

# SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

## US Etchells Class New England Championships Burlington, Vermont September 14-16, 2007

The organizing authorities for this regatta are the Lake Champlain Yacht Club and the U.S. Etchells Class Association. The hosts are the Lake Champlain Yacht Club, the Lake Champlain Community Sailing Center, and Etchells Fleet #25.

### 1. RULES

- 1.1 This regatta shall be governed by the 'rules' as defined by United States Sailing Association (USSA) Racing Rules of Sailing 2005-2008 (RRS), and the Rules of the International Etchells Class Association, except as any of these are modified by the Sailing Instructions and any amendments thereto. In the event of a conflict between the RRS and the Etchells Class Rules, the Etchells Class Rules shall prevail.
- 1.2 The regatta is an Etchells Class C sanctioned event.
- 1.3 All pertinent USSA prescriptions will apply.
- 1.4 Racing rules AP, A4, 35, A4.1, IECA OD rule 7.14 will be changed as follows:
  - .1 For AP signals made ashore, "1 minute" is replaced by "not less than 60 minutes" in the race signal AP
  - .2 A4 is changed to require that a boat starting more than 5 minutes after the starting signal be scored "DNS"
  - .3 RRS rules 35 and A4.1 are is changed to require that boats finishing more than 45 minutes after the first boat finishes be scored DNF.
  - .4 IECA OD rule 7.14 is changed to require that boats carry VHF radios.

### 2. NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

- 2.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the official Regatta Notice Board located on the first (1<sup>st</sup>) floor of the Burlington Boathouse

### 3. CHANGES TO THE SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 3.1 Any change to the Sailing Instructions will be posted before 1100 for Friday's races and 0800 for Saturday and Sunday's races, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 1800 on the day before it will take effect.

### 4. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 4.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed from the Race Committee boat.
- 4.2 When flag AP is displayed ashore, "1 minute" is replaced by "not less than 60 minutes" in the race signal AP. (This changes RRS Race Signal AP.)

## **5. SCHEDULE OF RACES**

### 5.1 Dates of racing:

- Friday, 14 September
  - 1200 ALL BOATS MUST BE IN THE WATER
  - 1030 Competitors' Meeting
  - 1200 Harbor Start
  - 1300 Warning signal for the first race; other races to follow
- Saturday, 15 September
  - 1000 Warning signal for first of additional races
- Sunday, 16 September
  - 1000 Warning signal for first of additional races
  - 1400 No warning signal will be made after this time

5.2 The Race Committee will attempt to run up to 3 races per day.

5.3 If the Race Committee intends to start another race, it will display code flag R (with no sound) while boats are finishing. The warning signal will follow one minute after code flag R is lowered with intermittent sounds. This changes RRS L12.3.

## **6. CLASS FLAG**

6.1 The class flag will be an Etchells Class Flag

## **7. RACING AREA**

7.1 The racing area will be on the broad part of Lake Champlain to the west of the Burlington breakwater.

## **8. THE COURSES**

8.1 Diagrams A and B show the courses, including the approximate angles between legs, the order in which the marks are to be passed, and the side on which each mark is to be left.

8.2 The approximate length of the course legs will be 1.5 to 2.0 miles, but may be shorter if conditions warrant.

8.3 No later than the warning signal the Race Committee boat will display the course ("A" or "B") and the approximate compass bearing of the first leg.

8.4 The Race Committee may shorten the course in accordance with RRS 32.

8.5 If the course is shortened so that the finish is to leeward, the Race Committee will set a finish line to leeward of the gate marks. In this situation, the gate marks will not be marks of the course for that leg. This changes rule 32.2c.

## **9. MARKS**

9.1 Marks 1, 2, 3S and 3P will be orange tetrahedrons.

9.2 New marks, as provided in instruction 13.1, will be repositioned orange tetrahedrons.

9.3 The starting and finishing line marks will be a staff bearing an orange flag on a committee boat and an orange tomato mark at the pin end.

## **10. AREAS THAT ARE OBSTRUCTIONS**

10.1 There are no areas that are designated as obstructions.

- 10.2 Lake Champlain has many underwater historic sites, some marked by round yellow buoys. Competitors are advised to keep a minimum distance of 300 feet from any boat with a "Diver Down" flag.

## **11. THE START**

- 11.1 Races will be started using RRS 26.
- 11.2 The starting line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the Race Committee boat and an orange tomato mark at the pin end.
- 11.3 The Race Committee boat may be protected by a nearby limit mark, which shall rank as a starting mark. Boats shall not pass between a limit mark and the nearby Race Committee boat when approaching the line to start. The area between the limit mark and the Race Committee boat does not rank as an obstruction for the purposes of RRS 18 & 19.
- 11.4 A boat starting more than 5 minutes after the starting signal will be scored "Did Not Start". This changes RRS A4.

## **12. RECALLS**

- 12.1 In the event of an individual recall, the sail numbers, bow numbers or identification of any boat or boats that are OCS may be announced on VHF channel 72. Failure of a boat to see or hear her recall notification, and the timing and order of such hails, or the length of time it takes to make a notification on the VHF radio will not be grounds for redress. This changes rule RRS 29.1 and 60.1(b) & IEC 11 K.

## **13. CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE**

- 13.1 To change the next leg of the course the Race Committee will move the original mark and offset, gates, or finishing line marks to a new position.
- 13.2 The Race Committee boat or mark boat that displays the Change-of-Course signal will also display a red flag or shape if the mark is shifted to the left of the original location when the leg is viewed from the mark where the Change-of-Course signal is made, or a green flag or shape if the mark is shifted to the right of the original location.

## **14. THE FINISH**

- 14.1 The finishing line will be between the finishing mark and an orange flag on either the Race Committee boat or on a mark boat displaying a blue flag or shape.
- 14.2 The leeward gate will not be used to finish a shortened race. This changes RRS 32.2(c).

## **15. PENALTY SYSTEM**

- 15.1 RRS 44 will apply.

## **16. TIME LIMITS**

- 16.1 The time limit shall be 2 hours for the first boat to finish. Boats failing to finish within 45 minutes after the first boat sails the course and finishes will be scored DNF. This change RRS 35 and A4.1

## **17. PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS**

- 17.1 Protest forms are available at the Race Committee boat. Protests shall be submitted to the PRO at the Race Committee boat within the protest time limit.

- 17.2 The protest filing time limit is 60 minutes after the Race Committee arrives at the dock as signaled by a sound and Race Committee flag on the Race Committee boat. This changes RRS 61.3.
- 17.3 Notices of protests by the Race Committee or protest committee will be posted to inform boats under RRS rule 61.1(b).
- 17.4 Notices will be posted within 30 minutes of the close of the protest filing time to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses. Hearings will be held in the jury room located at the committee boat, beginning as soon as possible after the end of the protest time limit.
- 17.5 For protests involving the rules of RRS Part 2, an arbitration hearing may be held prior to the protest hearing. When the decision of the arbitration jury is accepted by the infringing boat the penalty shall be a 40% penalty as calculated under RRS 44.3(c), and the protestor shall withdraw the protest. This changes RRS Part 5, Section B.

## **18. SCORING**

- 18.1 The Low Point Scoring System, RRS Appendix A, will apply.
- 18.2 Three races must be completed to constitute a series.
- 18.3 When fewer than four races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of all of her race scores.
- 18.4 When at least four (4) races are sailed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.
- 18.5 No more than one (1) race will be dropped, regardless of the number of races sailed.

## **19. SAFETY REGULATIONS**

- 19.1 Each boat shall check-in prior to the warning signal for her first race of the day by sailing on starboard tack close aboard the committee boat and hailing her sail/bow number until acknowledged by the committee.
- 19.2 A boat that retires from a race shall notify the Race Committee as soon as possible. The VHF radio, channel 72, may be used for this purpose.

## **20. REPLACEMENT OF CREW OR EQUIPMENT**

- 20.1 Substitution of competitors will not be allowed without prior written approval of the Organizing Authority.
- 20.2 Substitution of damaged or lost equipment will not be allowed unless approved by the Organizing Authority. Request for substitution shall be made to the OA at the first reasonable opportunity.

## **21. EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS**

- 21.1 A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the class rules and sailing instructions. On the water, a boat can be instructed by a Race Committee measurer to proceed immediately to a designate area for inspection.
- 21.2 Compliance with Crew Weight Limit (Class One Design Rule 7.1) will be verified by weighing participants and posting the total crew weight for each boat on the Official Notice Board before the first race.

## **22. OFFICIAL BOATS**

22.1 Race Committee Boat – white Albin 27, name “*J Dinse*”.

22.2 Mark Boats will fly a yellow flag.

22.3 Judges Boat will fly a purple flag.

22.4 The Race Committee may substitute official boats.

## **23. SUPPORT BOATS**

23.1 Team leaders, coaches and other support personnel shall stay at least 100 yards outside areas where boats are racing from the warning signal until all boats have finished or the Race Committee signals a postponement, general recall or abandonment.

23.2 Support boats shall be registered with the Organizing Authority (OA) and, except in emergencies, shall not display any flag, burgee, item of clothing or other type of identification mark or sign that could be construed as a signal.

23.3 Any breach of SI 23 by a coach or support boat may result in penalties being applied to any or all competitors serviced by that coach or support boat. The penalty may be disqualification or other penalty as determined by the Jury. In addition the coach or support boat may, at the discretion of the Jury, be barred from going afloat.

## **24. HAUL-OUT RESTRICTIONS**

24.1 All boats must be afloat by 1200 September 14, 2007 and shall not be hauled out during the regatta except with and according to the terms of prior written permission of the Organizing Authority.

## **25. DIVING EQUIPMENT AND PLASTIC POOLS**

25.1 Underwater breathing apparatus and plastic pools or their equivalent shall not be used around the boats between the preparatory signal of the first race and the end of the regatta.

## **26. RADIO COMMUNICATION**

26.1 Each boat shall carry a VHF marine radio. This changes IECA One-Design Rule 7.14.

26.2 A boat shall neither make radio transmissions while racing nor receive communications not available to all boats. This restriction also applies to mobile telephones. Transmissions to the Race Committee as noted in 24.5 are permitted.

26.3 The Race Committee will use and monitor VHF Channel 72.

26.4 The Race Committee will attempt to broadcast its intentions, course information, OCS violations, and other relevant information to racers over the designated VHF channel.

26.5 The Race Committee may not respond to radio contacts from a racer except in the case of an emergency or to acknowledge retirement from a race.

## **27. PRIZES**

27.1 Keeper prizes will be awarded to the top three boats. Other prizes will also be awarded.

## **28. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY**

28.1 Competitors participate in the regatta entirely at their own risk. See RRS rule 4, Decision to Race. The Organizing Authority will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with, prior to, during or after the regatta.

**29. INSURANCE**

29.1 Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of \$100,000 per event or the equivalent.

**30. COURSE DIAGRAMS**

**DIAGRAM A** (five (5) legs)

**DIAGRAM B** (four (4) legs)

