

NOTICE OF CIRCUIT

2017 J/24 Texas Circuit

Invitation

You are cordially invited to participate in the 2017 J/24 Texas Circuit (the “Circuit”) to be held from March 2017 through November 2017, and sponsored by the United States J/24 Class Association (USJCA) District 14 and the Fleets therein, along with their local yacht clubs, which are designated as the organizers and hosts, respectively.

Eligibility

The Circuit is open to all J/24 yachts as defined by the IJCA. Helmspersons must be full members of a NJCA or the IJCA. In addition, all yachts and competitors must meet all requirements set forth in this Notice of Circuit, as well as individual regatta registration requirements in order to become Circuit participants.

Crewmembers, other than helmspersons, are not required to be class members. However, they are encouraged to join in support of the class by becoming Associate Members (\$35 per year).

Rules

The Circuit and the series of regattas that make up the Circuit will be governed by the rules as defined in the *2017-2020 Racing Rules of Sailing*, the current International J/24 Class Rules (“Class Rules”), this Notice of Circuit, and the each regatta’s respective Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions.

In accordance with Class Rule A.11.1, all yachts must have a current, valid Measurement Certificate. Any yacht without a Measurement Certificate should contact a class measurer or the USJCA District 14 Governor of record (“Governor”) to arrange for yacht measurement in order to obtain a Measurement Certificate. A yacht without a Measurement Certificate may race in the Circuit only with prior approval of the Governor.

All yachts must also carry aboard the *Inventory of Required and Optional Equipment* per Class Rule B.3. It is the sole responsibility of each owner or helmsperson to complete this form. Completing this form does not require a class measurer. Yachts will be subject to inspection at any time prior to, during or after any of the regattas.

A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with Class Rules by the Governor or designated Texas Circuit Representative, a class measurer or race official during any regatta.

Pursuant to Class Rule C.2.1, all crews must consist of at least three (3) persons with weight not exceeding 400 kg (882 lbs). All competitors will be weighed during registration at each regatta and the crew shall remain the same for all races of a single regatta. Any crew substitution requires written permission from the Governor or designated Texas Circuit Representative, which will be given only in exceptional cases.

The respective protest committees of the host clubs for each regatta shall have authority on all matters within their jurisdiction. A committee consisting of USJCA District 14 Fleet Captains of record and chaired by the Governor will resolve all matters not within the jurisdiction of individual protest committees (e.g. circuit scoring, helmsperson substitution).

Sails

Pursuant to Class Rule A.9.1., the mainsail, 150% genoa and spinnaker must all have the same sail numbers as their J/24 yacht hull number. Any yacht whose sails do not match their hull number may race in the regatta with the prior approval of the Governor or designated Texas Circuit Representative.

Yachts must also compete with the same set of sails for the entirety of a regatta pursuant to Class Rule 10.2(b). Damaged sails may be replaced with the authorization of the Governor or designated Texas Circuit Representative. Requests for sail replacement shall be made to the Governor or designated Texas Circuit Representative at the first reasonable opportunity. Replacement sails shall comply with IJCA Class Rules.

Entry

Each yacht shall register for each regatta pursuant to the Notice of Race posted on the J/24 Texas Circuit website or host club for that regatta, complete registration as outlined in the respective Notice of Race and as outlined in this Notice of Circuit.

Membership Fee

As part of the entry to participate in the Circuit, membership in the form of a trophy fee is required for all yachts participating in any of the Circuit regattas. This fee covers the end-of-year awards for the Circuit and is separate of the J/24 Class membership fee. Prior to participation in a regatta, yachts are required to pay the fee. Fee payments are available as follows: (1) for yachts that will participate in two or more regattas, the Membership fee is \$40; and (2) local yachts that intend to participate in only one regatta may pay a single fee of \$10. Membership fees can be paid by check made payable to Tonja Sanchez-Holmes c/o District 14, 909 Glennary Way, Denton, Texas 76208. Yachts that have not paid their Membership fee prior to any regatta in which they participate have not completed registration and may not be scored.

Schedule

Eight (8) scheduled regattas comprise the 2017 Circuit:

March 18-19	Performance Cup: Fleet 5 and Galveston Bay Cruising Association
April 22-23	Annual Regatta/Cowtown Stampede: Fleet 54 and Fort Worth Boat Club
May 20-21	Heritage & Corinthian Cup/Southwest Championship: Fleet 163 and Dallas Corinthian Yacht Club
June 24-25	Leukemia Cup/Beasley Cup: Fleet 5 and Houston Yacht Club
August 26-27	Surfin' Safari: Fleet 3 and Corpus Christi Yacht Club
September 30-October 1	Texas Championship: Fleet 21 and Austin Yacht Club
October 21-22	J/Fest Southwest: Fleet 5 and Lakewood Yacht Club
November 18-19	Texas Circus: Fleet 21 and Lake Canyon Yacht Club

Racing

Up to six (6) races will be scheduled at each regatta. Racing will be windward/leeward courses or variations thereof. Offset weather marks and leeward gates may be used.

Circuit Scoring

RRS Appendix A, as modified herein, will apply after substituting "regatta" for "race" and "Notice of Circuit" for "sailing instructions".

Only those regattas for which at least three (3) races are completed will be scored in the overall Circuit scoring.

If four (4) or fewer regattas are scored, then no scores will be excluded. If five (5) regattas are scored, each team's worst score will be excluded. If six (6) or more regattas are scored, each team's worst two (2) scores will be excluded.

Helmsperson and Helmsperson Substitutions

If there are to be co-helmspersons, then one must be declared as the primary helmsperson for World qualification purposes.

For a yacht/team to have a substitute helmsperson for a regatta, the substitute helmsperson must sail with the team for at least 50% of the regattas in which the team competed. Substitute helmspersons that do not meet this requirement must have approval by a majority vote of a committee consisting of the Governor (committee chair) and District 14 Fleet Captains for those fleets that have participated in at least one (1) Circuit regatta or plan to participate in the regatta that is the subject of the request. If a Fleet Captain is unavailable, the Governor shall designate a member of that fleet to represent the Fleet Captain.

Prizes

Awards will be presented to the final overall top five (5) Circuit yachts/crew, as well as to those yachts/teams that participated in all scheduled regattas that are held, irrespective as to whether such held regattas are scored as part of the Circuit or not (i.e. Road Warriors). In the event a yacht/crew is not present for a Circuit regatta because the yacht/crew are racing in a J/24 Regional or Continental event at the same time, that yacht/crew are considered to have participated in the Circuit solely for the purposes of this section.

Bow Numbers

For scoring and identification of yachts, unique bow numbers are required to be fixed to both external port and starboard sides of the forward bow area of each competing yacht's hull. These numbers must be affixed as follows:

- a) The leading edge of the forward number shall be approximately 12" aft of the stem.
- b) The top edge of both numbers shall be approximately 6" from the rail.
- c) All numbers must contrast with the color of the hull and be at least 12" in height.

It is the responsibility of each participating yacht to obtain and affix their bow numbers to their yacht.

Bow numbers will be assigned to each participating yacht for the duration of the Circuit year. Bow numbers 01 through 10 are pre-assigned to the top ten (10) teams based on previous year's circuit standings.

Bow numbers 11 through 99 are available for teams on a first come basis. Bow numbers 11 through 99 used in the previous circuit year will be reserved for the yacht that declared it in that previous year. Available Bow numbers can be found at www.j24texas.com.

Bow numbers for the current Circuit are considered declared once a yacht has registered for a regatta using the declared bow number. Issues relating to bow numbers (e.g. assignment, placement, size, etc.) will be resolved solely by the Governor.

2018 J/24 Worlds Qualification

The Southwest Regional Championship regatta is the standing J/24 World Qualifier for USJCA Districts 14 and 18. The highest finishing USJCA District 14 or 18 helmsperson at the 2017 Southwest Regional Championship that meets the provisions of that section titled World Championships under paragraphs 5.3 and 5.4, as specified in the International J/24 Class Regatta Regulations, Rev. 6.0, will qualify for a berth at the 2018 J/24 Worlds to be held at Fraglia Vela Riva del Garda, Riva del Garda TN Italy from August 24-31, 2018. If the Southwest Regional Championship does not qualify as a scored regatta of the Circuit (see Scoring section above), the next completed circuit stop will become the USJCA Southwest Regional Worlds Qualifier.

Additional Information

For more information regarding the Circuit, you may contact Tonja Holmes-Moon, District 14 Governor at (940) 808-6477 or sailboats4sanity@yahoo.com, ~ John Parker, Texas Circuit Representative, at (512) 983-2582 or j24tcrr@gmail.com ~ or Bryan Dyer, Texas Circuit Representative, at 817-925-9259 or bdyer@woodmont.com.

Changes to this Notice of Circuit and Schedule of Races will be posted on the USJCA District 14 website at <http://www.j24texas.com/>.