



J/24 TEXAS NOTICE OF CIRCUIT

Amendment No. 3

(Effective July 11, 2020)

Invitation

You are cordially invited to participate in the abbreviated 2020 J/24 Texas Circuit (the “Circuit”) to be held from September through November 2020, and sponsored by the U.S. 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. The Circuit is administered by the Texas Circuit Representative (“Circuit Rep”) and USJCA District 14 Governor of record (“Governor”).

COVID Waiver Info and Changes

Due to the unprecedented effects of the COVID-19 pandemic across the World and how it has affected participating in racing in the sailing community, some parts of this NOC will contain a COVID Waiver or a revision to our standard language. This is in no way intended to be in contradiction of any Class Rules or requirements. In the event of a concern, please contact the Circuit Rep or Governor for guidance.

Eligibility

The Circuit is open to all J/24 boats as defined by the International J/24 Class. Helmspersons must be Full Members (\$90) of the J/24 National or International Class. In addition, all boats and competitors must meet all requirements set forth in this Notice of Circuit (“NOC”), as well as individual Circuit Stop 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).

Full and Associate membership may be obtained online at <http://j24usa.com/membership/>

Most of the Circuit Regattas will offer a discount on the entry fee with a US Sailing membership. Although not required, we encourage US Sailing membership. Membership may be obtained online at <https://www1.ussailing.org/mem/default.aspx>

It has become a regular practice to require proof of insurance as a condition of entry to regattas. Each participating boat should be prepared to provide proof of valid third party insurance with a minimum coverage of \$300,000 per incident or the amount as required by the regatta organizers. Each helmsperson should research insurance options. One option is Gowrie Group who provides One Design focused insurance. <https://www.gowrie.com/USSailingPrograms/OneDesignProgram.aspx>

Rules

The Circuit Regattas that make up the Circuit will be governed by the rules as defined in the 2017-2020 Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS), the 2019 International J/24 Class Rules (“Class Rule”), this NOC, and the respective Notices of Race and Sailing Instructions for each Circuit Regatta. Certain Class Rules are outlined herein to highlight some pertinent rules. However, **each person participating in the Circuit is encouraged to review and learn all of the Class Rules.** Class Rules can be found at <http://www.j24class.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/J24-Class-Rules-2019.pdf>.

It is intended for the respective protest committees of the host clubs for each Circuit Regatta to have authority on all matters within their jurisdiction. In the event there is a protest or violation relating to Class Rules that fall outside of the protest committee jurisdiction, a committee consisting of District 14 Fleet Captains of record and chaired by the Governor will resolve such matters. These include, but are not limited to, circuit scoring, helmsperson substitution, and noncompliance of certain Class Rules or this NOC.

In accordance with Class Rule A.11.1, all boats must have a current, valid Measurement Certificate issued by the J/24 Class and current (completed annually) Inventory of Required and Optional Equipment in accordance with Class Rule B.3.2. In accordance with Class Rule B.3, all boats must carry aboard the current Measurement Certificate and Inventory of Required and Optional Equipment.

Measurement Certificate – Any boat without a Measurement Certificate should contact the Governor to arrange for boat measurement in order to obtain a Measurement Certificate. A boat without a Measurement Certificate may race in the Circuit only with prior approval of, and during the timeframe as designated by the Governor.

COVID WAIVER – Any boats that do not have a current Measurement Certificate are granted a waiver for the 2020 Circuit. Please contact Tonja Sanchez-Holmes, Circuit Rep and Class Measurer, to arrange for boat measurement prior to the 2021 Circuit season.

Inventory of Required and Optional Equipment – It is the sole responsibility of each owner or helmsperson to complete this form. Completing this form does not require a class measurer. Each boat shall use the designated District 14 form which can be requested from the Texas Rep or can be found on the J/24 Texas Circuit website.

COVID WAIVER – An Inventory of Required and Optional Equipment is still required; however, in the event a boat does not have this form on their boat, there will be no penalty.

A boat and/or its equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with Class Rules by the Governor, Circuit Rep, a J/24 class measurer or race official prior to, during or at the conclusion of each Circuit Regatta, and without prior notification. Any violations of the Class Rules shall be subject to penalties as set forth in the Sailing Instructions for that Circuit Regatta.

COVID WAIVER – There will be no inspections during the 2020 Circuit season, but boats are encouraged to continue complying with Class Rules. In the event there is a serious breach of compliance, any boat may report it by contacting the Circuit Rep.

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 Circuit Regatta and the crew shall remain the same for all races of that Circuit Regatta. Any crew substitution shall be given only in exceptional cases and requires that the helmsperson submit a written request to the Governor or Circuit Rep at least 2 hours prior to racing on the day in which the substitution is requested.

COVID WAIVER – Crews will not be weighed during the 2020 Circuit season. Boats should still achieve to not exceed the 400 kg (882 lbs) weight limit. In the event there is a serious breach of crew weight, any boat may report it by contacting the Circuit Rep.

Sails

Pursuant to Class Rule A.9.1., the mainsail, 150% genoa and spinnaker must all have the same sail numbers as their boat's hull number. Any boat whose sail numbers do not match their hull number may race in the Circuit Regatta by submitting a written request at least 2 hours prior to racing on the day in which the substitution is requested to the protest committee informing them of the sail type and sail number in which they will be competing. This request shall be approved by the Governor or Circuit Rep prior to presenting to the protest committee.

Pursuant to RRS 87, Class Rule C.10.2 is amended herein and in the Sailing Instructions to allow boats to carry one (1) additional spinnaker in the Circuit Regattas. Boats shall comply strictly to this amendment as it is stated in the Sailing Instructions.

Boats must compete with the same set of sails for the entirety of a Circuit Regatta. Lost or damaged sails may be replaced with the authorization of the Governor or Circuit Rep, or as it is outlined in the respective Sailing Instructions, and requests for sail replacement shall be made at the first reasonable opportunity. Replacement sails shall comply with this NOC and Class Rules.

COVID WAIVER – Boats will not be required to provide notice or obtain approval for any of the items noted above. Boats should comply with the remaining portions of this paragraph. In the event there is a serious breach of this paragraph, any boat may report it by contacting the Circuit Rep.

Entry

Each boat shall register for each Circuit Regatta pursuant to the Notice of Race posted on the J/24 Texas Circuit Facebook or webpage, or the host club for that Circuit Regatta, and complete registration as outlined therein and as set forth in this NOC.

D14 Participation Fee

COVID WAIVER – There will be no participation fee for the 2020 Circuit season. All fees paid in 2020 will be rolled over to the 2021 Texas season.

As part of the entry to participate in the Circuit, each helmsperson is required to register and provide a Participation Fee. Fee payments are payable as follows:

1. For boats that will participate in two (2) or more Circuit Regattas, the Fee is \$45.
2. For local boats that intend to participate in only one (1) Circuit Regatta, the Fee is \$15.

These Fees are separate from the J/24 Class membership fee. These Fees allow the helmsperson to compete in J/24 Texas Circuit events. Only the \$45 Fee allows the helmsperson to compete in all D14 Series¹ events. The Participation Fee shall remain with the helmsperson and not the boat.

¹ *The D14 Series is a series of J/24 races conducted separate of the Texas Circuit; however, Texas Circuit events are part of the D14 Series event scoring for those competing in the D14 Series. For more info on the D14 Series and scoring provisions, visit the District 14 website at www.j24district14.com*

By **March 1st** of each Circuit year, or **at least one (1) week prior** to participation in their first Circuit Regatta of the current Circuit year, helmspersons are required to pay the fee.

Helmspersons that have not paid their Class Membership and/or Participation Fees prior to any Circuit Regatta in which they participate have not completed registration and may be asked not to compete and/or may not be scored.

Circuit Schedule

The 2020 Texas Circuit comprises of the following five (5) scheduled Circuit Regattas:

Date	Circuit Regatta Name, Host Fleet & Host Club
September 5-6*	Heritage & Corinthian Cup: Fleet 163 and Dallas Corinthian Yacht Club REGISTRATION: https://www.regattanetwork.com/event/19954#_home
September 19-20*	HOOD/Beasley Cup: Fleet 5 and Houston Yacht Club REGISTRATION: https://www.regattanetwork.com/event/20710
October 10-11*	J/Fest Southwest: Fleet 5 and Lakewood Yacht Club REGISTRATION: https://www.jfestsouthwest.com/
October 31- November 1	Cowtown Stampede/Southwest Championship World Qualifier: Fleet 54 and Fort Worth Boat Club REGISTRATION: http://www.fortworthboatclub.com/
November 21-22*	Texas Circus: Fleet 21 and Lake Canyon Yacht Club REGISTRATION: https://lcy.net/

* Indicates a combined event with the J/22 Southwest Circuit

Due to the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic going forward, in the event any of the Circuit regattas are canceled, there will be no makeup regatta.

Racing

COVID WAIVER – Due to the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic going forward, race formats for all regattas will be at the discretion of the organizing host club.

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

Circuit Scoring

COVID WAIVER – Due to the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic going forward, scores will be applied to the overall Circuit scoring for all completed regattas and the requirements below are hereby waived, except no scores will be excluded.

RRS Appendix A, as modified below, will apply to the overall Circuit scoring.

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

When four (4) or fewer Circuit Regattas are scored, a boat's overall score will be the total of her Circuit

Regatta scores.

When five (5) Circuit Regattas are scored, a boat's overall score will be the total of her Circuit Regatta scores, excluding her worst score.

When seven (7) Circuit Regattas are scored, a boat's overall score will be the total of her Circuit Regatta scores, excluding her two (2) worst scores.

Co-Helmsperson

COVID WAIVER – Boats may continue to have up to two (2) helmspersons, but a formal designation is not required for the 2020 Circuit season.

There may be more than one, but only up to two (2) Helmspersons (“Co-Helmspersons”), in a team. A team would consist of 5 persons.

For a team to have Co-Helmspersons, the team must designate a primary Helmsperson at the beginning of the Circuit year, and all scoring will be recorded under the primary Helmsperson's name. The Co-Helmspersons and at least three (3) of the same team members must sail together in at least 50% of the Circuit Regattas in which the team has or will compete. Co-Helmspersons that do not meet this requirement must have approval by a majority vote of a committee consisting of the Governor, as committee chair, and District 14 Fleet Captains for those fleets that have a member who has participated in at least one (1) Circuit Regatta or plans to participate in the Circuit 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.

In the event a team earns a berth to the Worlds, the Helmsperson that was designated as the primary Helmsperson is also designated as the recipient of the berth for World qualification purposes.

Prizes

Awards for the Circuit will be presented to the final overall top five (5) Circuit helmspersons, as well as to those crewmembers that participated in all scheduled Circuit Regattas that are held, irrespective as to whether such held Circuit Regattas are scored as part of the Circuit or not (i.e. Road Warriors). In the event a helmsperson or crewmember is not present for a Circuit Regatta because the helmsperson or crewmember is racing in a J/24 Regional, Continental or World event at the same time, then that helmsperson or crewmember is considered to have participated in the Circuit solely for the purposes of being considered a Road Warrior.

Bow Numbers

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

1. The leading edge of the forward number shall be approximately 12” aft of the stem.
2. The top edge of both numbers shall be approximately 6” from the rail.
3. All numbers must contrast with the color of the hull and be at least 12” in height.

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

Bow numbers will be assigned to each participating boat 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 boat that declared it in that previous year.

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

Available Bow numbers can be requested from the Governor. They will also be available on the J/24 Texas website.

2020 J/24 Worlds Qualification

In the years that the Worlds is held in North America, the previous year is a World Qualifier for the District 14 Championship, known as the J/24 Texas Circuit. In 2020, the District 14 Championship is not a World Qualifier.

Every year, the Southwest Regional Championship is the standing J/24 World Qualifier for USJCA Districts 14 and 18. In 2020, **due to the necessity to postpone the 2020 World Championship because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Southwest Championship is not an official World Qualifier. However, the highest finishing helmsperson of the 2020 Southwest Regional Championship may petition for a berth to the 2021 J/24 Worlds to be held at Parkstone Yacht Club, Poole UK from September 24-October 2, 2021. If the Southwest Regional Championship regatta is canceled, there will be no makeup regatta for this Championship.**

Disclaimer of Liability

Competitors participate in these races entirely at their own risk. See RRS rule 4, Decision to Race. The organizing authority will not accept any liability for material damage, personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after a race, series or regatta.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all skippers and crew are encouraged to read the US Sailing Guidance for Return to Competition (<https://cdn.ussailing.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Return-to-Competition-rev.07May2020.pdf>) and are required to comply with all COVID notice requirements from each of the organizers and hosts.

Additional Information

For more information regarding the Circuit, you may contact the following:

- Tonja Holmes-Moon, Texas Circuit Representative at (940) 808-6477 or sailboats4sanity@yahoo.com
- John Parker, District 14 Governor at (512) 983-2582 or captain@j24fleet21.org

More information is located at:

J/24 Texas Circuit (District 14 Championships) website: <http://www.j24texascircuit.com>

J/24 District 14 website <http://www.j24district14.com>

J/24 Texas Circuit Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/J24Texas/>