



International Etchells Class 2024 Australian Championship

6th - 11th January 2024
Sydney Harbour

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS (SIs)

The Organising Authority (OA) is the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron (RSYS), 33 Peel Street, Kirribilli, NSW, in conjunction with the International Etchells Sydney Fleet Inc.

The notation [DP] in a rule in the Sailing Instructions (SIs) means that the penalty for a breach of that rule may, at the discretion of the protest committee, be less than disqualification. The notation [NP] in a rule means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking this rule.

1 RULES

1.1 The event is governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing*.

2 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

2.1 Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted before 1000 hours on the day it will take effect, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 1800 hours on the day before it will take effect.

3 COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS

3.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the official online notice board located at <https://www.rsys.com.au/group/pages/etchells-australian-championship-2024>

3.2 The race office is located at 33 Peel Street, Kirribilli, telephone (02) 9017 0152, email sailing@rsys.com.au

3.3 On the water, the race committee intends to monitor and communicate with competitors on VHF radio channel 74.

3.4 [DP] 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.

3.5 In addition, during the event a messaging service (WhatsApp, SMS or other) will also be used to contact registered mobile numbers for each boat providing notifications and RC communications. Further details will be provided at registration. Failure to receive messages shall not be grounds for redress and changes RRS 62.1(a).

4 CODE OF CONDUCT

4.1 [DP] Competitors and support persons shall comply with reasonable requests from race officials.

4.2 This event will be conducted in accordance with the Etchells Class Code of Conduct which is available on the IECA website (https://etchells.org/assets/documents/Code_of_Conduct_Approved_2023.07.25.pdf). Competitors will be required to sign the Code of Conduct at or prior to registration for the event. Failure by a competitor to sign the Code of Conduct may result in the competitor being ineligible to participate in the event.

5 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 5.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed on the RSYS main flag mast located on the RSYS front lawn.
- 5.2 When flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 30 minutes' in Race Signals AP.

6 SCHEDULE OF RACES

- 6.1 Nine (9) races are scheduled for the series and up to three (3) races sailed on any one day

Day	Event	Time
Saturday, 6 January	Registration and Weigh In	0900 - 1300
Sunday, 7 January	Registration and Weigh In	0900 - 1100
	Practice Race (Warning Signal)	1330
Monday, 8 January	Competitors' Briefing	1030
	Racing (First Warning Signal)	1330
Tuesday, 9 January	Racing (First Warning Signal)	1330
Wednesday, 10 January	Racing (First Warning Signal)	1330
Thursday, 11 January	Racing (First Warning Signal)	1330

- 6.2 One extra race per day may be sailed, provided that the championship is no more than one race ahead of schedule and the change is made according to SI 2.1.
- 6.3 To alert boats that a race or sequence of races will begin soon, the orange starting line flag(s) will be displayed with one sound at least five minutes before a warning signal is made.
- 6.4 On the last scheduled day of racing no warning signal will be made after 1530 hrs.

7 CLASS FLAG

- 7.1 The Etchells Class flag is white with the Etchells emblem.

8 RACING AREA

- 8.1 Racing will be conducted on Sydney Harbour, which may include the area in and around Middle Head (The Sound) as indicated in SI Addendum A.

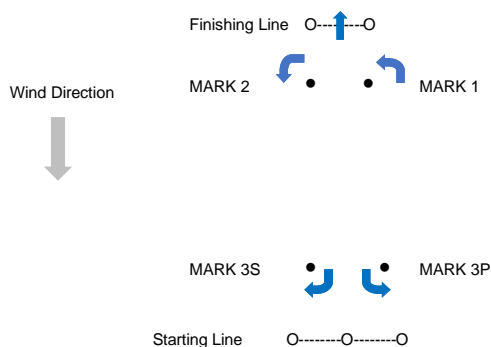
9 COURSES

- 9.1 The course number will be displayed on the committee vessel using numeral pennant 1 or numeral pennant 2. The compass bearing and distance to windward mark 1 will be announced by VHF and displayed on the committee vessel immediately after the orange flag attention signal is displayed for each race.

9.2 The diagrams below show the courses, including the order in which marks are to be passed, and the side on which each mark is to be left.

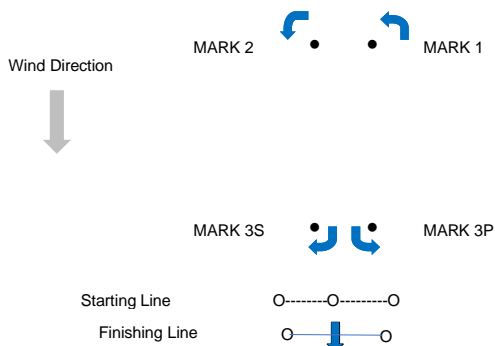
Course 1

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



Course 2

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



9.3 If only a single windward or leeward mark is present, boats shall leave that mark to port before proceeding to the next mark of the course.

9.4 Courses will not be shortened. This changes RRS 32.

10 MARKS

10.1 Marks 1, 3S and 3P are yellow inflatable marks with the lettering RSYS.

10.2 Mark 2 will be an orange inflatable mark with the lettering RSYS.

10.3 New marks, as provided in SI 13, are yellow or orange inflatable marks/mark with the lettering RSYS and black bands.

10.4 The starting line and finishing line marks are black and white checked inflatable marks with the lettering RSYS.

11 OBSTRUCTIONS

11.1 (NP) (DP) For the purposes of RRS 19 the following are continuing obstructions and prohibited areas:

- (a) **Cardinal Marks** – boats shall not sail within the areas bounded by cardinal marks.
- (b) **Moorings** – boats shall not sail within mooring areas. Naval and shipping moorings are excluded from this clause.
- (c) **Garden Island and Chowder Bay** – boats shall not sail within the yellow markers in the vicinity of Garden Island or in Chowder Bay.
- (d) **Shark Island** – boats shall not sail between the yellow AS Shark Island mark and the cardinal mark south of Shark Island in either direction or between Shark Island and the light to the north of Shark Island.

12 THE START

- 12.1 Races will be started using RRS 26 with the warning signal made five (5) minutes before the starting signal.
- 12.2 The starting line is between a staff displaying an orange flag on the race committee vessel at the starboard end and the course side of the port end starting mark.
- 12.3 A boat that does not start within five (5) minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start without a hearing. This changes RRS A5.1 and A5.2.
- 12.4 In addition to RRS 29.1, individual recalls may be broadcast on VHF. Delay or failure to broadcast or receive a recalled bow or sail number shall not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 62.1(a).

13 CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

- 13.1 To change the next leg of the course, the race committee will lay a new mark (or move the finishing line) and remove the original mark as soon as practicable.

14 THE FINISH

- 14.1 The finishing line is between a staff displaying a blue flag on the committee vessel and the course side of the finishing mark.
- 14.2 When viewed from the last mark, the committee vessel will be at the starboard end of the line if course 1 is being sailed and at the port end of the line if course 2 is being sailed.

15 PENALTY SYSTEM

- 15.1 The penalty for breaking a rule of Part 2 shall be a One Turn Penalty, except that for infringements within the Zone, as defined in the RRS18, shall be a Two Turns Penalty. This changes RRS 44.1 and 44.2.

16 TIME LIMITS [AND TARGET TIMES]

- 16.1 The Mark 1 Time Limit, Race Time Limit (see RRS 35), and the Finishing Window are shown in the table below.

Mark 1 Time Limit	Race Target Time	Race Time Limit	Finishing Window
25 minutes	45 minutes	70 minutes	10 minutes

- 16.2 If no boat has passed the first mark within the Mark 1 Time Limit, the race will be abandoned.
- 16.3 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 Time Limit Expired (TLE) without a hearing. A boat scored TLE shall be scored points for the finishing place one more than the points scored by the last boat that finished within the Finishing Window. This changes RRS 35, A5.1, A5.2 and A10.
- 16.4 Failure to meet the Target Time will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 62.1(a).

17 HEARING REQUESTS

- 17.1 The protest time limit is ninety minutes after the last boat finishes the last race of the day or the race committee signals no more racing today, whichever is later. The time will be posted on the official online notice board.
- 17.2 Hearing request forms are available for download using the below link or from the race office <https://www.rsys.com.au/documents/20124/48902/Protest-Form.pdf>
- 17.3 Notices will be posted on the online noticeboard no later than 30 minutes after the protest time limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses. Hearings will be held at 1000 hours the following day, except on the last day of the regatta where hearings will be held ASAP after the protest time limit of the final race of the day. The protest room is located at the RSYS Kirribilli Room.
- 17.4 The right of appeal from a protest committee decision is denied as provided in rule 70.5((a))[(b)][(c)].

18 SCORING

- 18.1 The low point scoring system will be used as in RRS Appendix A with the following changes.
- a) Nine (9) races are scheduled.
 - b) Four (4) races are required to be completed to constitute a series.
- 18.2 When fewer than five (5) races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores.
- 18.3 When five (5) or more races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.

19 SAFETY REGULATIONS

- 19.1 [NP] (DP) Boats shall comply with the following with regard to commercial shipping.
- (a) Boats shall not pass between the bow of any seagoing ship and a dedicated Port Authority escort vessel whilst on escort duty and within 500 metres from the bow and 30 metres from the side or stern of the seagoing ship
 - (b) Boats shall maintain a minimum distance of 200m from the bow, and 30m from the sides or stern of any ferry displaying the orange diamond.
 - (c) Boats must abide by traffic directions of NSW Maritime Boating Service Officers. Any yacht directed to stop or alter course by NSW Maritime Boating Service Officers as a result of an anticipated breach of the above rules, incident/collision or complaint shall do so immediately.
 - (d) Boats reported by NSW Maritime as having contravened NSW Maritime regulations shall be scored DNE (non-excludable disqualification) without a hearing (amends RRS 63.1).
- 19.2 Boats shall report any incident involving Injury or significant damage likely to cost more than \$5000 to the race committee at the first reasonable opportunity.
- 19.3 [DP] A boat that retires from a race shall notify the race committee at the first reasonable opportunity.

20 REPLACEMENT OF CREW OR EQUIPMENT

- 20.1 [DP] Substitution of competitors is not allowed without prior written approval of the race committee.
- 20.2 [DP] Substitution of damaged or lost equipment is not allowed unless authorized in writing by the race committee. Requests for substitution shall be made to the committee at the first reasonable opportunity, which may be after the race.

21 EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS

- 21.1 A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the class rules, notice of race and sailing instructions.
- 21.2 [DP] When instructed by a race official on the water, a boat shall proceed to a designated area for inspection.

22 OFFICIAL VESSELS

- 22.1 Official vessels will be identified with the RSYS burgee.

23 [DP] SUPPORT PERSON VESSELS

- 23.1 Team leaders, coaches and other support persons shall stay outside areas where boats are racing from the time of the preparatory signal for the first start until all boats have finished or retired or the race committee signals a postponement, general recall or abandonment. Between races, coach and support vessels 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 express permission of the race committee.

24 TRASH DISPOSAL

24.1 Trash may be placed aboard official vessels.

25 BERTHING

25.1 [DP] Boats shall be kept in their assigned places while in the harbour.

26 HAUL-OUT RESTRICTIONS

26.1 [DP] Boats shall not be hauled out during the event except with and according to the terms of prior written permission of the race committee.

27 DIVING EQUIPMENT AND PLASTIC POOLS

27.1 [DP] Plastic pools or their equivalent shall not be used around boats while they are afloat.

27.2 [DP] Boats shall not be cleaned below the waterline by any means while they are afloat.

28 PRIZES

28.1 Prizes will be given in accordance with NOR 23.

29 RISK STATEMENT

29.1 RRS 3 states: 'The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue to race is hers alone.' 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.**

30 INSURANCE

30.1 Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of \$10,000,000 (ten million) for each separate incident.

31 EVENT PERSONEL

31.1	Etchells National Championship	James Arnold Michael Stovin Grant Crowle
	Etchells Sydney Fleet Captain	James Arnold
	Jury	
	International Judge (Chairman)	Howard Elliott (AUS)
	National Judge	Ed Vincent
	National Judge	Erica Kirby
	Race Management	
	International Race Officer	Rob Ridley (AUS)

