



# 2008 Etchells North American Championship

September 9 – 13, 2008  
Annapolis MD, USA



## SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

The Annapolis Yacht Club and Etchells Fleet 28 are the Organizing Authority for this event.

### 1 RULES

- 1.1 This regatta will be governed by the 'rules' as defined in the *Racing Rules of Sailing*.
- 1.2 The Championship is an ISAF Recognized Event and is sanctioned by the International Etchells Class as a Class B event. All competitors shall meet the eligibility requirements of the International Etchells Class and shall comply with the ISAF Eligibility Code, Regulation 19.
- 1.3 No national prescriptions will apply except US SAILING prescriptions to RRS 68 and 76.1 and added rule 76.3 shall apply. A copy of these prescriptions is included as Attachment 2.
- 1.4 RRS 44 will be changed by the Sailing Instructions to allow penalties to be taken after racing and prior to a protest hearing.
- 1.5 RRS 63.7 will be replaced by: "If there is a conflict between the Notice of Race the Sailing Instructions, the Sailing Instructions shall take precedence".
- 1.6 This is a Category A event pursuant to the ISAF Advertising Code and Etchells Class Rules

### 2 NOTICES TO COMPETITORS - Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board located on the terrace of the AYC clubhouse outside of the Skipjack Lounge.

### 3 ENTRIES

- 3.1 All registration requirements shall be completed by 1700 hrs on 10 September unless the race committee grants an extension. These include:
  - a) Complete the entry form and pay all fees.
  - b) Skippers, Co-Skippers and crew meet eligibility requirements of CR A6.
  - c) Present Hull and Spar Measurement and Sail Acquisition Certificates.
  - d) Regatta sails accepted and stamped by the event measurer.
  - e) Pass inspection of safety equipment required by CR 6.
  - f) Pass inspection of bulkhead access hole gaskets and covers for compliance CR 3.7.
  - g) Pass inspection of hull and deck piercing for compliance with CR 3.7 and 7.3.
  - h) Boat must have an ISAF Hull Plaque per CR 8.1.
  - i) Complete crew weigh in and all crew sign waivers.
- 3.2 Bow number must be affixed according to the instructions provided prior to racing.

### 4 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS - Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted before 0900 hrs on the day it will take effect, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 2000 hrs on the day before it will take effect.

### 5 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 5.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed from the mast at the AYC clubhouse.
- 5.2 Flag AP with two sound signals means: "Races not started are postponed." Before lowering flag AP, with one sound signal, the approximate time of the warning signal will be posted and will be approximately 90 minutes after flag AP is lowered. The warning signal may be made earlier if all boats eligible to race have checked in. This changes Race Signals

- 5.3 Flag "N" over flag "A" with three sound signals means: "All races scheduled today but not started are canceled."
- 5.4 Flag L over numeral pennant "#" with one sound signal means: "Notice to competitors number "#" has been posted on the official notice board at the Sailing Center."

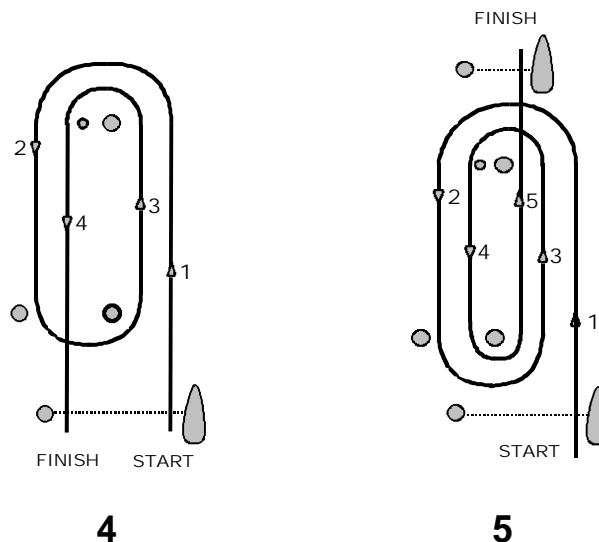
## 6 SCHEDULE OF RACES

- 6.1 Seven races are scheduled; three races on Thursday and Friday and one race on Saturday. Races not completed on the day scheduled will be added to the following day's schedule. No more than three races may be sailed per day. Races not completed on Saturday will not be sailed except that if fewer than four races have been completed, the number of races required to bring the total to four will be scheduled for Sunday.
- 6.2 The race committee will rendezvous with the fleet near Severn River R"2" at 1000 hrs on each race day. The committee will display flag L and proceed to the starting area. See Section 8, Racing Area.
- 6.3 The warning signal for the first race of each day will be made at 1045 hrs.
- 6.4 Flag R (yellow cross on a red field) will be displayed at the finish when another race is to follow. The warning signal for the next race will be made one minute after lowering flag R, with one long sound signal.
- 6.5 No starting signal will be made after 1500 hrs on the last day of the regatta.

**7 CLASS FLAG** – The class flag will be flag E.

**8 RACING AREA** - The racing area will be in the Chesapeake Bay off the mouth of the Severn River. See Attachment 1

**9 THE COURSES** - The courses will be as shown in the diagrams and description below.



- 9.1 No later than the warning signal the number of the course to be sailed, the approximate distance between the leeward and windward mark and the approximate magnetic bearing of the weather mark will be shown with numbers on a board.
- 9.2 For all courses, the leeward mark or gate is not a mark of the course during the first leg of the course. For course 5 the weather mark is not a mark of the course on the last leg of the course. For Course 4 the leeward gate is not a mark of the course on the last leg of the course.
- 9.3 For all courses an offset mark will be set 5 – 7 boat lengths to port of the weather mark.
- 9.4 For any downwind leg the leeward mark will be a gate. Boats shall sail between the gate marks from the direction of the windward mark and round either gate mark.

## 10 MARKS

- 10.1 Offset marks will be lime green cylinders. All other original marks will be orange cylinders.

- 10.2 New marks, when used in accordance with RRS 33, will be orange cylinders with a dark colored band. When a new mark is set, other marks may be relocated to maintain the original course configuration. When the position of the new mark is subsequently changed, it will be replaced by an original mark.

## **11 THE START**

- 11.1 The starting line will be between the luff of the orange flag on the committee boat and the course side of the port-end starting mark
- 11.2 A committee boat which is also a starting mark may set a limit mark. A boat which touches either the limit mark or the committee boat or passes between them, shall be considered to have touched the starting mark. The boat shall treat both the limit mark and the committee boat as a single starting mark for purposes of RRS 31.1 (Touching a Mark) and RRS 28.1 (Sailing the Course). No other requirements of RRS 31 or 28 are modified by this paragraph.

**12 THE FINISH** - The finishing line will be between the luff of the orange flag displayed on the race committee boat and course side of the nearby orange cylinder.

## **13 TIME LIMITS**

- 13.1 The race committee will abandon a race if no boat has rounded the first mark within 45 minutes after the start.
- 13.2 The time limit for the first boat to finish course "5" is 4 hours and course "4" is 3 hours.
- 13.3 Boats still racing 30 minutes after the first boat finishes will be scored TLE (Time Limit Expired, see Scoring) and should proceed to the starting area if another race is scheduled. The race committee boat at the finishing line will lower the blue shape with a long sound signal when the 30 minute period has expired. This changes RRS 35.

## **14 PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS**

- 14.1 RRS 61.1(a) is changed by adding: "A boat displaying a red flag and intending to protest shall inform the race committee as soon as possible after finishing by hail until acknowledged. The hail shall include the sail number of the protested boat."
- 14.2 The protest time limit in RRS 61.3 is one hour after the race committee signal boat docks. Protest forms are available from the protest committee at the Sailing Center. The end of protest time and a list of protest notifications received by the race committee on the water will be posted on the official notice board as soon as possible.
- 14.3 Notices will be posted within 30 minutes of the protest time limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses. Hearings will be held in the protest committee room at the Sailing Center as soon as possible, approximately in the order received.

## **15 ARBITRATION**

- 15.1 An arbitration hearing will be held for each protest involving a rule of Part 2 unless the arbitrator deems the protest inappropriate for arbitration. One representative of each party will meet with the arbitrator. No witnesses are permitted. After taking testimony from each representative, the arbitrator will render his opinion:
- No boat broke a rule. If the representatives agree, the protest is withdrawn. If any representative disagrees, the protest committee will schedule a protest hearing.
  - One or both boats broke a rule. The representative(s) of the boat(s) breaking a rule may accept a 40% penalty, calculated as in RRS 44.3(c), and the protest will be withdrawn. If not, the protest committee will schedule a protest hearing.
  - The protest does not qualify for arbitration. The protest committee will schedule a protest hearing.
- 15.2 RRS 63.1 is changed by adding "The arbitrator may allow a protest to be withdrawn without the approval of the protest committee."

## **16 SCORING**

- 16.1 The Low Point System in RRS Appendix A will apply, except that each boat's series score will be the total of her race scores unless five or more races are completed.
- 16.2 Four completed races shall constitute a series.
- 16.3 Boats to be scored TLE and not thereafter retiring, being penalized or given redress will be scored points equal to the number of boats finishing within the time limit plus two points by the race committee without a hearing. This changes RRS A4.1, A4.2 and A5.

## **17 SAFETY**

- 17.1 All boats shall carry a VHF radio capable of communicating on channels 9, 16 and 72.
- 17.2 A boat that retires from a race shall notify the race committee as soon as possible.
- 17.3 Boats shall not exercise right of way, cross in close proximity to, or interfere with the reasonable transit of the race area by a freighter, tug or other commercial vessel. In a protest hearing under this rule, the burden of proof is on the boat allegedly interfering with the freighter, tug or other commercial vessel. Competitors must take corrective action well in advance of any potentially dangerous situation. RRS 60.2 is changed to add "If the race committee receives a report of an incident where a boat(s) may have interfered with commercial traffic it may protest any boat involved."

## **18 COMMUNICATIONS**

- 18.1 The race committee may provide information to the fleet on VHF Channel 72 before the start of the first race of the day and between races as a courtesy. In all cases race signals shall govern.
- 18.2 A boat may not make any radio transmissions while racing except in an emergency on VHF Channel 16 or with the race committee on VHF Channel 72.
- 18.3 While racing, a boat shall not receive ANY communication not available to all boats. This restriction includes mobile telephones.

## **19 SUPPORT BOATS**

- 19.1 Support or coach boats shall not have any contact, either by radio, telephone, vocal signal, visual signaling of any kind, or the transfer of equipment or victuals, with a racing boat from the time of the warning signal for each race until the boat has finished the race.
- 19.2 At the warning signal, support or coach boats shall leave the area being used by the race boats and may station themselves outside of either the pin or committee boat, but no closer to either end than 200 feet.
- 19.3 Support or coach boats shall not approach closer than 200 feet to any boat that is racing.

**20 HAUL OUT RESTRICTIONS** – All boats shall be afloat and at their assigned dockage by 1800 hours 10 September 2008. Boats may be hauled only with and according to the terms of prior written permission of the protest committee.

**21 PRIZES** - The Etchells North American Perpetual Trophy will be awarded to the overall winner. Prizes will be awarded to skippers and crew placing first through fifth overall and first through fifth daily. Special prizes may also be awarded.

## **22 DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY**

- 22.1 Competitors participate in the regatta entirely at their own risk. It is the competitor's decision to enter the Championship or to start or continue in any race. Competitors' attention is drawn to RRS Fundamental Rule 4 which states: "The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone."
- 22.2 The Organizing Authority is not responsible for the seaworthiness of a yacht whose entry is accepted or the sufficiency or adequacy of its equipment. The Organizing Authority will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after the regatta.