



# International Etchells Class Association

## Championship Event Guidelines

*for Major Championship Events*

### **PURPOSE**

These guidelines are provided by the International Etchells Class Association (IECA) to ensure each World Championship or Major Championship is competed for with similar terms, racing format, and rules. While the International Governing Committee (IGC) of the IECA has direct oversight over the annual World Championship, the expectation is that Major Championships are run under a similar high standard. Major Championships include:

- Continental championships (Australasian, European, North Americans)
- National championships
- Regional championships (e.g., State championship, Pacific Coast Championship, Midwinters West, etc.)

Local events should follow these guidelines as closely as is practical to encourage class participation while administering a fair, high-quality event.

This document should be read in conjunction with the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS), the Equipment Rules of Sailing (ERS), as well as the International Etchells Class Rules, standard IECA Notice of Race (NOR) and Sailing Instruction (SI) templates for both the World Championship and Major Championships, and International Etchells Class Association Constitution.

Any questions regarding this document should be addressed to the IECA office: [office@etchells.org](mailto:office@etchells.org)

## 1. SELECTION OF A VENUE FOR THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

- 1) The IGC shall award a World Championship event to an active fleet approximately four (4) years in advance taking the following into consideration:
  - a. It shall not be held in the same waters for two (2) consecutive years;
  - b. It shall not be held on the same continent for more than three (3) consecutive years.
- 2) The responsibility for arranging and providing suitable facilities, prizes (including take home trophies for perpetual trophy winners, first through fifth overall, and first through third Corinthian), and entertainment rests with the fleet, yacht club, or OA holding the event and the related Etchells Class national association. In this regard, all shall cooperate with and be guided by the IGC, in coordination with the IECA Executive Secretary.
- 3) Any fleet wishing to organize and host a World Championship must provide a bid to the IGC covering the following subjects:
  - 1) VENUE
  - 2) ANTICIPATED DATES
  - 3) SHORE FACILITIES
    - a. suitable launching, docking and hauling out facilities with fresh water supply
    - b. registration area
    - c. competitors meeting area
    - d. protest hearing and meeting rooms
    - e. signal mast ashore, adjacent to boat docking
    - f. boat and sail measurement area
    - g. secure trailer park and storage
    - h. open access Wi-Fi coverage
    - i. adequate catering and social areas
    - j. secure competitor car parking
  - 4) TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATIONS
  - 5) BOAT LOGISTICS (shipping port, charter opportunities)
  - 6) ENDORSEMENTS OF VENUE/HOST
  - 7) OTHER INFORMATION
- 4) THE ORGANIZING AUTHORITY (OA) shall:
  - a. be responsible for preparing and submitting to the IGC for its approval, the schedule for racing, the draft NOR and the OAs plan for safety management.
  - b. recommend, for the IGC's approval, a Principal Race Officer and International Jury.
  - c. provide a Race Committee with sufficient resources to run the racing.
  - d. provide accommodations and reimbursement of reasonable travel expenses for Race Officers and members of the International Jury. In addition, the OA will provide accommodation for the Event Measurer and Class Secretary for the duration of the championship.
  - e. provide sufficient resources, space and organization for all Equipment Inspections, registration and administration support.
  - f. demonstrate suitable resources, organization and financial planning to host and run the event
  - g. organize appropriate media coverage of the event, to include worldwide access to racing coverage and event updates as well as promotion of the class.
  - h. follow the guidelines summarized within this document. In this regard all stakeholders shall cooperate with, and be guided by, the IGC.

## 2. ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES FOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS

- 1) All competitors shall be members of the International Etchells Class Association.
- 2) All competitors must sign the IECA Code of Conduct.
- 3) The person in charge shall be an Owner class member. If the person in charge is not also the helmsperson, the helmsperson shall also be an Owner class member.
- 4) All boats must have a valid measurement certificate.
- 5) Youth teams must:
  - a. all be age 29 or under as of 1 January of the year of the event;
  - b. borrow or charter a boat from an Owner member or entity in good standing; and
  - c. all be at least Non-Owner class members.
- 6) The person in charge (or helmsperson if not the person in charge) must:
  - a. have sailed in at least one major championship or event as described above in the 12 months preceding the World Championship event; or
  - b. received approval from the IGC to compete in the event at least three months prior to the first day of the event.
- 7) No entry for a World Championship can be considered as final until the entry's eligibility has been verified by the International Etchells Class Executive Secretary in conjunction with the Organizing Authority (OA).

## 3. GUIDELINES FOR RUNNING THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

- 1) The International Governing Committee (IGC) of the IECA has fundamental control over the following:
  - a. Event dates
  - b. Principal Race Officer (recommended by the OA, approved by the IGC)
  - c. International Jury members (recommended by the OA, approved by the IGC)
  - d. Regatta Measurer / Technical Committee Chair
  - e. Notice of Race
  - f. Sailing Instructions
  - g. Measurement
  - h. Communication during the event
  - i. World Championship website, including (YEAR.etchellsworlds.org)

The OA of a World Championship shall work with the IECA Executive Secretary to obtain the appropriate approvals from the IGC and to coordinate the measurement, communication, and website.

- 2) The Principal Race Officer shall be a World Sailing International Race Officer.
- 3) The World Championship International Jury shall be constituted in accordance with RRS 91(b) and Appendix N.
- 4) The Regatta Measurer and Technical Committee Chair shall be appointed by the IGC. Generally, this shall be the Class Measurer.
- 5) The International Jury Chair and Principal Race Officer shall, at the conclusion of each day's racing, upon reaching shore, be available for no less than one hour at a previously designated place for the purpose of receiving comments from the competitors, IECA representative and the OA, on matters regarding the conduct of the championship series.
- 6) The World Championship series is governed by the standard IECA NOR and SI templates and shall not amend or override Class Rules without the prior approval of WORLD SAILING and the IECA. Please see World Sailing Policy D4.

- 7) Races shall be held as far as possible from headlands, shoals, obstructions and aids to navigation to minimize local wind and current effects but in the interests of safety and practicality may be held in estuaries. Unless otherwise specified, government marks and aids to navigation must be passed on the required or channel side.
- 8) The target time for a World Championship race is 90 minutes, with the expectation of running 1-2 races a day. The length of the first windward leg should be approximately four times the length of the start line and shall be determined after taking into consideration the geographic location of the course, the prevailing wind, the size of the fleet, and the target times. The Race Officer should use discretion with these guidelines taking into account conditions and safety concerns.
- 9) No race shall be started in wind less than an average of 5 knots or more than an average of 25 knots over a 10 minute period. This shall not be changed in the SIs for a World Championship without Class approval.
- 10) Vakaros RaceSense shall be used to start and finish the races. Please see the NOR and SI templates.
- 11) With the Vakaros RaceSense, there is no need to set a 3-vessel starting line.

#### 4. EVENT EQUIPMENT INSPECTIONS AT WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS

- 1) The Event Measurer is to check all boats for compliance to the Class Rules and that their measurements have not changed since Certification, except as permitted in Section C of the Class Rules. Refer to the Measurement Guide.
- 2) The Event Measurer can measure any item that appears contrary to the Class Rules. The Event Measurer is an Equipment Inspector and will appoint other Equipment Inspectors to carry out measurement at the event.
- 3) At least three months prior to the event's measurement days the Event Measurer shall supply the OA with:
  - a. A draft of the World Championship Measurement Forms.
  - b. Drawings/specs for the sail measuring tables.
  - c. Instructions for sail measurement.
- 4) The Event Measurer is responsible for measuring and inspection equipment as specified in the Measurement Guide, including;
  - a. Weighing scale with recently dated test report showing correction factor of 1kg increments over the range of 1,000kgs to 2000kgs. (should we require it to be calibrated beforehand? YES)
  - d. Official Etchells keel templates.
  - e. Official Etchells rudder/skeg profile template.
  - f. Garboard measurement frame
  - g. Sail measurement tables/platforms.
  - h. All other measuring equipment necessary to facilitate the measuring and recording of the items listed below, as specified in the Measurement Guide.
- 3) The Event Measurer should ensure that there are sufficient equipment inspectors and equipment to carry out equipment inspection in the time allotted in the event schedule in the NOR. Equipment Inspectors should be briefed in advance on how to carry out the required inspection.
- 4) The following items shall be inspected, measured and recorded, in accordance with Class Rules, in the appropriate unit of measurement and corrected if necessary before the first race of the series:
  - a. Complete Boat Weight — Rules C.6.1 and C.6.2.
  - b. Keel shape — Measurement Form Items 44 through 47.
  - c. Mast — Rule C.9.4 Measure from the top of the mast step to the **mast datum point** (upper edge of the lower black band on the aft edge of the mast). Subtract the Mast Bury from this number. The result is the distance from the **mast datum point** to Point "B" (min 725 mm, max 740 mm). Each boat's Mast Bury is recorded on its Measurement Certificate.

- d. Boom — Rule C.9.5.
  - e. Spinnaker boom — Rule F.5.5.
  - f. Bulkhead access hole covers and gaskets — Measurement Form Item 78 and Construction Plan.
  - g. Piercing of hull, deck or bulkheads — Rule D.2.3 and D.7.2.
  - h. Lightening the hull — Rule C.7.1.
  - i. Portable equipment — Rule C.5.
  - j. All sails registered for the event, noting the limits on numbers of sails for the event. After inspection, sails should be indelibly marked in a way that compliance with the sail limitations and validity of each sail can be easily seen.
- 5) In addition to the mandatory items listed above, in accordance with Class Rules, any other items may be inspected. The Equipment Inspectors should be particularly alert to the following items which may be measured (if appropriate) and recorded with descriptive commentary:
- a. Rudder and skeg — Rule E.4.
  - b. Alteration to hull and keel — Rules C.7.1 and C.8.1.
  - c. Bent masts — Rule F.3.4.
  - d. Bent booms — Rule F.4.4.
  - e. Mast and boom construction — fittings and/or weldments that result in significant alteration of the bending characteristics — Rule F.2.2 and F.4.2.
  - f. Spreaders — Rule F.3.4.
  - g. Console — Rule D.9.2 and D.10.2.
  - h. Cockpit sole — Rule D.6.2 and D.10.2.
  - i. Bulkheads — Rule D.7.2 and D.10.2.
  - j. Hull and Deck Construction — Rule D.2.3
- 6) All items not in conformance with the Class Rules shall be reported to the Event Technical Committee Chair before the first race of the series.

## **5. WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP PERPETUAL TROPHIES AND PRIZES**

- 1) World Championships Perpetual Trophies shall be held at a place to be determined each year by the IGC until the time of the next World Championship. It is the responsibility of the IGC to ensure the trophies are engraved with the winners' names and are available for presentation to the following year's winners.
- 2) The IGC retains title to these trophies and may impose any conditions necessary for their safe keeping.

## **6. ELIGIBILITY FOR MAJOR CHAMPIONSHIPS**

- 1) All competitors shall be members of the International Etchells Class Association.
- 2) All competitors must sign the IECA Code of Conduct.
- 3) The person in charge shall be an Owner class member. If the person in charge is not also the helmsperson, the helmsperson shall also be an Owner class member.
- 4) All boats must have a valid measurement certificate.
- 5) Youth teams must:
  - d. all be age 29 or under as of 1 January of the year of the event;
  - e. borrow or charter a boat from an Owner member or entity in good standing; and
  - f. all be at least Non-Owner class members.

## **7. GUIDELINES FOR RUNNING MAJOR CHAMPIONSHIPS**

- 1) Major Championships, other than the World Championship, shall be granted to fleets and/or venues by the appropriate Etchells Class national association(s).
- 2) The Notice of Race (NOR) and Sailing Instructions (SIs) for any Major Championship, shall be written in English using the standard IECA templates.
- 3) For any event, the NOR and SIs shall not amend or override Class Rules without the prior approval of WORLD SAILING and the IECA. Please see World Sailing Policy D4.
- 4) The approved IECA Major Championship NOR and SI templates (when available [insert link]).
- 5) Races shall be held as far as possible from headlands, shoals, obstructions and aids to navigation to minimize local wind and current effects but in the interests of safety and practicality may be held in estuaries. Unless otherwise specified, government marks and aids to navigation must be passed on the required or channel side.
- 6) The target time for a Major Championship race is 60 minutes, with the expectation of running 3 races a day. The length of the first windward leg should be at least four times the length of the starting line and shall be determined after taking into consideration the geographic location of the course, the prevailing wind, the size of the fleet, and the target times as stated in the Major Championship SI template. The Race Officer should use discretion with these guidelines taking into account conditions and safety concerns.
- 7) Unless specifically stated otherwise in the SIs, no race shall be started in wind below an average of 5 knots or above an average of 25 knots, measured over a 10 minute period.