

By-Law 2
North American Championship Regatta
(NACR)

Amended July 1995
Reprinted March 2001

Electronic version July 2004

(In the event of discrepancies, the Handbook hardcopy takes precedence)

1. Objectives

- 1.1. The purpose of the NACR shall be to bring together annually the best sailors from the entire Association to compete in fun and challenging one-design racing of top quality, in order to determine the Class Champions.
- 1.2. This By-Law is subordinate to **By-Law 1 Races and Regattas**.

2. Eligibility

- 2.1. Eligibility to compete in the NACR as Skipper (per By-Law I, Section 6.2) shall be limited to Members who meet the following requirements:
 - i. are in Voting Status as of 15 March preceding the NACR, and
 - ii. have been Members continuously since the first day of the month in which the previous NACR was scheduled to commence or have purchased a boat and joined the class for the first time during that interval; except that the Governing Board is authorized to make case-by-case decisions and exceptions concerning eligibility.
- 2.2. A Governing Board decision is required to determine the eligibility of Members who fall into the categories of Group 2 and Group 3, as defined in Appendix AIA of the 1993-96 US Sailing Rules, governing participation of professionals.
- 2.3. Eligible Members chartering yachts to race at the NACR must provide their own sails and race under their own Sail Number.
- 2.4. Requests for waivers of eligibility requirements must be submitted in writing, including justifications for the request, to the NACR organizers, who will collect and pass them on to the Governing Board. The Board will normally consider waivers at their annual meeting, normally during the week of the NACR before racing commences.
- 2.5. When a waiver is requested for a person who has been active in the class but whose eligibility has lapsed, the Board may typically permit participation upon payment of current and past years' dues (2 years total) plus a \$10 penalty, *provided* that the Board determines that the competitor is not abusing the privileges of Association membership solely for purposes of competing in a single NACR. Effort shall be made to avoid denial of entry to a competitor who may have traveled a long distance in good faith to the NACR.

3. Requirements and Responsibilities

- 3.1. The site and sponsoring Fleet(s) of the NACR shall be determined as follows. Fleets desiring to sponsor the NACR shall send a bid, in writing, to the Executive Vice President at least 3 months (preferably 8 months) before the prior NACR. The bid shall outline a plan for the event, including time, location, sailing waters and expected conditions, expected staffing of Race and Protest Committees, accommodations, and other details as required to support the bid. The Executive Vice President shall evaluate all the bids received, and shall request additional information as required to fairly evaluate them. Acting on the recommendation of the Executive Vice President, the Governing Board shall then select one bid for the event,

normally at the Governing Board meeting at the prior NACR.

- 3.2. The host Fleet(s) shall be responsible for all aspects of the regatta, including site, facilities, provision of race and protest committees, accommodations, general race organization. Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions, social activities, measurement, etc.
- 3.3. The regatta Race Committee shall be in full charge of racing activities, and shall be empowered to make final decisions concerning all aspects of racing, including delay, abandonment, resailing, etc.
- 3.4. The NACR site shall meet the following requirements:
 - i. Open water, reasonably free of headlands, shoals, and obstructions, shall be available.
 - ii. Adequate housing, launching/mooring facilities, and regatta event facilities shall be available and in close proximity.
 - iii. An active DS Fleet must be sufficiently close as to be able to assume responsibility for all local arrangements.

4. Notice of Race, Registration, and Sailing Instructions

- 4.1. A Notice of Race shall be generated in accordance with US Sailing standards, and delivered in writing to all Association Members and other interested parties, usually included with a mailing of the DSA Quarterly.
- 4.2. The regatta registration forms shall require competitors to identify themselves as belonging to Group 1, 2, or 3 as defined in Appendix A1A of the 1993-96 US Sailing Rules. All crewmembers must be identified on the registration form. The form shall include a release of liability for the event.
- 4.3. The Sailing Instructions (SI) shall be generated in accordance with US Sailing standards, and made available to all competitors upon registration at the NACR. The SI shall include time limits for all races.

5. Limitation of Entries

- 5.1. The regatta organizers (normally the host Fleet) may determine that the number of entries must be limited. In this case they shall draft a plan for doing so and obtain the approval of the Executive Vice President. If the plan is approved sufficiently early, it shall be summarized in the Notice of Race. Otherwise, it shall be made known in writing to all contestants before they travel to the NACR. If limiting the number of entries is found necessary at the time of the regatta, the plan shall be submitted to the Board of Governors for discussion and approval. When approved, the plan must be accurately integrated into the SI.
- 5.2. The Notice of Race must include a deadline, after which entries may be rejected by the regatta organizers if the number of entries must be limited. The meaning of this deadline shall be explained in the Notice.
- 5.3. The plan to limit the number of entries may involve splitting the field into two divisions: the Championship and Presidential Divisions. If this split is done, the requirements of the By-Laws for the NACR shall devolve onto the Championship Division, from which the Class Champions shall be determined. Past top-ten winners in the Championship Division in the most recent two NACRs shall normally remain in that Division in fairness both to them and to the Presidential Fleet.
- 5.4. Any plan to limit the number of entries in the NACR shall incorporate the following principles:

- i. Emphasis shall be on including as many sailors as possible while still running a quality regatta.
- ii. Fleets shall be represented in rough proportion to their numbers of Eligible Members, and Fleet Champions shall be given special consideration.
- iii. The following Members shall not be excluded: previous NACR Champion and runner-up, current Regional and Inter-Regional Champions, and current Class Officers.
- iv. Entries received after the deadline in the Notice of Race shall be excluded first.

6. Weighing and Measuring

- 6.1. The regatta organizers shall determine what measurement requirements shall be in effect at the NACR. The Association encourages comprehensive measurements at the NACR to preserve the one-design integrity of the Class. NACR organizers are strongly encouraged to assist all competitors in completing currently valid Measurement Certificates for use also in other sanctioned events.
- 6.2. The following measurements shall be performed at a minimum before competition at the NACR: all boats shall be weighed, all sails to be used shall be declared and measured, rudder and centerboard profiles shall be checked, and spars shall be measured.
- 6.3. Boats to be given Championship awards may be remeasured or reweighed at the competition, at the option of the regatta Race Committee, in which case the results shall be properly posted, with signals, on the official notice board. These results may constitute grounds for protest.

7. Racing

- 7.1. The NACR shall consist of six scheduled races. A minimum of three races must be properly completed for the NACR to be valid.
- 7.2. Where possible, races will be held in open water to minimize advantages of local knowledge. The host Race Committee shall make appropriate efforts to provide instruction on significant local conditions.
- 7.3. The regatta Race Committee (RC) shall be thoroughly familiar with the Association document "DS North American Championship Regatta Guidelines" and shall strongly consider these Guidelines in running the regatta. The Guidelines are the guidance of the Class to the RC and should be followed when possible, but they are not binding on the RC.
- 7.4. If and only if five or more races are completed, competitors shall be permitted one throw-out in scoring the NACR.
- 7.5. Any changes of crewmembers during the regatta must be reported to the RC, which shall properly post the changes, with signals, on the official notice board. Postings shall include crew weights, which shall be provided with the reports of crew changes. Changes known in advance shall be so posted before competition begins. Any protests based on crew changes must be submitted within 24 hours of posting, unless the changes were not properly reported and posted.

8. Protests

- 8.1. Protest procedures shall be included as appropriate in the SI. For purposes of awarding trophies, it is required that all protests be heard by the Protest Committee, the decisions of which shall finally determine the giving of awards. For purposes of record, full protest and appeal procedures shall be followed.

9. Awards

- 9.1. A perpetual trophy shall be awarded to the winners of the NACR at an awards ceremony open to all people involved in the NACR. The perpetual trophy shall be maintained and (if necessary) properly engraved by the NACR Champions, and they shall be responsible for delivering it to the regatta organizers before the start of racing at the next NACR. The perpetual trophy shall always be insured if shipped.
- 9.2. The regatta organizers shall provide keeper trophies for the top finishing boats, including the Champions. Equal trophies shall be given to all crewmembers, except possibly crewmembers aboard a boat with more than two crew.
- 9.3. Other Association awards may be presented at the conclusion of the NACR. All trophies presented at the NACR, including Association awards other than for top NACR finishers, shall be purchased out of NACR budgets.