membres from all socio-professional and geographical backgrounds, 11 elected directors, 1 deputy director, 1 class measurer, 2 employees, Class Mini brings together all offshore skippers sailing on Mini 6,50.

It manages and coordinates a circuit made up in 2021 of 15 national and international events.

Issued from Voiles 6.50, first organization that managed both skippers and Mini-Transat, Classe Mini was born on April, 25 1994, thus separating the races organization and the sportive management. That same year, Italian skippers also creat their own class.

The association is run by a board of directors which is renewed for hal each year during the General Assembly, usually during Paris Boat show. Made of 11 volunteers, all skippers- former or current- its role is to run the association and develop it while preserving its fundamental values.

Current Classe Mini president is Jean LORRE, elected in January 2021.

## Composition of the 2021 Board of Directors:

- Jean LORRE (President), 26 years, sailor
- Amélie GRASSI (vice-presidente), 27 years, sailor
- Frédéric MOREAU (secretary), 52 years, business executive
- Pierre MOIZAN (deputy secretary), 37 years, development engineer
- Antoine PERRIN (treasurer), 35 years, category manager
- Djemila TASSIN (deputy treasurer), 26 years, sailor
- Julien LETISSIER (HR), 30 years, naval preparator
- Franck COLIN, 56 years, preparator-skipper
- Patrick JAFFRE, 41 years, marine electrician, composite
- Vincent LANCIEU, 31 years, taeronautics technician
- Simon TRANVOUEZ, 32 years, électronician

*Deputy : Marie GENDRON, 29 years, Composite structures engineer*



## A little of history...

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- 1977** 24 skippers leave English harbour of Penzance, heading for Antigua via Tenerife in the Canaries: THE Mini-Transat, initiated by an English journalist, Bob SALMON was born.
- 1985** the Mini-Transat leaves from and arrives in France, from Brest to Point-à-Pitre in Guadeloupe. Voile 6,50 association is created, it manages class rules, organizes the Mini-Transat and the Mini-Fastnet, new annual race going back and forth between Brittany and the Irish lighthouse.
- 1986** at the initiative of Port Bourgenay, a new race appear, the Transgascogne a two-leg race back and forth between the Vendéen harbour and the northern Spanish coast. After two consecutive editions, it has been held every two years since 1987.
- 1994** Voiles 6,50 is replaced with two structures, «Cap Transat» organizes the Mini-Transat and the Mini-Fastnet when «Classe Mini» manages the rules.
- 1998** Cap transat no longer wishes to organize the Mini-Transat, Classe Mini decides to set up a call for tenders to entrust its flagship event to a new organizer.
- 2000** qualification process for the Mini-Transat is hardened and now includes a minimum of 1,000 nm in races. New races emerge to allow competitors to accumulate these nm, the mini circuit was born.
- 2001** after twelve editions to the Caribbean, the Mini-Transat crosses the equator for the first time, heading for Salvador de Bahia in Brazil where it will be hosted until 2011.
- 2006** first edition of Les Sables - Les Açores - Les Açores, single handed. Race that has become «a classic» in the years without Mini-Transat.
- 2011** races are full, 79 skippers set off for the 18<sup>th</sup> Mini-Transat from La Rochelle to join Salvador de Bahia. In December 2021, Classe Mini entrusts the organization of next two editions of the Mini-Transat, 2013 and 2015 to Douarnenez Courses.
- 2012** French Sailing Federation and Classe Mini create the first French Championship, the Championnat de France de voile «classiques» Tour Mini 6,50 en solitaire, now called the Championnat de France Course au Large en solitaire - Mini 6,50.
- 2013** year of changes and back to the origins. A new course for the Mini-Transat, from Douarnenez to Pointe-à-Pitre via a stopover in Lanzarote in the Canaries.
- 2017** after two editions from Douarnenez, the Mini-Transat comes back to La Rochelle for two editions, heading to Le Marin via Las Palmas de Gran Canarias.
- 2021** for the first time in its history, the Mini-Transat starts from Les Sables d'Olonne, city of Offshore sailing single-handed for three editions.



Classe mini is one of the most international offshore racing class which gathers the largest number of skip-pers and boats on the same starting line.

**460** members  
**22** nationalities present (66% French)



**12 %** women



**256** boats memberships  
**22 %** proto / **78 %** serie





# Classe mini in 2021

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## Classe mini / Covid

Hard to talk about the last two seasons without mentioning the pandemic affecting all of us! So, of course, Classe mini was affected, but thanks to the invaluable support of FFVoile, our organizers and their partners, as well as the respect of demanding health protocols on the part of all, we were able to offer a more than consistent calendar in 2020 and a «norma» one in 2021.

- a disrupted **2020** season
  - . **5** canceled races
  - . **12** races offered between August 1 and November 8 (7 in Mediterranean, 5 in Atlantic)
  - . **295** skippers
- **2021** season key word: health protocol!
  - . **Closed to public** races
  - . **PCR** tests
  - . **Video-conférence** briefings



## The circuit

- **5000** cumulative nm in races proposed on the official calendar (excluding the Mini-Transat).
  - **640** places minimum proposed on official races (excluding the Mini-Transat).
    - . average participation rate in the Mediterranean: 33%
    - . average participation rate in the Atlantic 99%
  - **16** events in Atlantic and Mediterranean (1 cancelled).
  - **13** starting harbours.
    - . **Mini Golfe**. La Grande Motte. 100nm single handed race (cancelled)
    - . **Arcipelago 6,50**. Punta Ala (Italy). 180 nm double handed race
    - . **Mini Petrolera**. Garraf (Spain). 100 nm single handed race
    - . **Regata Base Mini Fnob**. Barcelona (Spain). 420 nm double handed race
    - . **Gran Premio d'Italia**. Genoa (Italy). 540 nm double handed race
    - . **Plastimo Lorient Mini**. Lorient. 250 nm double handed race
    - . **222 mini solo**. Genoa (Italy). 150 nm single handed race
    - . **Pornichet Sélect**. Pornichet. 300 nm single handed race
    - . **Mini en Mai**. La Trinité sur Mer. 500 nm single handed race
    - . **Trophée Marie-Agnès Péron**. Douarnenez. 220 nm single handed race
    - . **Mini-Fastnet**. Douarnenez. 600 nm double handed race
    - . **Mini Calvados Cup 1**. Douarnenez-Deauville. 270 nm double handed race
    - . **Corsica Med**. Marseille. 500 nm single handed race
    - . **Mini Calvados Cup 2**. Deauville. 120 nm double handed race
    - . **Puru Challenge Race**. Port-Bourgenay - Getxo - Port Bourgenay. 620 nm single or double handed race
    - . **Mini-Transat**. Course en solitaire de 4050 milles.
  - **4** events registered in the Championnat de France Course au Large en Solitaire – Mini 6.50
  - **1** new course for the Mini-Transat : Les Sables d'Olonne - Santa Cruz de la Palma (Canaries) - Saint François (Guadeloupe).
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Everyone will tell you that the Classe Mini strenght lies above all in its spirit. But what is the «Esprit Mini»? Answers from skippers....

« It's a damn strong cocktail of competitive spirit, mutual aid, sharing and mostly adventure. »

« Esprit mini is a real family goint on a great adventure together »

« The essential! »

« It is mutual aid, sharing and the common adventure.»



« When you are a rookie, it is the helping hand of the alumni, when you become an alumni, it is the herlp that you can give to the orrkies, the Esprit Mini makes the projects better and makes friends for life ... »



« Free spirit! »

« Some money, lot of desire. »

« Battle at sea, mutual aid on shore. »



« It is the diversity of men and boats, it is also the promotion of offshore racing fundamentals. »

« Be there until the last and applaud him/her for his/her tenacity. »



*Antoine GRAU, Patrick BENOITON, Sébastien PÉBELIER, Richard MÉRIGEUX, Lucas MONTAGNE, Renaud MARY et Denis HUGUES (7 of the 13 Classe Mini presidents for the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the association)*

# An absence of communication that makes people talk

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Because a mini race is for yourself rather than against others.

No phone, no transmission of sounds or images, except for the communication with support boats (when possible). This is the Mini.

And Classe Mini does not waver. Without going against the evolution or remaining in the tradition, racing without means of communication is above all a race for oneself.

To understand this Classe Mini choice, one must first understand how Minis sail.



*Mini ritual. Handing over phones upon signing in*

With video transmissions, emails and sat phone, the skipper is no longer the sole decision-maker of his/her choices. He/she is just no longer alone. «Routing» or external help with navigation choices is not authorized. Lack of communication allows each skipper to draw deep within themselves the necessary resources to move forward, not to let go, to believe that their choices are the right ones and to always wonder what the others are doing...

In 2018, International rules of Offshore sailing require sat phones for the Transat. Classe Mini reacts quickly and, thanks to the support of its «elders» convinces the French Sailing Federation that it is possible to cross the Atlantic safely without a phone.

In our too noisy world, let's enjoy the magic of silence.

Yes, mini races are magic.





Titles of **Champions de France Course en Large en Solitaire - Mini 6,50** are annually awarded by the French Sailing Federation to one skipper in prototype and one in production boat for his/her participation and performance on the annual circuit of single handed events determined by the FFVoile and Classe Mini.

Defending champions are **Irina Gracheva** in prototype and **Léo Debiesse** in production boat.



In **2021**, Championship circuit covers 4 events of the calendar:

- Pornichet Sélect 6,50 (Coefficient 2)
- Mini en Mai (Coefficient 3)
- Trophée Marie-Agnès Péron (Coefficient 2)
- Mini-Transat (Coefficients 1 for each leg, 3 for general ranking)

Skippers who have obtained the smallest number of points totaling their scores in the above events are declared as «Proto» and «Series» Champions de France.

At the end of 3 of the 4 events, **122** skippers are classified (23 in prototypes, 99 in series).

2021 provisional rankings are:

#### Prototypes

- 1 - Sébastien PÉBELIER (16 points)
- 2 - Pierre LE ROY (19 points)
- 3 - Tanguy BOURULLEC (49 points)

#### Series

- 1 - Hugo DHALLENNE (9 points)
- 2 - Léo DEBIESSÉ (27 points)
- 3 - Romain LE GALL (39 points)

Championnat de France Course au Large en Solitaire - Mini,50 award ceremony should take place at the Paris Nautic in Decembre 2021, after the Mini-Transat arrival in Guadeloupe.

Complete provisional rankings are visible on the Classe Mini website

[Protos](#)  
[Series](#)

Classe mini asset comes from its diversity and its openness to innovation.

Diversity in the skippers' profile but also in the possible performances of the boats.

With more and more efficient boats arriving on the mini circuit, it becomes difficult for some boats to access remarkable places regardless of the skills of their skipper.

That is why, in 2021, Classe mini wished to set up a new award, making it possible to highlight the remarkable performance of the **skippers**.

So now, series and proto race winners award the « good perf » to those whom they find **most deserving during the race**. Award is officially presented on the podium during the award ceremony.

Winners stick the «good perf» sticker on hi mast, signifying his/her remarkable performance.



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### Plastimo Lorient Mini

Proto : Paul GAUCHET/Jean Lorre (709)  
Serie : Pierre et Paul MEILHAT (485)

### Pornichet Sélect 6,50

Proto : Lucas VALENZA-TROUBAT (606)  
Serie : Antoine RHINO (825)

### Mini en Mai

Proto : Tim DARNI (432)  
Serie : Lilian GEOLLE (616)

### Trophée Marie Agnès Péron

Proto : Jordan DELRIEU (741)  
Serie : Carlos MANERA (807)

### Mini-Fastnet

Proto : Franck LAUVRAY/Annabelle MOREAU (346)  
Serie : Antoine BOS / Matthieu PERRAUT (825)

### Mini Calvados Cup 1

Proto : Camille BERTEL / Hélène CLOUET (900)  
Serie : Pierre MEILHAT / Antoine RUNET (485)

### Mini Calvados Cup 2

Proto : Thomas GRANDIN / Bruno GALLARDO (138)  
Serie : Victor MATHIEU / Bogdan GRIGORESCU (481)

### Puru Challenge Race

Proto solo : Camille BERTEL (900)  
Proto double : Benoît ALT/Alexandre GIOVANNINI (716)  
Serie solo : Carlos MANERA (807)  
Serie double : Jérôme MERKER / Antoine RUNET (857)

## 86 «Born in mini» competitors in 2021!

They wore off they sailing gear on minis before shining in other Offshore racing classes this year!



- Ambrogio BECCARIA
- Alberto BONA
- Damien CLOAREC
- Pep COSTA
- Tom DOLAN
- Violette DORANGE
- Corentin DOUGUET
- Frédéric DUTHIL
- Ronan GABRIEL
- Jonas GERCKENS
- Estelle GRECK
- Adrien HARDY
- Erwan LE DRAOULEC
- Tanguy LE TURQUAIS
- Henri LEMENICIER
- Xavier MACAIRE
- Robin MARAIS
- Benoît MARIETTE
- Sébastien MARSSET
- Luce MOLINER
- Julien PULVÉ



- Frédéric DUTHIL
- Erwan LE ROUX
- Sébastien ROGUES
- Lalou ROUCAYROL
- Quentin VLAMYNCK



- Jean-Pierre BALMES
- Anne BEAUGÉ
- Ambrogio BECCARIA
- Luke BERRY
- Kevin BLOCH
- Pierre CASENAVE-PÉRE
- Scott CAVANOUGH
- Matthieu CLAVEAU
- Jean-Baptiste DARAMY
- Frédéric DENIS
- Nicolas D'ESTAIS
- Aurélien DUCROZ
- Ysbrand ENDT
- Christophe FIALON
- Andrea FORNARO
- Gwénoé GAHINET
- Valentin GAUTHIER
- Amélie GRASSI
- Benoît HANTZPERG
- François JAMBOU
- Rolland JOURDAIN
- Simon KOSTER
- Erwan LE DRAOULEC
- Benoît LEQUIN
- Didier LEVOURCH
- Ian LIPINSKI
- Samuel MANUARD
- Mikaël MERGUI
- Mathieu PERRAUT
- Kéni PIPEROL
- Sylvain PONTU
- Julien PULVÉ
- Alan ROURA
- David SINEAU
- Brian THOMPSON
- Stanislas THURET
- Axel TRÉHIN



- Romain ATTANASIO
- Alexia BARRIER
- Davy BEAUDART
- Yannick BESTAVEN
- Arnaud BOISSIÈRES
- Antoine CORNIC
- Didac COSTA
- Clarisse CRÉMER
- Charlie DALIN
- Samantha DAVIES
- Louis DUC
- Clément GIRAUD
- Pip HARE
- Boris HERRMAN
- Ari HUUSELA
- Isabelle JOSCHKE
- Sébastien JOSSE
- Rolland JOURDAIN
- Stéphane LE DIRAISON
- Sébastien MARSSET
- Justine METTRAUX
- Giancarlo PEDOTE
- Joerg RIECHERS
- Alan ROURA
- Thomas RUYANT
- Armel TRIPON
- Denis VAN WEYENBERG



- Thomas COVILLE
- Yves LE BLEVEC
- Anthony MARCHAND



## Small offshore sailing boats

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At 6,50 meters long, minis are the smallest sailing boats to face the open sea when racing. Each race proposes two categories and two separate classifications.



### Prototypes

Custom and individually made, prototypes are very often the brainchild of a curious architect. Building a Classe Mini prototype is ideal to develop and test designs that are more different than each other.

Bowsprit, canting keel, asymmetric daggerboards... details that are increasingly becoming the object of envy.

### Production boats

Unlike prototypes, production boats must remain a sailing boat simple to produce, operate, prepare and maintain.

A mini is considered to be «serie» when 10 identical boats are built in the same yard and meet the Classe mini «production boats mini rules».

To date, 17 series are recognized by Classe mini and 1 is in the process of ratification.



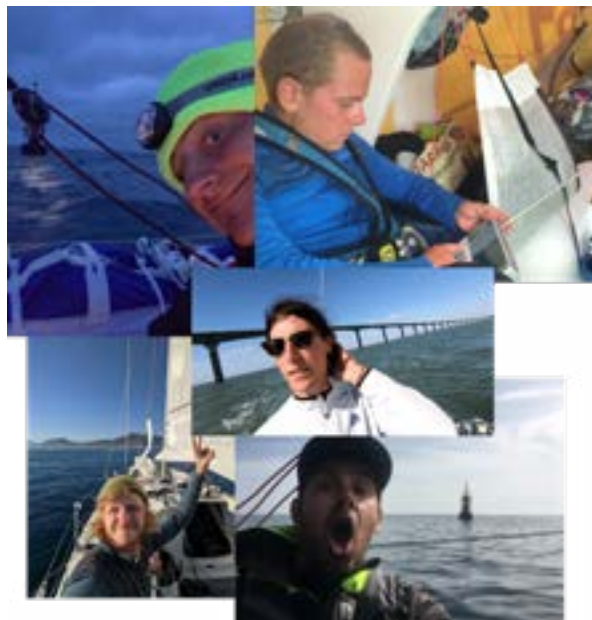
To take the start of a major offshore single-handed race, called A race (Mini-Transat and Les Sables – Les Açores – Les Sables), the boat/skipper pair must have completed demanding qualifications:

At its simplest...

The « qualif » consists of a 1000 nm single handed course and a minimum of nm accumulated in official races.

- **1 000 nm single handed course** : on a course imposed by Classe mini and in the boat registered in **THE** race he/she is qualifying for.
- **Nm in races** : 1500 for the Mini-Transat, 800 for les Sables-Les Açores-Les Sables, over a minimum of 2 races, less than 5 years old, with at least one 500nm leg or more and a single-handed race on the boat registered in **THE** race.

This system is a model of rigor and accountability of sailors. Today the single-handed course is an inseparable attribute of the Classe mini attribute.



### D.C.Q. (Derogation to the Qualification Calendar)

#### A little help for the international

It certainly is more difficult, for a resident in a country outside the European continent, to qualify under the same conditions as their friends on site, without coming for 2 or 3 years on the mini circuit. To facilitate access to major races for our distant members, 6 places are reserved for them. Thanks to the DCQs, they can qualify (under the same conditions) without pressure. One project can be completed in one year. For the 2021 Mini-Transat, only one of the two candidates could qualify, the **Australian Christiaan Durrant**.

#### New generation, new boat...

Same logic for the «DCQ proto» which concerns the prototypes launched and measured for the first time in the year of the races for which skippers wish to qualify. 3 places are reserved for them on the entry list. Only one new prototype has entered this year, the new Raison design sailed by **Pierre Leroy (Teamwork - FRA 1019)**.



# Contact

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