

**2024 Etchells US National Championship**  
**August 23-25, 2024**  
**Newport, Rhode Island**  
**Organizing Authority: Sail Newport and the Etchells Class**  
**Sailing Instructions**

**1. RULES**

- 1.1. The event is governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing*.
- 1.2. Only the following prescriptions of US Sailing will apply: Rules 40, 60.3, 61.4, 67, 76.1 and Appendix R.
- 1.3. Bow numbers will be supplied by the OA for this event and shall be applied in accordance with the OA's instructions.

**2. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS**

- 2.1. Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted before 0900 on the day it will take effect, except that during a postponement ashore a change may be posted no later than 15 minutes before flag AP is removed.
- 2.2. Any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 2000 on the day before it will take effect.
- 2.3. Changes to the sailing instructions may be made on the water. The race committee signal vessel will display flag L with one sound signal. Boats should come within hail of the RC boat to receive the oral changes to the sailing instructions, which may also be broadcast to the fleet via VHF.

**3. COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS**

- 3.1. Notices to competitors will be posted on the Official Regatta Notice Board located online at <https://yachtscoring.com/emenu.cfm?eID=16804>. Courtesy copies may be posted on the Courtesy Notice Board near the race office at the Sail Newport main building (72 Ft. Adams Dr.).
- 3.2. A skippers meeting will be held at the Sail Newport main building at 0900 on Friday, August 23.
- 3.3. On the water, the race committee intends to monitor and communicate with competitors on VHF channel 73.
- 3.4. As a courtesy only, the race committee will attempt to broadcast the bow number of boats on the course side (OCS) at the start. Failure to broadcast such hail, the timeliness of such hail or the failure of a boat to hear such hail will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 62.1(a).
- 3.5. From the first warning signal until the end of the last race of the day, except in an emergency, a boat shall not make voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice or data communication that is not available to all boats. [DP]

#### 4. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 4.1. Signals made ashore will be displayed from the flagpole at the Sail Newport main building.
- 4.2. When flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 60 minutes' in Race Signals AP.

#### 5. SCHEDULE OF RACES

Friday, August 23	0900 – Skippers Meeting at Sail Newport (72 Ft. Adams Drive)
	1100 – First warning signal
	<i>Following racing – Social at Sail Newport</i>
Saturday, August 24	1100 – First warning signal
Sunday, August 25	1100 – First warning signal
	1400 – No warning signal after this time
	<i>Following racing – Prize Giving</i>

- 5.1. The race committee intends to run three races per day. The race committee may adjust the daily number of races to accomplish the total races scheduled.
- 5.2. To alert boats that a race will begin soon, the race committee will display the orange starting line flag with one sound at least one minute before making the warning signal.

#### 6. CLASS FLAG

The Class Flag will be a white field with black Etchells logo.

#### 7. RACING AREA

The racing area(s) will be either north of the Newport Pell Bridge or in Rhode Island Sound near navigation mark R2. The race area will be announced by VHF each day at least 90 minutes before the first warning signal.

#### 8. COURSES

- 8.1. The diagrams and tables in SI Appendix 1 show the courses, including the marks of the course, the approximate angles between legs, the order in which marks are to be passed, and the side on which each mark is to be left.
- 8.2. No later than the warning signal, the race committee will display from the signal vessel the course and the approximate bearing and distance of the first leg.

#### 9. MARKS

- 9.1. All marks except the race committee signal vessel are MarkSetBots.
- 9.2. If one mark of the gate is missing, boats shall leave the other mark to port.

#### 10. CHECK IN [DP]

Before the first warning signal each day, boats shall pass close by the race committee signal vessel and hail her bow or sail number and be acknowledged by the race committee.

## 11. THE START

- 11.1. The starting line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the race committee vessel and the course side of a mark at the port end of the starting line.
- 11.2. Boats failing to start within five minutes after their starting signal will be scored Did Not Start without a hearing. This changes RRS 63.1, A4 and A5.

## 12. CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

- 12.1. To change the next leg of the course, the race committee will move the next mark to its new position.
- 12.2. The race committee may adjust the direction of the next mark up to 5 degrees or the length of the leg up to 5% of the previous length without signaling.

## 13. THE FINISH

The finishing line will be between a staff displaying a blue flag on a race committee vessel and the course side of a mark at the port end of the finishing line.

## 14. TIME LIMIT

Race Time Limit	Finishing Window
1 hour 45 minutes	15 minutes

The Finishing Window is the time for boats to finish after the first boat sails the course and finishes. Boats failing to finish within the finishing window and not subsequently retiring, penalized, or given redress will be scored Did Not Finish without a hearing. This changes RRS 35, A5.1, A5.2 and A10.

## 15. PENALTIES

Appendix V1 – PENALTY AT THE TIME OF AN INCIDENT and  
Appendix V2 – POST-RACE PENALTIES are in effect.

## 16. HEARING REQUESTS

- 16.1. The protest time limit is one hour after the race committee signal boat docks at the end of the day.
- 16.2. Notices will be posted no later than 30 minutes after the end of protest time to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses. Hearings will be held at the Sail Newport main building at the time posted.

## 17. SCORING

- 17.1. A maximum of nine races are scheduled. When fewer than five races are completed, a boat's series score is the total of her race scores. When five or

more races are completed, a boat's series score is the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.

17.2. Three races are required to be completed to constitute a series.

## **18. SUPPORT TEAMS [DP]**

From the time of the first warning signal of the day or the first warning after a postponement ashore until the end of racing for the day, except in an emergency, support personnel and boats shall remain outside of the racing area and shall not approach, have communication with or transfer equipment or supplies to or from competitors. See Notice of Race 16.

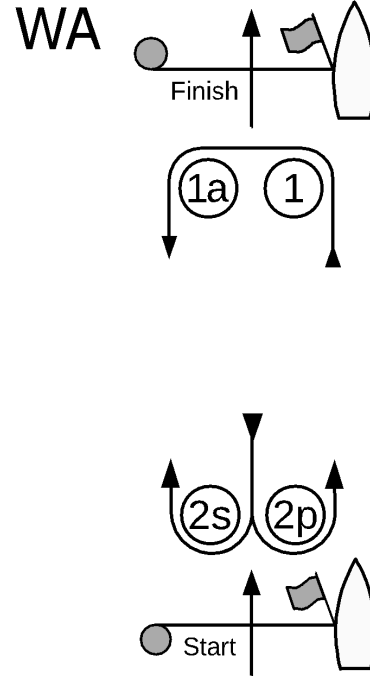
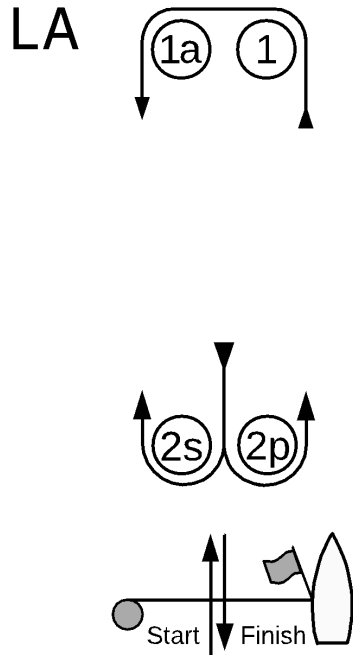
## **19. SAFETY (DP)**

- 19.1. Boats shall carry safety equipment required by the current International Etchells Class Rules.
- 19.2. All competitors are urged to wear life jackets or adequate personal buoyancy while racing.
- 19.3. All boats shall carry VHF radios and monitor the race committee channel.
- 19.4. A boat that retires from racing or leaves the race area shall promptly notify the race committee. If that is not possible, a boat shall notify Sail Newport on VHF channel 09 or by calling (401) 846-1983.

## **20. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY**

- 20.1. Competitors participate in this regatta entirely at their own risk. See RRS 3 – DECISION TO RACE, which states, "The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue *racing* is hers alone."
- 20.2. By participating in this event each competitor agrees and acknowledges that sailing is a potentially dangerous activity with inherent risks. These risks include strong winds and rough seas, sudden changes in weather, failure of equipment, boat handling errors, poor seamanship by other boats, loss of balance on an unstable platform and fatigue resulting in increased risk of injury. **Inherent in the sport of sailing is the risk of permanent, catastrophic injury or death by drowning, trauma, hypothermia or other causes.**
- 20.3. The organizing authority, regatta volunteers and sponsors will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with, prior to, during or after the regatta.

## APPENDIX 1 – COURSES



<b>Course LA – Windward/Leeward with Offset Mark, Leeward Finish</b>	
<i>Signal</i>	<i>Mark Rounding Order</i>
LA2	Start – 1 – 1a – 2s/2p – 1 – 1a – Finish
LA3	Start – 1 – 1a – 2s/2p – 1 – 1a – 2s/2p – 1 – 1a – Finish
LA4	Start – 1 – 1a – 2s/2p – 1 – 1a – 2s/2p – 1 – 1a – 2s/2p – 1 – 1a – Finish

<b>Course WA – Windward/Leeward with Offset Mark, Windward Finish</b>	
<i>Signal</i>	<i>Mark Rounding Order</i>
WA2	Start – 1 – 1a – 2s/2p – Finish
WA3	Start – 1 – 1a – 2s/2p – 1 – 1a – 2s/2p – Finish
WA4	Start – 1 – 1a – 2s/2p – 1 – 1a – 2s/2p – 1 – 1a – 2s/2p – Finish