

BELLINGHAM BAY FLEET 16 BYLAWS

Article I – Bellingham Bay Fleet 16

Fleet No. 16 of the International Etchells Class, hereinafter referred to as the “Fleet”, shall consist of owners of yachts of the Etchells Class in the Bellingham, WA area.

Article II - Rules

1. General. The Fleet shall comply with and operate under the International Etchells Class Rules (“Class Rules”) and these Fleet Bylaws (“Bylaws”). The Bylaws shall supplement but not conflict with Class Rules. The object of the Bylaws is to establish procedures and principles under which the Fleet shall be governed.

2. Racing Rules. The Fleet shall sail under the current Racing Rules of Sailing published by the United States Sailing Association (“Racing Rules”), these Bylaws and local racing instructions.

Article III - Membership

1. Active membership in the Fleet is limited to owners or part owners of an Etchells yacht. An owner may join the Fleet at any time and become an Active Member upon completion of a registration form and payment of dues.

2. Any interested person may become an Associate Member of the Fleet upon completion of a registration form and payment of dues.

3. In a co-ownership or syndicate, there must be at least one Active Member. The owners shall be considered to share this membership and to be Active Members, without payment of additional dues and without additional voting rights.

4. Registration is made using the “U.S. ETHELLES CLASS ASSOCIATION 2006 REGISTRATION FORM” or such form as may be provided by the Fleet Officers from time to time.

Article IV - Dues

1. Fleet dues shall be established by the Fleet Officers and ratified effective for the following year by the membership at the Fall Meeting. Dues are payable at the Spring Meeting or upon acquisition of a yacht, and are not transferable or refundable. Scores will not be counted toward the season championship for any boat whose dues are unpaid. In the event of late payment, scoring begins upon receipt of dues and all previous races will be scored as DNC. Members, not Fleet Officers, are responsible for proper and timely registrations and receipt of dues.

Article V - Racing Restrictions

1. Crew substitutions, including the skipper, are allowed.

2. Racing and scoring shall be by boat, with the following exception: If a crew that has regularly sailed one boat, permanently changes boats and then regularly sails the new boat, the scores of the old boat shall be transferred to the new boat, replacing any previous scores of the new boat and

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canceling those scores for the old boat. It is the Fleet member's responsibility to notify the Fleet Co-captains or Appointed Officers of this change prior to competing in the new boat.

Article VI - Scoring

1. At the Spring Meeting, it shall be decided which race series and regattas will count toward the Fleet season standings.
2. Within each counting series or regatta, scoring shall be according to the Notice of Race. Non-member boats shall be considered as competing boats and shall be scored.
3. For the purposes of the season standings, the score of a member boat for a series or regatta shall be the position of the boat in the final results of that series or regatta, after the final results of non-member boats have been removed. Member boats that did not compete in that series or regatta shall receive a score that is one plus the number of member boats in the Fleet that season.
4. The season standings shall be determined by summing the series or regatta scores of each boat with one throw out series or regatta. Ties shall be broken using the procedure described in Appendix A of the racing rules, applied to the scores for each series and regatta as if they were individual races.
5. This system for scoring may be amended for the following season by majority vote at the Spring Meeting.

Article VII – Officers, Administrative Responsibilities and Appointed Officials

1. Officers. The Officers shall consist of two Co-captains. They will be elected from among the active members of the Fleet, by majority vote at the Fall Meeting. In order to maintain continuity and provide an orderly transition, each fall one Co-captain shall be elected for a term of two years. In addition, if a Co-captain position has become vacant, a replacement shall be elected in accordance to Article VIII to fill the remainder of that position's term.
2. Administrative Responsibilities. The Co-captains shall divide the Fleet responsibilities between themselves and appointed Officials or Committees, including, as necessary:
 - (a) General responsibility for the business-like conduct of all Fleet affairs. They shall set dates and locations of, and preside at, Fleet Meetings. They are responsible for rendering decisions on interpretations of Fleet rules and regulations, and of the enforcement of such decisions. They shall prepare the season's racing schedule for presentation to the members. They shall chair the race committee of any race for which the Fleet is responsible, or make provision for a substitute. They shall be responsible for the purchase of the season's trophies. They shall prepare agendas for and keep and distribute minutes of Meetings, prepare and maintain the Fleet roster, and handle all Fleet correspondence. They shall ensure the Race Committee has a current Fleet roster prior to each race to aid them in proper scoring.
 - (b) Fleet Treasurer. The Treasurer shall collect dues, pay bills, keep the Fleet's accounts, and present a financial report at the Fall Meeting or whenever requested by a majority of the membership.
 - (c) Fleet Measurer. The Measurer shall, for sanctioned regattas, measure, stamp and record all sails accepted for racing in accordance with Fleet regulations and Class Rules. (N.B. at the

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time of this writing the IECA is requesting that all sailmakers do their own measurement of their sails. It is contemplated that, depending upon the sailmaker's acceptance of this request, the need for individual Fleet Measurers will be made redundant by this request.)

(d) Fleet Recorder. The Recorder shall maintain up-to-date records of the scores of all Fleet races, and shall keep the membership informed of these scores as frequently as possible during the racing season.

(e) Fleet Delegate to the Class. If desired by the membership, the Delegate shall attend the annual Meeting of the Class as the Fleet's representative, shall vote in accordance with the Fleet's instructions, and shall report back to the next Fleet Meeting.

(f) Fleet Class Rules Arbitration Committee. In the case of a dispute about Fleet interpretation of Class Rules, any member may request a formal arbitration concerning a specific circumstance. Such a request must be made in writing by an active member to one of the Co-captains. In this event, the Co-captain must appoint a Committee of three non-interested members to hear, in a timely manner, the particulars of the specific circumstance and make a decision. The decision shall be communicated to the membership and archived. The Committee will adhere to Article II, 2, and, under no circumstances shall a committee decision overrule one of the Racing Rules of U.S. Sailing nor modify Rule 1 or Rule 6 of the Class Rules. Members agree to be bound by the decision of the Fleet 16 Class Rules Arbitration Committee.

(g) Special and ad hoc committees. Other committees may be appointed as deemed necessary by the Co-captains.

Article VIII - Meetings

1. There shall normally be two business Meetings of the Fleet per year. The Spring Meeting will be held about a month prior to the opening of the racing season. The Fall Meeting will be held about a month after the close of the racing season. A Meeting can be held only if a quorum is present or properly represented by proxy. A quorum shall consist of Active members representing 51% of the boats of the Fleet.

2. The Spring Meeting shall approve the racing schedule for the coming season; discuss and adopt plans for special and social events, awards and prizes; act on any proposal presented in conformance with the provisions of Article IX; and conduct any other business that can properly come before the Meeting.

3. The Fall Meeting shall hear reports of Officers and delegates; ratify the Fleet dues schedule; elect Officers for the ensuing year; act on any proposal presented in conformance with the provisions of Article IX and conduct any other business that can properly come before the Meeting.

4. Any other Fleet Meetings shall be informal, and no changes in rules shall be made between business Meetings, except as follows. If an emergency situation arises, two-thirds of the Fleet Officers or active members representing one third of the boats of the fleet may request a special business Meeting. Notification of the rule involved, proposals, and Meeting date must be given to all members 15 days prior to the Meeting.

Article IX - Amendments

1. A proposal for an addition to or an amendment of the Bylaws may be initiated by any active member. The proposal must be submitted in writing to a Co-captain no later than 30 days prior to

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the next Fleet Meeting. The Co-captain shall communicate all such proposals to all available members no later than 15 days prior to the date of the applicable Fleet Meeting.

Article X - Eligibility and Voting

1. Voting at Meetings is limited to one vote per Active Member. When placing a vote, the Member must declare which boat he/she owns or co-owns and is voting for. Only one Member may vote for each boat. A Member may not vote for a boat if any of the co-owners of that boat object.
2. Proxies may be used only for the election of officers. Proxies must be in writing and in the hands of the Fleet officers at the beginning of the Meeting.
3. Enactment at a Fleet Meeting of an amendment or addition to the Fleet Bylaws requires a two-thirds vote. All other votes require a majority for passage.

Article XI - Parliamentary Authority

1. Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern all proceedings of the Fleet and all Committees to the extent not otherwise provided for in these Bylaws.