



2019 ETCHELLS NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP AT HOUSTON YACHT CLUB

3620 Miramar

Shore Acres, Texas 77571

www.houstonyachtclub.com

May 6-12, 2019

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS(SI's)

The Organizing Authority (OA) is The Houston Yacht Club (HYC) and Etchells fleet 23.

1. RULES

- 1.1 The regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in the current *Racing Rules of Sailing* (RRS).
- 1.2 The regatta is an Etchells Class B sanctioned event under Appendix A of the International Etchells Class Association (IECA) Rules. The IECA Rules and Regulations will apply except as modified by the SI's.
- 1.3 All competing boats shall carry a handheld VHF radio for safety purposes and Race Committee (RC) communication.
- 1.4 The following US Sailing Prescriptions will apply: RRS 61.4, prescriptions to RRS 60.3, 63.2, 67, 76.1, and Appendix V, as shown in Attachment A.
- 1.5 If there is a conflict between languages, the English text will take precedence.
- 1.6 If there is a conflict between rules or regulations, other than RRS, the SI's will prevail. This alters RRS 63.7.
- 1.7 The Protest Committee (PC) may impose suitable penalties, other than disqualification **(DP)**, for violations of non-Part 2 rules. This changes RRS 64.1.

2. NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board located in the breezeway adjacent to the HYC Office.

3. CHANGES TO SI's

Any change to the SI's will be posted before 0900 hours on the day it will take effect, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 2000 hours on the day before it will take effect.

4. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 4.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed on the HYC flagpole.
- 4.2 When flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 60 minutes' in race signal AP. This changes RRS Race Signals.

5. REGISTRATION

- 5.1 Registration formalities as detailed in the Notice of Race required to be completed by 1800 hours on Wednesday May 8.
- 5.2 All boats will be issued with bow numbers at registration. Bow numbers are to be attached to the forward part of each side of each boat, with the after part of the bow number to be no more than one metre from the hull datum point as defined in class rule D.2.4 (a) and the top of the bow number to be no more than 20 mm below the gunwale. No numbers may wrap around the stem or the gunwale and the spacing between characters shall be 70 mm. **(DP)**



6. SCHEDULE OF RACES

6.1 Racing is scheduled as follows:

Date	Event	Time
Monday May 6	Early arrival	
Tuesday May 7	Registration and weigh in	1500-1800
Wednesday May 8	Registration and weigh in	0900-1200
	Registration and weigh in	1500-1800
	Practice race warning	1400
	Competitors Meeting	1800
	All Etchells afloat	1800
	Welcome reception	1830
Thursday May 9	Supplemental crew weigh in	0730-0930
	Competitors Briefing	0930
	Championship Racing	1055 Warning Signal
Friday May 10	Competitors Briefing	0930
	Championship Racing	1055 Warning Signal
	Competitors Briefing	0930
Saturday May 11	Championship Racing	1055 Warning Signal

6.2 Three (3) races each day are scheduled for Thursday and Friday and two (2) races Saturday.

One (1) additional race per day may be sailed, provided that the fleet does not become more than one (1) race ahead of schedule. There will be a maximum of eight (8) races.

6.3 When more than one (1) race will be held on the same day, the warning signal for each succeeding race will be made as soon as practicable. To alert boats that another race will begin soon the RC will announce on the VHF channel 69 the time for the next warning

6.4 On the final day of the regatta, the initial warning signal for the final race will not be made after 1500 hours.

7. CLASS FLAG

The class flag will be the Etchells Class insignia on a white background.

8. RACING AREA

All races will be sailed in the vicinity of the HYC in the race area as depicted in the Attachment C “Map of Race Area.” The race area is that part of Galveston Bay bounded by Morgan’s Point on the North, the Bayport Ship Channel on the South, the Houston Ship Channel on the East, and the La Porte/Shore Acres shoreline on the West.

9. THE COURSES

9.1 The diagrams in Attachment B show the course configuration, including the order in which marks are to be passed, and the side on which each mark is to be left.

9.2 The course to be sailed will be designated by displaying the course number on a board from the RC signal boat no later than the warning signal.

9.3 The RC signal boat may display the approximate compass bearing and distance from the Starting Line to Mark 1.

9.4 When there is a gate, boats shall sail between the gate marks from the direction of the previous mark and round either gate mark. If there is only one leeward mark it shall be left to Port.

10. MARKS

10.1 Marks 1 and 3 S/P will be orange 5’ tet. Mark 2 will be an orange ball.

10.2 The starting and finishing marks will be RC vessels.



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11. THE START

11.1 Races will be started using RRS 26.

11.2 The Starting Line will be between staffs displaying orange flag on the RC vessels at each end of the starting line.

11.3 A boat starting later than 5 minutes after the starting signal will be scored DNS. This changes RRS 63.1, A4.1 and A.5.

11.4. The RC will attempt to notify OCS, UFD, BFD boats by bow number or sail number by radio on VHF Channel 69. Failure of equipment, failure to hear a hail, delay in hailing or the order in which hails are given will not be grounds for redress.

11.5 If after a RRS 30.4 (Black Flag) general recall the RC will display her bow number on the signal boat, this changes RRS 30.4

12. CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

To change the next leg of the course, the RC will move the original mark (or the finishing line) to a new position. The change will be signaled before the leading boat has begun the leg, although the mark (or finishing line) may not yet be in the new position. Any mark to be rounded after rounding the moved mark may be relocated without further signaling to maintain the course configuration. This changes RRS 33.

13. THE FINISH

The finishing line will be between staffs displaying an orange flag on the RC vessels at each end of the line.

14. PENALTY SYSTEM

US Sailing Prescription APPENDIX V will apply, as stated in full in Attachment A

15. TIME LIMITS

15.1 The time limit for Course 1 will be 3 hours from the starting signal or for Course 2 it will be 2.5 hours from the starting signal. If one boat finishes within the time limit, then the race will stand.

15.2 If no boat has passed the first windward mark 45 minutes after the starting signal, the race shall be abandoned.

15.3 Boats failing to finish within 30 minutes after the first boat sails the course and finishes will be scored Did Not Finish. This changes RRS 35, A4.1 and A.5.

16. PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

16.1 Protest forms are available at the PC desk located upstairs outside the PC room at HYC. Protests shall be delivered there within 90 minutes of the last boat to finish the last race of the day. This time will be posted on the official notice board.

16.2 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 PC room at HYC.

16.3 Notices of protests by the RC or the PC will be posted within the protest time limit on the official notice board to inform boats under RRS 61.1(b).

16.4 For infringements of the rules other than Part 2, the PC may award a lesser penalty than DSQ.

16.5 For the purpose of RRS 64.3(b) the 'authority responsible' is the Class International Governing Committee.

16.6 Breaches of instructions 5.2, 18, 19, 23, 24 and 25 will not be grounds for protest by a boat. This changes RRS 60.1(a). Penalties for these breaches may be less than disqualification if the PC so decides. **(DP)**



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16.7 On the last day of the regatta:

- (a) a request for reopening a hearing shall be delivered within the protest time limit if the party requesting reopening was informed of the decision on the previous day;
- (b) a request for reopening a hearing held on the last day shall be delivered no later than 30 minutes after the party requesting reopening was informed of the decision on that day;
- (c) the time limit to request redress based upon an action or omission of the RC or PC shall be 30 minutes after the final results are posted. This changes RRS 62.

17. SCORING

17.1 The Low Point scoring system of RRS Appendix A will apply.

17.2 Four (4) races are required to be completed to constitute a series.

17.3 When six (6) or more races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her races scores excluding her worst score.

18. SAFETY REGULATIONS

A boat that retires from a race shall notify the RC as soon as possible. **(DP)**

19. REPLACEMENT OF CREW OR EQUIPMENT

Substitution of crew will not be allowed without prior written approval of the PC, and such requests shall be submitted to the RC for verification of eligibility and crew weight of the substitute crew. **(DP)**

20. EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS

20.1 A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the Class Rules and SI's which may include RRS 43 and Class Rules C.2.2 and C.3.2. **(DP)**

20.2 On the water, a boat can be instructed by the RC to proceed immediately to a designated area for inspection. **(DP)**

21. CREW WEIGHING

21.1 The individual weights of each crew member and the total combined crew weight of the entire crew, including skipper, shall be determined prior to racing and the total combined weight of crew members for each boat will be posted on the official notice board.

21.2 Crews shall be weighed wearing light clothing, the minimum being outerwear shorts and t-shirt.

22. OFFICIAL BOATS

Official boats will be marked as follows:

RC US Sailing Blue RC flag.

Media Boats yellow flag with black M.

Safety red flag with white cross.

PC code flag J or US sailing Judge flag

23. COACH AND SUPPORT BOATS

23.1 Coach and support boats as well as designated responsible person must be registered with the OA prior to acting as a coach or support boat and shall be marked with identifying flags issued by the OA. Boats shall display identifying flags at all times while they are acting as a coach or support boat. **(DP)**

23.2 All registered coach and support boats will carry on board and operate while on the water a VHF radio capable of transmitting and receiving on VHF Channels 16 and 69 and agree to assist the RC if directed to do so. **(DP)**



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23.3 Competitors shall have no communication with, and boats shall not be tied to, coach or support boats 10 minutes before the first scheduled Warning Signal of the day until racing has been concluded for the day. **(DP)**

23.4 The 10 minute notification method will be by hail on the VHF channel 69. Between races, coach and support boats shall not approach, communicate with or transfer provisions or equipment to or from their supported boats unless in a medical or emergency requirement threatening the health of the crew or the flotation of the boat and only with the expressed permission of the RC. **(DP)**

23.5 Registered coach and support boats and their personnel shall stay at least 100 metres below the starting line from the time of the Preparatory Signal until five minutes after the start of any race. After this time, coach and support boats may then proceed parallel to the course on the starboard side of the course facing the wind at a distance of at least 100 metres outside areas where boats are racing. Coach and support boats shall not go above the weather marks or the Course 1 finishing line or below the leeward marks or the Course 2 finishing line at any other time while boats are racing. **(DP)**

23.6 Any breach of SI 23.1, 23.2, 23.3 or 23.4 by a coach or support boat may result in a penalty being applied to any or all boats serviced by that coach or support boat. The penalty may be disqualification, or some other penalty as determined by the PC. **(DP)**

23.7 Coach and support boats shall, when requested by the RC, tow or assist boats not associated with them. Coach and support boats will monitor VHF channel 69 and if circumstances require a verbal permission by the RC via VHF with post written notice this is acceptable. Coach and support boats shall follow all instructions from the RC. **(DP)**

24. HAUL-OUT RESTRICTIONS

All boats shall be afloat before 1800 hours on Wednesday May 8 and shall not be hauled out during the regatta except with and according to the terms of prior written permission of the PC. **(DP)**

25. PLASTIC POOLS

Plastic pools or their equivalent shall not be used around competing yachts between the close of registration and the end of the regatta. **(DP)**

26. RADIO COMMUNICATION

26.1 This supplements, but does not change, RRS 2 and 41 for the IECA. All boats must carry a marine band VHF receiver capable of receiving normal international channels. Boats must use the radio to report retirement from racing and may use the radio to request assistance in an emergency. No other transmissions are permitted by competing yachts during each racing day from the first warning signal until the end of the last race of the day.

26.2 The RC may use the radio to advise competitors of race information.

26.3 The use of mobile/cell phones or any device capable of sending and/or receiving external electronic communication and/or connecting to the internet is prohibited after the first warning signal on each race day until the boat has completed its days racing, except as provided in SI 26.1 or in an emergency threatening the safety of any member of the crew or the flotation of the boat and only with the express permission of the RC. **(DP)**

27. PRIZES

27.1 Awards shall be provided to the top five (5) boats and their crew in the regatta and top three (3) Corinthian teams. Additional prizes may be given at the discretion of the OA.

27.2 The North American Championship Perpetual Trophy will be awarded to the overall winner.

27.3 The Corinthian Trophy will be awarded to the top Corinthian team.



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28. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

28.1 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 Part 1 Fundamental Rules 4 Decision to Race which states: "The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue *racing* is hers alone."

28.2 The OA is not responsible for the seaworthiness of a yacht whose entry is accepted or the sufficiency or adequacy of its equipment. The OA 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.

29. INSURANCE

Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of \$300,000 per incident or the equivalent

30. FURTHER INFORMATION

The event website can be found on the HYC website (www.houstonyachtclub.com).

For further information, please contact

Regatta Manager: Beth Gibson mobile: +1 713-202-5510 or email sailingmom25@yahoo.com

Event Chair: Marvin Beckmann mobile: 832-656-4022 or email: mbeckmann@manateeusa.com.

PRO Mark Foster IRO USA mobile 361-816-9801 mfoster1053@gmail.com



Attachment A

The following US Sailing Prescriptions shall apply at the 2019 International Etchells North American Championship

RRS 60.3 After RRS 60.3 add (b) request redress for a boat or call a hearing to consider redress

Add RRS 61.4

Fees for Protests and Requests for Redress US Sailing prescribes that no fees shall be charged for protests or requests for redress.

RRS 63.2 After RRS 63.2 add US Sailing prescribes that when redress has been requested or is to be considered for one or more boats:

- (a) Any other boat may participate in the hearing
- (b) The PC shall make a reasonable attempt to notify all boats of the time and place of the hearing and the reason for the request or for considering redress, and boats shall be allowed reasonable time to prepare for the hearing.
- (c) The PC shall request redress for the other boats that participate in the hearing or request in writing to do so, making them parties to the hearing. It need not state a reason for such request. This changes RRS 62.2.

RRS 67 After RRS 67 add:

US Sailing prescribes that:

- a) A boat that retires from a race or accepts a penalty does not, by that action alone, admit liability for damages.
- (b) A PC shall find facts and make decisions only in compliance with the rules. No PC or US Sailing appeal authority shall adjudicate any claim for damages. Such a claim is subject to the jurisdiction of the courts.
- (c) A basic purpose of the rules is to prevent contact between boats. By participating in an event governed by the rules, a boat agrees that responsibility for damages arising from any breach of the rules shall be based on fault as determined by application of the rules, and that she shall not be governed by the legal doctrine of 'assumption of risk' for monetary damages resulting from contact with other boats.

RRS 76.1 After RRS 76.1 add:

US Sailing prescribes that an OA or RC shall not reject or cancel the entry of a boat or exclude a competitor eligible under the notice of race and sailing instructions for an arbitrary or capricious reason or for reason of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, or age.

Appendix V ALTERNATIVE PENALTIES

V1 PENALTY AT THE TIME OF AN INCIDENT

The first two sentences of rule 44.1 are changed to read: A boat may take a One-Turn Penalty when she may have broken one or more rules of Part 2 or rule 31 in an incident while *racing*. However, when she may have broken one or more rules or Part 2 while in the *zone* around a *mark* other than a starting *mark*, her penalty shall be a Two-turns Penalty.

V2 PENALTY TAKEN AFTER A RACE

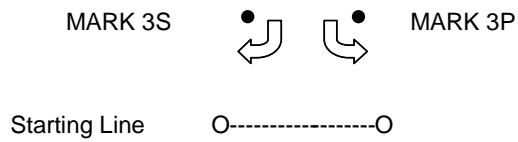
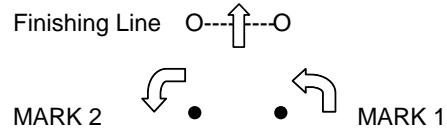
After a race, a boat that may have broken one or more rules of Part 2 or rule 31 in an incident while racing may take a Post-Race Penalty for that incident. A boat takes the penalty by delivering a written notice to the race office that identifies the race number and when and where the incident occurred. The penalty shall be a 30% Scoring Penalty, calculated as stated in rule 44.3(c). However, rules 44.1(a) and (b) apply, and the penalty shall not be taken after a protest hearing involving the incident has begun.



Attachment B

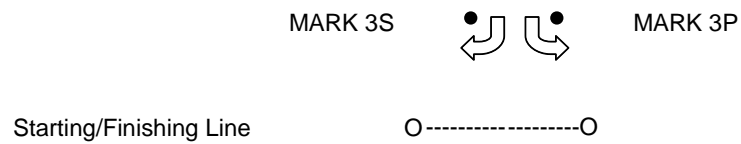
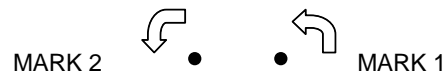
Course 1

Start – 1 – 2 - 3P/3S – 1 – 2 - 3P/3S – Finish



Course 2

Start – 1 – 2 – 3P/3S – 1 – 2 – Finish





Attachment C

Map of Race Area

