



US Sailing Championship Overall Conditions

applicable to all US Sailing Championship and qualifying events

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SECTION A PREAMBLE

Section A clauses do not rank as “rules” as defined by the Racing Rules of Sailing. As such, boats in a regatta may not protest each other for failure to comply with this preamble, nor base a request for redress on the alleged failure of an organizing authority, race committee, protest committee or technical committee to obey the clauses of this preamble.

A1 INTRODUCTION

- A1.1 The purpose of these conditions (abbreviated ‘overall conditions’ below) is to standardize relevant policies and procedures across all US Sailing Championships and qualifying events.
- A1.2 Throughout this document, the word “club” is defined to include any yacht club, sailing club, community sailing program or other sailing organization that is an organizational member of a Regional Sailing Association (RSA) or US Sailing hosting a US Sailing Championship or qualifying event(s).

A2 INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS (AND QUALIFYING EVENTS)

- A2.1 All championships and qualifying events shall:
 - (a) comply with these overall conditions.
 - (b) publish and maintain individual championship conditions. Qualifying events shall use the championship conditions of the championship for which they are a qualifier.
 - (c) be organized by US Sailing and the relevant championship committee.
 - (d) be hosted by a US Sailing member organization selected by the relevant championship committee.

A3 INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIP CONDITIONS

- A3.1 These overall conditions and the individual championship conditions shall apply.
- A3.2 Modifications to the overall conditions require approval of relevant US Sailing Staff. Modifications to an individual championship’s conditions requires approval of the relevant championship chair (after consulting with the relevant championship committee and US Sailing Staff).

A4 CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE

- A4.1 Each championship will be organized by a championship committee. A championship committee may be the organizer of multiple championships.
- A4.2 The chair of the championship committee will normally serve as the championship national chair (“national chair”) but may appoint another member of the committee to serve as national chair.
- A4.3 In the event that a Championship committee is not in place, relevant US Sailing staff shall be the organizer and may appoint a national chair.

SECTION B CHAMPIONSHIP RULES

Section B clauses DO rank as ‘rules’ as defined by the Racing Rules of Sailing and apply at US Sailing Championships and qualifying events.

The notation ‘[DP]’ in a rule of this section means that the penalty for a breach of that rule may, at the discretion of the protest committee, be less than disqualification. The notation ‘[NP]’ in a rule of this section means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule nor request redress based on that rule. This changes RRS 60.1 and 61.1.

B1 ORGANIZING AUTHORITY

- B1.1 The organizing authority of US Sailing championships shall be US Sailing.

B2 GOVERNING DOCUMENTS

- B2.1 The following US Sailing documents shall apply at all US Sailing Championships:
 - (a) US Sailing Championship Overall Conditions

- (b) Conditions for the relevant individual championship
 - (c) US Sailing Championship Code of Conduct
 - (d) US Sailing Coaching and Support Boat Policy
 - (e) SafeSport Athlete Safety Handbook available at <https://www.ussailing.org/athlete-safety/toolkit/>
- B2.2 The specific documents and links thereto shall be included in the notice of race for the championship.
- B2.3 Changes to the notice of race or sailing instructions will be approved by the Chief Judge/Umpire, in consultation with US Sailing staff, the Championship Chair, and the Principal Race Officer.
- B2.4 The organizing authority reserves the right to amend the Notice of Race. Any amendments to the Notice of Race shall be posted on the Championship website.

B3 US SAILING REGULATIONS

- B3.1 All championships are expected to comply with applicable US Sailing Regulations.

B4 MODIFICATIONS AND CONFLICTS

- B4.1 With approval of the relevant championship committee chair, an individual championship's conditions may change a rule of the overall conditions by stating the change.
- B4.2 RRS 63.5(c) is changed such that when there is a conflict between *rules* (as defined in the RRS) related to the US Sailing Regulations or championship conditions, they shall be given precedence as follows (highest/first precedence to lowest precedence):
- (a) RRS and US Sailing prescriptions that may not be changed by RRS 86
 - (b) US Sailing Regulations
 - (c) Notice of race and sailing instructions
 - (d) A rule of the individual championship condition that specifically changes an overall condition rule.
 - (e) US Sailing Championship Overall Conditions
 - (f) Conditions of the relevant individual Championship
- B4.3 If the above does not resolve a conflict and a hearing under RRS is held, then the last sentence of RRS 63.5(c) is changed to "then the protest committee shall make as fair an arrangement as possible for all boats affected."

B5 QUALIFYING EVENT APPEALS AND REOPENING

- B5.1 Under RRS 70.3(b), for qualifying events, there shall be no appeal of the decision of a protest or request for redress.
- B5.2 If a qualifying event has NOT received approval from US Sailing for a "No Appeal" protest committee (see US prescription to rule 70.3(b)):
- (a) A hearing re-opening process will be provided as detailed in the sailing instructions.
 - (b) A decision following a hearing under rule 69.2 may be appealed.

B6 CODE OF CONDUCT

- B6.1 All competitors, officials, and support persons at US Sailing Championship and qualifying events shall abide by the US Sailing Championship Code of Conduct.

B7 ELIGIBILITY

- B7.1 Competitors shall be individual or family members, all in good standing, of US Sailing at the time of application, registration, and of the event and not otherwise ineligible to compete under the laws, regulations, policies and rules of the USOPC or its affiliated organizations.
- B7.2 All competitors shall meet the eligibility requirements of the World Sailing Eligibility Code.
- B7.3 International teams who meet the eligibility requirements are welcome to participate unless the individual championship conditions or notice of race restricts entries to US Competitors.
- (a) For the purpose of US Sailing Championships a "US competitor" is either a "US Citizen" (defined as a person who throughout the event, has, or is eligible to have, a US passport) or a "resident alien" (defined as a person who does not have a US passport but who has, throughout the event a Permanent Resident Card, aka Green Card).

- (b) A championship condition or notice of race may restrict entries to be all US citizens - in which case, all members of a competing team must be US citizens
 - (c) A championship condition or notice of race may welcome international competitors but still restrict the awarding of the title of Champion to a team that is composed of all US citizens.
- B7.4 If international competitors may compete, each shall be a member of their home country's Member National Authority. Individual championships may have additional requirements which shall be listed in their conditions.
- B7.5 There is no limit on the number of teams allowed to participate, unless so stated within the notice of race.
- B7.6 There are no gender or age restrictions, unless so stated within the notice of race.
- B7.7 The notice of race shall include a copy or link to the relevant US Sailing Medical Consent, Liability, Media Consent, and Minor Accountability forms that apply. These must be completed on-line, or in person, by all competitors before their entry is deemed completed.

B8 REGISTRATION & FEES

- B8.1 All fees shall be as listed in the notice of race.
- B8.2 Borrowed Boat Insurance, Damage Deposits and Liability Insurance Fees, when called for, are in addition to the entry fee and are the responsibility of the entrant.

B9 [DP] PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES

- B9.1 For adult qualifying and championship events in keelboats: Each competitor shall wear a USCG approved PFD at all times while on the water, except for brief periods while adding or removing clothing.
- B9.2 For championship and qualifying events in dinghies, each competitor shall wear a USCG approved life jacket that is 100% dependent on foam for flotation and the appropriate size for the sailor, at all times while on the water, except for brief periods while adding or removing clothing.
- B9.3 For youth or junior events, including Junior Olympics, Qualifying, and Championship Events For all US Sailing Youth or Junior sanctioned events (JOs, qualifiers, finals), each competitor shall wear a USCG approved life jacket that is 100% dependent on foam for flotation and the appropriate size for the sailor, at all times while on the water, except for brief periods while adding or removing clothing.
- B9.4 All on-the-water judges/umpires and bosun shall wear US Coast Guard approved PFDs while on the water, except for brief periods when removing or adding clothing.

B10 ADVERTISING

- B10.1 The organizing authority may require the application of identifying numbers to each side of the sail and bow/transom and/or advertising stickers on any part of each boat.

B11 CREW CHANGES - Alternates and Substitutions

- B11.1 Once a team's entry is accepted for an area qualifier or championship, and before the beginning of the event, substitution of team members is prohibited except as provided below.
- (a) Substitution for the helm shall never be permitted except by the OA under extreme circumstances. Individual championships may have additional requirements, which shall be listed in their conditions.
 - (b) Substitution of a team member other than the helm after qualification or acceptance in a championship may be requested for medical reasons or family emergency. Exceptions may be made for unexpected work or school conflicts. Supporting documentation may be requested.
 - (c) All substitutions shall be adequately explained by the qualified helmsman and are subject to approval by the Organizing Authority.
 - (d) If the requested substitution is not approved, an eligible team will be accepted.
 - (e) For match racing championships only: crew changes are permitted if necessary to ensure teams meet the weight, gender or crew size requirements at the finals.
- B11.2 When an event is in progress:
- (a) If a sailor other than the helm cannot continue due to sickness, accident or other emergency, a replacement sailor may, with the approval of the Organizing Authority, be substituted for one or more of the races.

- (b) If the event is a qualifier for the national championship, the substitution shall be permanent for the team moving forward. The only exception shall be for match racing.
- (c) The substituted sailor shall meet all eligibility requirements and shall be very close in weight to the substituted sailor. The representative of the Organizing Authority will have sole authority for determining whether the reason for substitution and the proposed sailor are acceptable.

B12 COACHING AND SUPPORT BOATS

- B12.1 Unless changed in an individual championship conditions or notice of race, the coaching level will be Grade 3 (no private coaching) in accordance with the US Sailing Coaching and Support Boat Policy.

B13 DRONES

- B13.1 [DP] Drones shall not be flown in the racing area except with prior written authorization from the championship chair.

SECTION C CHAMPIONSHIP POLICIES

Section C clauses do not rank as "rules" as defined by the Racing Rules of Sailing. As such, boats in a regatta may not protest each other for failure to comply with this preamble, nor base a request for redress on the alleged failure of an organizing authority, race committee, protest committee or technical committee to obey the clauses of this preamble.

C1 HOST CLUB

- C1.1 The host club should familiarize all competitors with the waters in which the races are to be held with emphasis on obstructions, tidal conditions and probable location of marks.
- C1.2 The host club shall submit a Championship Feedback Form assessing the championship and make any recommendations for managing future successful championships.
- C1.3 The host club shall adhere to all US Sailing guidelines for logos, sponsors and committee qualifications.

C2 RACE OFFICIALS AND VOLUNTEERS

- C2.1 The Championship National Chair for the relevant Championship, along with US Sailing staff, has lead responsibility for appointing the Principal Race Officer, Chief Judge/Umpire, and ensuring that race officials have the appropriate certification.
- C2.2 Race officials shall meet the requirements of the US Sailing Regulations (See Regulation 10.06).
- C2.3 The Principal Race Officer, Chief Judge, Chief Umpire, and Technical Committee Chair for champions events shall be approved by the Race Administration Director, the Championships Chair, and the National Chair for the relevant Championship.
- C2.4 Except in illness or emergency, the protest committee shall consist of a minimum of three judges.
- C2.5 Volunteers in any capacity are expected to subordinate their personal and individual interests to the interests of the event and the sport of sailing.

C3 ELIGIBILITY (See also US Sailing Regulation 2)

- C3.1 Hosts organizations of championships and qualifiers shall be organizational members of US Sailing.
- C3.2 Each class of boat shall be an organizational member of US Sailing.

C4 SCORING

- C4.1 The sailing instructions will state the criteria for excluded races and the scoring system to be used for the event.
- C4.2 Unless modified by the sailing instructions, a minimum of 1 completed race is necessary to constitute a championship.

C5 PRIZES

- C5.1 US Sailing will provide medals to the skipper and crew finishing in the top three positions, at a minimum, at national championships.
- C5.2 The individual conditions may specify additional prizes and perpetual trophies to be awarded.

C5.3 Perpetual trophies will generally be kept on display at US Sailing, and (unless changed by an individual championship conditions) will not be loaned to the winner or their home club. Winners of a US Sailing perpetual trophy shall receive a framed photograph of the trophy, with a similar framed copy to go to the winner's club or association.

C6 DAMAGE POLICIES

C6.1 For "borrowed boat" events, the ability to obtain borrowed boats is a backbone of the event. It is essential that competitors take care of the boats and make every effort to avoid damage.

C6.2 The sailing instructions will contain detailed rules and procedures for handling boat damage during an event. Penalties for causing damage are likely to include scoring penalties up to and including DNE (Disqualified, Non-Excludable) and costs of repair.

C7 CHAMPIONSHIP NATIONAL CHAIR

C7.1 The Chair and members of Championship Committees shall be appointed in accordance with US Sailing By Law 511, Section 4. For convenience, as of July 2024, it stated: "...terms for committee members, including chairs, shall be one year or until their successors are appointed. Committee members, including chairs, may serve no more than either (a) 8 terms or (b) 9 years, whichever is shorter, on each committee such member is appointed. Any person who has served the maximum amount of time on a committee is eligible to serve in the same capacity after a 2 year period has elapsed."

C7.2 Responsibilities - the National Chair shall:

- (a) Nominate other members of the Committee, including Area Representatives and Members at Large, for approval by the US Sailing Board.
- (b) Develop or amend the championship's conditions as needed to comply with The Racing Rules of Sailing.
- (c) Solicit, receive and evaluate host club bids and propose future host clubs to the committee.
- (d) Write the Notice of Race, approve the Sailing Instructions and perform other functions of the Organizing Authority in collaboration with US Sailing staff and in compliance with The Racing Rules of Sailing.
- (e) Post the Notice of Race by January 31st for elimination events and by March 1st for invitational events.
- (f) Ensure that the regattas are run in accordance with the Racing Rules of Sailing, the championship conditions (both individual and overall) and other documents that govern the regatta.
- (g) Support the host club's event chair.
- (h) Intervene if the organization or execution of the Championship is in jeopardy.
- (i) Attend the championship (or designate an alternative representative)

C7.3 Responsibilities - the National Chair shall not:

- (a) Act as the Organizing Authority if the championship is hosted at his or her home club.
- (b) Compete in the championship unless another person is designated as the OA representative.
- (c) Serve in any race official capacity at the event unless another person is designated as the OA representative.

C8 INSURANCE AND DAMAGES

C8.1 US Sailing provides borrowed boat insurance for our Championships. When a championship includes boats provided to the competitors by the host club, the host club may provide proof of borrowed boat insurance. The host club may include the cost of this insurance in the entry fee for the event.

C8.2 When a championship does not provide boats, the host club may require entrants to have a valid third-party liability insurance. If so, the individual championship conditions and notice of race shall include this requirement along with a minimum coverage required per incident or the equivalent.

C8.3 Host clubs shall not require a competitor to assume any liabilities of the Organizing Authority, race committee, protest committee, host club, sponsor or any other organization or official involved with the event. See US Sailing RRS 81 and US Sailing Regulation 13.03.

C8.4 US Sailing provides insurance for our Championships. However, host clubs shall have appropriate insurance coverage for the events hosted to include insurance coverage for the club and for the volunteers participating in the event. US Sailing recommends the insurance programs available from the Gowrie Group. For more information:
<https://www.ussailing.org/membership/become-a-member/#membership-benefits-discounts>.

C9 POWER LINE HAZARDS

C9.1 US Sailing Regulations require that US Sailing Championships at all levels be held at sites free of power line hazards. Written compliance is required to be filed with relevant US Sailing Staff.