



# Etchells Pacific Coast Championship

February 21 – 22, 2026

## SAILING INSTRUCTIONS



### 1. RULES

- 1.1. The event is governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing*.
- 1.2. 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](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.
- 1.3. The [US Sailing Prescriptions](#) that will apply: the preamble to Part 5, 65.1, 70.3(b), 76.1, and APPENDIX V.
- 1.4. If there is a conflict between languages the English text takes precedence.
- 1.5. [NP] Bow numbers may be assigned and supplied by the Organizing Authority (OA) to each participating boat prior to completing registration. If assigned they shall be retained on both sides of the hull throughout the series. Boats failing to follow these requirements are subject to protest only by the Race Committee (RC).
- 1.6. For the purposes of Class Rule C.10.2.(b), not more than 1 mainsail, 2 headsails and 2 spinnakers shall be declared for each appropriate event. All sails being used at each event must exhibit the same sail number.
- 1.7. If, through no fault of its personnel, a boat's hull or spar or sail is rendered incapable of continuing an event, the person in charge may petition OA for permission to substitute a replacement hull or spar or sail.
- 1.8. [DP] A boat shall not carry any unreasonable quantities of water or anything else for the purpose of adding ballast. The amount of water that is stored in containers or bottles which is permitted to be carried should be sufficient for the crew for drinking purposes during the day's racing, to this end a maximum of 10 liters of water per boat is acceptable.
- 1.9. The Jury may impose suitable penalties, other than disqualification, for violations of non-Part 2 rules.
- 1.10. **The RC will use the Vakaros RaceSense system. See SI Attachment A for RaceSense rules and details, including having a working Vakaros Atlas 2 or Edge configured for RaceSense with the current software at check-in.**

### 2. NOTICE TO COMPETITORS

- 2.1. Notice to competitors will be posted on the Official Regatta Notice Board located on the east side, facing the water, of the Sailing Center at the San Diego Yacht Club (SDYC), and as soon as practicable on the Official Regatta Notice Board located on Yacht Scoring website. <https://www.yachtscoring.com/emenu/50508>

### 3. CHANGES TO THE SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 3.1. Any change to the SIs will be posted on the official notice board before 0915 on the day it will take effect, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 1900 on the day before it will take effect. At the same time, Flag L, accompanied by a sound signal, will be displayed.

### 4. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 4.1. Signals made ashore will be displayed from the SDYC flagpole.

**5. SIGNALS AND RADIO COMMUNICATIONS MADE AFLOAT**

- 5.1. **On the water, the RC intends to monitor and communicate with competitors on VHF channel 69.**
- 5.2. In accordance with RRS 90.2 (c), oral changes to the SI may be made on the water. A change is in effect when the Race Committee (RC) signal boat displays Flag L over A with one sound signal. This means monitor VHF channel 69 or come within hail of the RC boat to receive the oral changes to the SI.

**6. SCHEDULE OF RACES**

- 6.1. **A maximum of 5 races are scheduled.** The RC reserves the right to have more or fewer races each day to accomplish races scheduled for this event.
- 6.2. The scheduled time of the warning signal for the first race is 1125 each day.

**7. CLASS FLAG**

Etchells ..... Class Flag = White with black Etchells logo

**8. RACING AREAS**

- 8.1. The racing area will be approximately 2.5 nm bearing approximately 125 degrees mag. Zuniga Jetty light "Z".

**9. CHECK IN**

- 9.1. Prior to the warning of a boat's first race of each day, each boat shall check-in with, and be recognized by, the RC signal boat and displaying the Flag L by passing close aboard on starboard tack and hailing her sail number. When a boat has been recognized, the RC will hail the boat's sail number.

**10. THE COURSE**

The following signals will be posted from the RC boat located at the starboard end of the starting line with a black and yellow digital course board:

- a) The number of the course to be sailed.
  - b) The approximate bearing to Mark 1.
  - c) The distance to Mark 1.
- 10.1. The course will be selected from the attached Course Chart. Marks 1 and 2 of the course are rounded to port.
  - 10.2. In the event the leeward gate "2g" is replaced by a single mark, boats shall pass the remaining mark to port.

**11. MARKS**

- 11.1. Marks 1 & 2 will be red cones. Mark 3 will be a green inflatable. Mark F, when used, will be an orange tetrahedron.
- 11.2. New Marks, when used as described in SI 14, will be an orange tetrahedron for Mark 1.

**12. THE START**

- 12.1. The start line will be between the Vakaros units mounted on staffs displaying an orange flag on the starboard end RC vessel and a port end RC vessel as shown in Attachment 1. In the event that the port end line vessel is not on station, it will be replaced by a red inflatable mark with the Vakaros unit.
- 12.2. Boats failing to start within four minutes after their starting signal will be scored DNS without a hearing. This changes RRS 63.2, A4 and A5.

**13. NOT USED**

**14. CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE**

- 14.1. To change the next leg of the course, the RC will lay a new mark (or move the finishing line) and remove the original mark as soon as practicable. When in a subsequent change a new mark is replaced, it will be replaced by an original mark.

- 14.2. The race committee may, without signal, move a mark to change the direction up to 10 degrees or the length up to 10% of the previous length, provided that no boat is sailing to the mark.  
The RC will attempt to announce these changes on VHF radio channel 69. This changes RRS 33.

## 15. THE FINISH

- 15.1. The finishing line will be between a staff displaying a blue flag on an RC boat and the course side of a Mark as illustrated on the course chart.

## 16. TIME LIMIT

- 16.1. On the last scheduled day of racing, no race's Initial Warning Signal shall be made after 1430.  
16.2. The time limit for Saturday and Sunday is 1600, if no boats have finished. Any boat not finished by 1630 will be scored DNF for that race. This modifies RRS 35.

## 17. PENALTIES

- 17.1. Appendix V1 – PENALTY AT THE TIME OF AN INCIDENT is in effect.

## 18. HEARING REQUESTS

- 18.1. Appendix T – ARBITRATION is in effect.  
18.2. *RRS 60.2(a) is modified to add the additional requirement: A boat intending to protest shall report her intentions and the boat(s) being protested to the R/C upon finishing or retiring and obtain R/C acknowledgment.*  
18.3. Rule 60.4(a)(2) is changed as follows: “(2) if it alleges a breach of a rule of Part 2 or rule 31 and is from a boat that was not involved in, and did not see, the incident, or”  
18.4. Request for Hearing forms may be provided at the Official Regatta Notice Board. Hearing requests and scoring inquiries may be filed at the Dockside Room, if staffed, in the Sailing Center within one (1) hour of the docking time of the R/C finishing boat after the final race of the day. Alternately, requests may be emailed to [Protests@sdy.org](mailto:Protests@sdy.org) within the same timeframe, using the electronic Hearing Request form via the US Sailing Rules app or a clear photo of a paper form. The docking time will be posted on the Official Regatta Notice Board.  
Hearings will be heard by an Arbitrator, and if necessary, a protest committee in person, and in the approximate order of receipt. The approximate order and time of hearings will be posted on the Official Regatta Notice Board identifying protesting and protested boats. It is the responsibility of each boat to check the schedule and attend the hearing in a timely manner with all parties and witnesses in order. The Arbitrator or Protest Committee is not responsible for searching for parties or their witnesses.  
18.5. Hearings not settled by Arbitration will be heard by a protest committee and will be scheduled in agreement with parties to the hearing.

## 19. WITHDRAWAL

- 19.1. A boat intending to withdraw from racing shall attempt to notify any RC boat, by hail or VHF Ch 69, of her withdrawal before leaving the race area, and if not successful, they should TEXT (562) 305 – 6424 of their retirement ASAP.  
If that is not possible, they shall notify the Security Gate of SDYC (619-758-6322) as quickly as possible.

## 20. SCORING

- 20.1. If five (5) races are completed, there will be (1) race excluded in accordance with RRS A2.  
20.2. Two (2) completed races shall constitute a series.

## 21. TOWING

- 21.1. An attempt will be made to provide towing for competitors to the starting area. If available, tows will be made up in the Star Hoist Area and La Playa turning basin and will commence at approximately 0930 each day. Towing is limited and will be available on a first come first served basis.



**22. COMMUNICATION**

- 22.1. The RC will monitor VHF 69 for radio traffic. Please contact them in the event of an emergency requiring outside assistance or to notify the RC of a boat's intent to withdraw from racing per SI 19.1.
- 22.2. Competitors shall have no communication with, and boats shall not be tied to, coach or support boats from 30 minutes before the first scheduled Warning Signal each race day until their racing has been concluded for the day. In the event of a postponement on shore, competitors shall have no communications with, and boats shall not be tied to, coach or support boats more than 90 minutes after the AP ashore is lowered. The time for AP down will be posted as a courtesy on the Notice Board located on the east side of the Sailing Center. The Race Committee will make an announcement regarding this timing on the VHF Race 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 Race Committee.

**23. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY**

- 23.1. Competitors participate in this regatta entirely at their own risk. See RRS 3 – Decision to Race – “The responsibility for a boat’s decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone.” San Diego Yacht Club will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with, prior to, or after the regatta.

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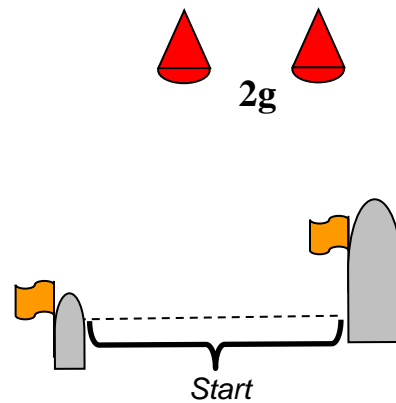
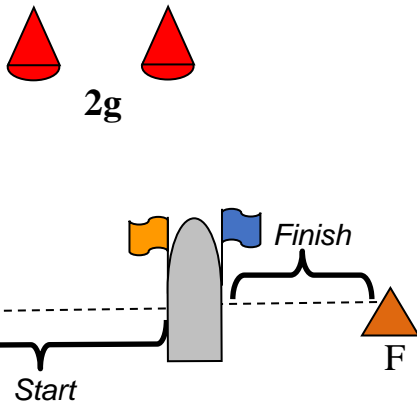
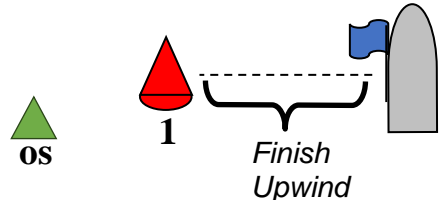
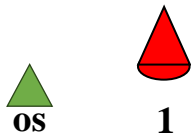
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### Course Chart

| Course | Marks                           | Course | Marks  |
|--------|---------------------------------|--------|--|
| 4      | Start, 1, os, 2g, 1, os, Finish | 3      | Start, 1, os, 2g, Finish Upwind @ 1            |
|        |                                 | 5      | Start, 1, os, 2g, 1, os, 2g, Finish Upwind @ 1 |



SDYC aspires to host its 2025 sailing season in accordance with Int'l Green Regatta guidelines: Use reusable drink containers instead of throwaway plastic bottles; Recycle trash to the greatest extent possible; Use water sparingly to wash boats; Use green cleaning products; Respect the ocean.

**ATTACHMENT A – VAKAROS RACESENSE**

Rules and Instructions for Using the Vakaros and RaceSense System

A.1 [DP][NP] Each boat shall have a working Vakaros Atlas 2 or Edge configured for RaceSense **and with the current software** at check-in, which shall be mounted above any other device, on the aft side of the mast, at all times while racing. Boats without a configured Atlas 2 or Edge may have one provided by the OA, for applicable fees.

A.2 The Vakaros RaceSense system will be used by the Race Committee (RC) and the relevant information will be available to all boats.

A.3 Instructions for using the electronic Atlas 2 or Edge device will be posted on the Official Notice Board.

A.4 [DP][NP] Competitors shall take all reasonable measures to keep the Atlas 2 or Edge safe and operational. They shall promptly notify the RC and Vakaros staff, on the water or ashore, of any device issues. The system shall be kept running until after the last race of each day.

A.5 RRS 26 is modified. The countdown to the start on the Atlas2 or Edge from RaceSense will be the official time. Signal flags will only be used for information purposes.

A.6 The visual identification of boats infringing RRS 29 and 30 by the RC is replaced with electronic identification through the Vakaros RaceSense system. This modifies RRS 29.1, 30.1, 30.2, 30.3, and 30.4.

A.7 [NP] Any kind of failure of the Atlas 2 or Edge, RaceSense system, or communication systems shall not constitute grounds to request redress by a boat or the Protest Committee. This changes RRS 41(c), 61.1(a), 61.1(c), 61.4(b) and 60.5(b)

A.8 If the RC vessel displays flag O with one sound signal before the warning signal of a race, F.5 and F.6 inclusive will not apply to that race. In this event, the starting line will be between a staff with an orange flag displayed on the RC boat at the starboard end of the start line and the course side of Mark S.

A.9 [DP][NP] If the RC vessel displays flag R with one sound signal before the warning signal of a race, Competitors shall restart their Vakaros Atlas or Edge unit by switching it off, waiting 10 seconds and then switching it back on to reconnect to the RaceSense network. Flag R will remain displayed for a minimum of 2 minutes and will be removed with the next warning signal.

A.10 If firmware updates to Atlas 2 or Edge devices are required between scheduled race days, notice will be sent to all boats via email and posted on the onshore Official Notice Board.