

RULES GOVERNING THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

and other Sanctioned Events as Applicable

With amendments and revisions as of January 17, 1941.

All changes indicated in italic type.

ARTICLE I — PURPOSE

To determine annually the National Championship of the LIGHTNING Class by bringing together, in so far as possible, the proven champions of every fleet.

ARTICLE II — PERPETUAL TROPHY

1. The name shall be "LIGHTNING Class Championship Trophy."

2. Held by winning fleet until next series subject to Executive Committee's approval and order.

3. Right, Title, and Interest in and to the trophy shall always be in the name of members of Executive Committee then serving who may impose any conditions necessary to safeguard the same.

ARTICLE III — ENTRIES

1. Each fleet is entitled to enter at least one yacht, skipper, and crew in the Championship series. Two yachts is the maximum number which is permitted to represent any one fleet. A fleet of more than ten LIGHTNING Class yachts will be entitled to two representative yachts in the National Championships.

2. Elimination of Trial Races, under some fair system based upon actual results and not arbitrary choice, shall be held by each fleet and the winner, member having highest score among those eligible, willing, and able to represent, shall be named as its entry. The runner-up or second place winner in the case of those fleets having more than ten yachts competing shall likewise be eligible. Such races must be free from discrimination and open only to every active member of the fleet. Scoring in such trial or elimination races shall be computed exclusively on the basis of eligible entries belonging to the particular fleet holding the said series. No arbitrary selection can be made if

more than one member is desirous and able to represent fleet, and if only one such exists, the fleet shall have no option but must name that one. (It is suggested that elimination or trial races be held as special events and not as part of a regatta open to entries other than those of home fleet.) Part owners not previously active members of the fleet must be registered with the Association thirty days before the first elimination to be eligible as skippers.

3. Challenges must be filed at such advance date as may be decided by the Executive Committee.

4. Entry to be named definitely on entry blank with information relative to eligibility twenty (20) days before first race or as directed by the Executive Committee.

5. Skipper must sail the yacht with which he won eliminations except by permission of the Executive Committee upon application filed prior to the date limited for naming entries. Such permission may be granted only in exceptional circumstances, and this rule is for the purpose of permitting the qualified skipper to compete in the National Championships should his yacht with which he won the elimination series be demolished or badly damaged between the time of the elimination series and the time for filing application.

ARTICLE IV — PLACE

The National Championship shall be held each year on the home waters of the Fleet having last won the event, except: (1) It cannot be held by the same Fleet the next year; (2) It cannot be held for more than two consecutive years in the same District.

ARTICLE V — HOME FLEET

The responsibility for arranging and providing for proper facilities, prizes, entertainment, etc., shall rest with the fleet on whose waters series is held. In this regard it must cooperate with and be guided by the Governing Board.

ARTICLE VI — CONDITIONS GOVERNING RACE

1. The number shall consist of three (3) completed races.

2. Held in open water as free as possible from headlands, shoals, obstructions or aids to navigation. If unavoidable, aids to navigation, unless otherwise ordered, must be left on the required or channel side.

3. Courses: A triangular course or windward (leeward) and return to be sailed twice around totaling six nautical miles.

4. Procedure: All procedure shall be in accordance with rules and regulations as determined by the National Race Committee in conjunction with the Home Fleet.

5. Time Limit: Three and one-half ($3\frac{1}{2}$) hours. If one finishes within time limit all must be timed.

6. Rules shall always be the approved rules of the Association and such special rules as may be published in race circular.

7. No yacht shall be prevented from entering a resail of an incompleated sanctioned, or elimination race for any cause arising out of the incompleated race. Such incompleated race shall be considered null and void for all purposes.

8. In case of a tie for a prize-winning position in the series, the yacht which shall have defeated the other yacht or yachts involved the most number of times in the series shall be deemed the winner, but if a tie still remains there shall be a sail-off.

9. Points in Each Race—One point for finishing and one point for each yacht defeated. None if disqualified or not finishing, though counted as a defeated yacht. Greatest number starting any one day used as a basis in point award each day. Entry with greatest total points will be the winner of the series. In case of dead heat the total points for positions involved shall be divided equally among the tied yachts even though this results in fractions.

10. In the National Championship—The act of deliberately and wilfully sacrificing one's own chances of place in a race, thereby substantially injuring or improving the chances or place of others, is barred and shall be ground for disqualification. Covering or luffing, provided a yacht is sailed within the right-of-way rules and in a manner consistent with maintaining or bettering its own standing in the race or point score, shall not be deemed Team Racing tactics. In flagrant cases, affecting the point score among the leaders, the Race Committee shall have the power, with or without protest, to order the race resailed, bar the offender from the resailed and remaining races and recommend his or her suspension to the Governing Board.

ARTICLE VII — ELIGIBILITY

Note—Consult carefully Constitution and By-Laws on membership qualifications and other details affecting eligibility.

1. Yacht must be certified to as eligible by the Measurement Committee before first race. Certified copy of bill of sale must be demanded as proof of ownership if yacht was acquired from another territory or registered with Association for the first time under skipper's name within six months of the series. Sails, spars, rudders, skegs, and positions not included in certificate, must be measured and approved before any major championship series; and any or all yachts may be ordered completely remeasured by the Measurement Committee, Executive Committee or National Race Committee.

2. All sails used in the National Championships shall be measured prior to the first race in the National Championship Series and shall be stamped as approved by the Chief Measurer. If any sail does not come within the restrictions, or within the tolerances permitted, such sails shall be impounded during entire series. *For sanctioned events, the Measurement Committee is given discretion in not eliminating spinnakers made prior to 1941 in cases where the skipper has only one spinnaker and it is under size, provided such spinnaker does not give the skipper an unfair advantage.*

3. Skipper (Helmsman) must: (a) Be an active member. Be enrolled in fleet he represents. Be a bona fide owner, or designated syndicate skipper of yacht to be sailed by him. (b) Have sailed his own boat in a representative number of LIGHTNING races within the territory of said fleet within a year and by reason of residence or normal yachting activities be qualified to represent that locality. Requirement B may be modified by the Executive Committee for newly formed fleets and service fleets.

4. Crew must: Be associate or active members enrolled in fleet they represent, come from and qualified to represent their locality. Must be distinctly designated as crew and serve as such only touching the helm if necessary for brief temporary relief. *If a skipper has two crewmen, members of the Association in good standing, enrolled for his yacht, he may use non-member substitutes, whenever necessary or convenient, in any races except the National Championship.*

(See Classification of Events for Eligibility in other Events.)

ARTICLE VIII — SUBSTITUTION

1. Alternates may be designated but yacht, skipper and crew starting series must sail throughout except in the case of proven accident or sickness.

2. The Executive Committee may grant permission for the use of a substitute crew to fleets more than a *thousand* miles from the locality of the series, but such substitute crew shall not be a member of the home fleet or one who has sailed on waters on which the series is to be held except as visitor for a short period.

3. Permission for above or emergency substitution in any form must be obtained from National Race Committee before race. Such permission must be denied if unfair advantage is gained thereby or if not an absolute necessity.

ARTICLE IX — PROTESTS AND HEARINGS

1. Protests must be filed in writing with National Race Committee at headquarters before the hour specified in race circular so that notice thereof may be posted at that hour. All hearings and investigations to be conducted and decisions rendered that night or before noon of the following day, except as provided in Article XII of Constitution.

2. All contestants and officials are interested parties with a right to be heard but forfeit that right if absent from hearings. If no protest is filed or violation reported by the hour specified in the circular, the race must stand.

ARTICLE X — NOTICES

Official notice of hearings, decisions, rulings, changes in procedure, and instructions shall be served upon all parties by posting on a bulletin board at headquarters daily during series. By due notice, time and place may be varied because of conflicting conditions. Responsibility of being at headquarters and seeing notices at given hours rests with contestants and sub-officials.

ARTICLE XI — REPORTING AND ACCOUNTING FOR

1. Attention signal, at least one-half hour before start, cannot be given until all entries have been accounted for, for that race, within close enough proximity to the starting line to permit of reaching it, under then existing conditions, before the start, in the estimation of the National Race Committee. Thereafter the responsibility of being ready and reaching the line in time rests with the entry.

2. Entries must report at headquarters morning of race and to the National Race Committee on reaching line and follow procedure regarding same in circular or bulletin and those failing to do so may be assumed to have withdrawn and need not be accounted for.

ARTICLE XII — GENERAL PROCEDURE

1. All instructions and regulations not fully described in National Championship rules shall be published in the Race Circular.

2. The National Race Committee shall be the Regatta Committee and conduct all races.

3. The National Race Committee shall be available for hearings at and directly following hours stated in the circular.

4. Course and Mark Officials to be appointed and instructed by National Race Committee.

5. Fouls or violations reported by or to any official before the protest time limit in the circular must be investigated and an open hearing conducted if necessary.

6. Postponements: The National Race Committee may in its discretion order postponements for special reasons, conditions, or situations arising prior to the preparatory signal.

7. The Executive Committee before and the National Race Committee during the series has the power to modify or change such details connected with the Series Rules as may be necessary to conform to local conditions, but cannot alter their basic principle and notice of such changes must be contained in Race Circular or be issued by bulletin or written notice before any race to which they shall apply.

8. Contestants and Officials must remain at or within call of headquarters until four hours after last race or sail-off and be available to attend hearings or enter sail-offs until that time when all decisions shall have been rendered and the results of the series shall become official and not subject to subsequent change for any reason whatsoever.