

# Snipe Bulletin™

Official newsletter of the Snipe Class International Racing Association



## In this issue:

**From the Commodore**  
**New Rules- 2021-2024**  
**SCIRA Hall of Fame**  
**Rules Committee Chair**  
*Thank you & welcome*  
**Financial Situation**

**Regatta Reports**  
**Kanto, Uruguay, Brazil,**  
**Spain, Peru Colombia**  
**Current dues by Country**  
**Snipe Ranking**  
**Remembering Erling Olsen**

Winter 2021



# CONTACT QUANTUM TO GET OUR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WINNING SAILS FOR YOUR 2021 SEASON.

## QUANTUM SAILS SAN DIEGO

1 619 226 2422 | [sandiego@quantumsails.com](mailto:sandiego@quantumsails.com)

## QUANTUM SAILS BRASIL

55 51 3266 0523 | [brasil@quantumsails.com](mailto:brasil@quantumsails.com)

## QUANTUM SAILS ITALY

39 3355642161 | [info@quantumsails.com](mailto:info@quantumsails.com)

## QUANTUM SAILS SPAIN

34 93 2242778 | [quantumeurope@quantumsails.com](mailto:quantumeurope@quantumsails.com)

## QUANTUM SAILS JAPAN

81 468 82 5451 | [japan@quantumsails.com](mailto:japan@quantumsails.com)

QUANTUMSAILS.COM



Commodore

Luis Soubie

Argentina

[Luis@soubie.com](mailto:Luis@soubie.com)

Vice Commodore

Zbiniew Rakocy

Poznan, Poland

[zrakocy@gmail.com](mailto:zrakocy@gmail.com)

Secretary

Martin Bermudez de la Puente

Madrid, Spain

[martinbpg@gmail.com](mailto:martinbpg@gmail.com)

Treasurer

Sue Roberts

Kent, UK

[suepollen@aol.com](mailto:suepollen@aol.com)



International Rules Committee

Gus Wirth

San Diego, CA, USA

[guswirth79@gmail.com](mailto:guswirth79@gmail.com)

General Secretary – Europe

Reino Suonsilta

Helsinki, Finland

[reino.suonsilta@gmail.com](mailto:reino.suonsilta@gmail.com)

General Secretary – Western

Hemisphere & Orient

Paola Prada

Brazil

[snipebra@gmail.com](mailto:snipebra@gmail.com)

Executive Director

Jerelyn Biehl

2812 Canon Street

San Diego, California USA 92106

USA

+619-224-6998

[office@snipe.org](mailto:office@snipe.org)

## Snipe Bulletin

Editor: Jerelyn Biehl

Publication Information

SNIPE BULLETIN (ISSN 08996288 & PMA #40612608) is published quarterly and is part of membership of the organization. E-mail subscriptions can be added by contacting the SCIRA office: [office@snipe.org](mailto:office@snipe.org)

The SNIPE SILHOUETTE and the INTERNATIONAL SNIPE CLASS CREST and the SNIPE BULLETIN are Trademarks of the Snipe Class International Racing Association. The SNIPE SILHOUETTE and the INTERNATIONAL SNIPE CLASS CREST marks are registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.



---

**The Cover:** Japanese National Championships

**The Count:** 20 new numbers have been issued: 2 CHI, 5 BRA, 1 ESP, 1 BEL, 6 JPN and 5 to builders

**Numbered Snipes:** 31684

**Chartered Fleets:** 905

**New Fleet:**

Club Deportivo Codigo Cero in Lanzarote, Spain.

Fleet Captain: Andres Ramirez

**NEXT DEADLINE**  
**April 1**

---

## Snipe Bulletin in the time of Covid-19

We have made it through the pandemic year - despite all the major SCIRA championships having to be cancelled.

Many countries were able to squeeze in some racing, between lockdowns and ease-ups. It seems that sailing was a great alternative to being outside, away from the virus practicing the sport we love.

The pandemic helped bring the Class together as many fleets and countries found ways to stay connected despite the lockdown and helped create new avenues for communication.

The Board of Governors continued to meet more than regularly to monitor the global status and plan, as much as we could, for the future. While major events are still uncertain (at least for the first part of 2021), the Board continues to take every opportunity to keep the Class going and schedule events as safely as possible.

Thanks to our worldwide membership who continued to support our Class!

Jerelyn Biehl  
SCIRA Executive Director



---

## ***From The Commodore***

A few years ago I wrote a piece titled “25 Years under the Bird” were I told my beginning in the Snipe Class. 8 more years have now passed.

When I wrote that, I did it just as a sailor proud of his Class. At that time I was moving out of Buenos Aires to live in the mountains, 1100 km (800 miles) away from my boat, my club and my river, I was trying to figure out how to keep sailing, getting married, having a son and I didn't even dream to be part of the Class Board of Governors.

The turn of life, today I proudly am your Class Commodore, I managed to keep racing somehow, and my 8 year-old son is a Class member and sails with me. I really think that sharing the boat with family is a big part of the future of our Class.

Unfortunately, this 2020 finds me, as many of you, without racing a Snipe in many months. I haven't touched water since early March and even since many of you had local regattas, our international calendar was moved to 2021 and that was very sad for us all.

It was very painful for all the members of the Board to cancel this year's activity; we were the first Class in the world who did that and all others followed. It was even more painful for me personally since moving the Worlds to 2022 meant that I will not attend as Commodore, a dream I had. I will have to qualify for Racing now instead!

There was not much that we, the Board, could do about the COVID problem, and in our rules a situation like this was not addressed so we found ourselves in the position of having to decide what was better and closer to the spirit of the Class. Sometimes not following written rules in order to follow another written rule that we understand had precedent. We didn't make everyone happy but you need to know that we did our very best. We are still looking close to next years situation and we expect that soon the worldwide free



traveling, the condition we need in order to have international regattas, will be solved.

2021 class decal has no arbitrary colors. The background is blue for the ocean, and the Snipe is green, the color of hope, looking forward to a return to normality for all of us. That, and health, is my only desire for all of you in 2021

In the last months, the Hall of Fame had the second committee working on the 2020 inductees and we are thrilled to announce 8 fantastic sailors and collaborators to the Class, to join the 10 of last year. All these people made the footsteps of what we all are walking these past decades, so we thank them, remember and honor them, as they deserve.

Regarding authorities, we have a new Rules Chairman, Gus Wirth, replacing our friend Antonio Bari after 8 years of dedicated service to the Class, and Paola Prada from Brazil will join us too to replace as WH&O Secretary my dear friend and Past Commodore Gweneth Crook, who stepped down in order to chair this years Nomination Committee.

Thanks to all current and past Board of Governor members for your dedication to our Class.



# New Rules - SCIRA 2021-2024

*Class Rules are ready to be published*

As per the Snipe Constitution the Class Rules are in force for 4 years with the same schedule of the WS RRS which cover the Olympic period.

The year 2021 is approaching and the new edition of the Class Rules are on the way to be finalized and approved by World Sailing with publication scheduled by the end of December.

Thanks to the annual amendments made to fix some small bugs, the upcoming edition will have no changes from the current version, but only one important specification.

Today...

The current Rule C.9.3.g “*Movements of the mast shall be restrained by fore and/or aft guys attached to the mast below the lower point or blocks situated at deck level*” has been introduced in 2001 and updated in 2018 to fit the WS requested terminology, to limit the rigging used to control the mast bend at deck level. The rule has always been widely interpreted and many different systems in use from the 80s (when the bendy masts become popular) have been allowed.

This year, a question was submitted to the Rules Committee: “Is the lever (also called mast ram) allowed by the current rule? Can it be considered a “guy”?”

After a wide discussion, the RC stated that yes, the mast ram could be considered a sort of guy, so a request of interpretation was forwarded to the Technical Committee of WS.

But, according to WS Regulation 10.12 (b), WS suggested to amend (instead of interpreting) the current rule introducing the new text in the next Class Rules.

Effective date: 2021-01-01  
Status: Draft



## Class Rules

### Snipe Class International Racing Association



The Snipe was designed in 1931 by William F. Crosby and was adopted as a World Sailing class in 1932.

sport / nature / technology



### What is going to change?

Rule C.9.3.g is amended to read “*Movements of the mast shall be restrained by fore and/or aft guys or mechanical restraint connected to the mast below the lower point, or blocks at deck level.*”

### What will change?

Basically nothing. The new wording will avoid any possible doubt or misinterpretation about the use of the lever or additional mechanical riggings. One fact must be highlighted: being a rigging, the lever can be made of carbon.



# SCIRA Hall of Fame - 2020

The Snipe Class has a long history of which very few other classes can be boast.

It is a history of people, sailors, champions, enthusiasts, promoters, sailmakers, builders and organizers.

The past is strongly linked to the present: all these

people have helped to promote and grow our Class in many countries and continents; many of these people are still strongly linked to the Class or have been, when they were alive, to form a large family, the Snipe Family, from great-grandparents to grandchildren. Past and present are strongly united in the Snipe Class.

## Hall of Fame 2020 Inductees

**Augie Diaz**  
**Birger Jansen**  
**Brianard Cooper**  
**Felix Gancedo**

**Giorgio Brezich**  
**Roy Yamaguchi**  
**Santiago Lange**  
**Torben Grael**

### Augie Diaz (1954-present) USA

Agustin (Augie) Diaz was born in 1954 at Havana, Cuba and started sailing in 1956 at age 12. His father Gonzalo Diaz is a well-known and successful Snipe racer and promoter of the class (Havana and Miami FL) and was inducted into the SCIRA Hall of Fame in 2019 for his achievements over the past 75 years. You can assume that Augie received a lot of great coaching and inspiration from his father (and Mother Carmen too!).

Augie received awards for Collegiate All-American Sailor (1973-75) and College Sailor of the Year in 1974. Augie first won Snipe honors at an international level at age 17, finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> place/Silver Medal in the 1971 Pan American Games. [In two other Snipe competitions at the Pan American Games, he finished 2<sup>nd</sup> place/Silver Medal again in 2011, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place/Bronze Medal in 2015]

Over a 49-year period (1969-2018), Augie starred in 25 Snipe US National Championships, winning eleven times and finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> fourteen times!

He participated in the North American Snipe Championship seven times over a 13-year period (2004-17), winning five times and finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> place two times. In the Western Hemisphere and Orient Championship (1973-2010),



he won twice (1973 and 2002), and finished 2<sup>nd</sup> three times (1974, 1980 and 2010). Augie won the Snipe World Masters Championship four times (2002, 2004, 2006 and 2012). At the top, he won the Snipe World Championship twice (2003 and 2005) and finished 2<sup>nd</sup> place in 1975.

But his sailing successes also extend to other classes too (Laser, Flying Dutchman, 505 and particularly Star boats). In the Star class, Augie has won: Winter Series Championship (2013), International Masters Championship (2014), Eastern Hemisphere Championship (2016 and 2019), North American Championship (2017 and 2019), European Championship (2018), Zagarino Masters Cup (five times, 2007-17), and World Championship (2016, plus 2<sup>nd</sup> in 2019 and 4<sup>th</sup> in 1986).

Augie also received the award for US Sailing Rolex Yachtsman of the Year (2003). Now at age 64, Augie is an inspiration to us all – a fine gentleman and sportsman and mentor. We look forward to his many fine performances and contributions in future years. So, it is most fitting that Augie was selected as a SCIRA Hall of Fame inductee for 2020.

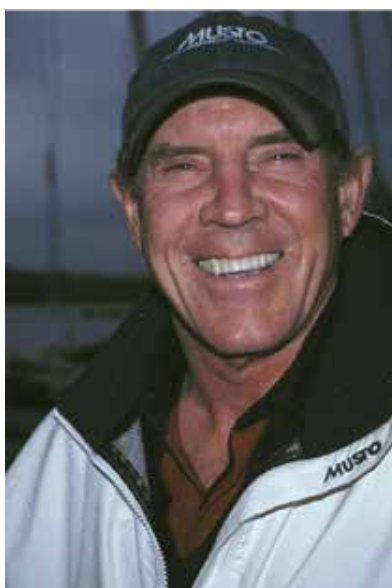


# SCIRA Hall of Fame - 2020

## Birger Jansen (1948-2016) NOR

Birger Jansen was born in 1948 in Bærum, Norway, and started sailing as crew in Snipe races in Norway at age 16 (1964). Snipe sailing was important to Birger, it was his way of life for many years. He was SCIRA National Secretary for Norway for 35 years and led promotion of the class in that country and in international sailing competition until his passing in 2016.

Birger raced in the 1991 Snipe World Championship (3<sup>rd</sup> place), and also placed in the top standings in the Snipe European Championship in 1992 (5<sup>th</sup> place) and again in 2000 (1<sup>st</sup> place). He won the Snipe World Masters Championship in 1996 and won the Snipe Norway National Championship many times over the



through competing in regattas and enjoyed socializing afterward. Birger is remembered for his contributions of support and education to the Snipe sailing community and his friendship with many through sailing.



## Brainard Cooper (1935-present) USA

In the summer of 1972 Brainard Cooper was a serviceable Snipe crew sitting in the bar at the Florida Yacht Club in Jacksonville, FL while his skipper, future Snipe commodore Dan Williams was working with a crew measuring Snipes in preparation for the US Nationals. Brainard had raced Snipes while in high school and had crewed for young Billy Roberts at the US Junior Nationals in 1952, finishing second. He had at various times crewed for 1952 Commodore Owen Duffy and a college senior named Harold Gilreath, who in later years also became a Snipe Class commodore. After 10 years away he had returned to Chattanooga, TN in the mid-sixties and rejoined Privateer Yacht Club, sailing on Chickamauga Lake, one of the "Great

Lakes of the South." He and Williams had won the Southern Snipe Championship, and the party, in 1965 and again in 1970.

Leaving the yacht club bar, Brainard



## SCIRA Hall of Fame - 2020

decided to see if the measurers needed any help. Of course, they always do, and he was put to work measuring the transom of Commodore Dick Tillman's new Snipe. The chines were low! He considered going back to the bar! After calling for back-up, it was determined that the chines at the transom were indeed low and Tillman, who Brainard had met in 1952, made the corrections with a grinder. After that inauspicious start, Brainard became fixture at national and later international events. He worked with measuring crews at World and Hemisphere Championships in California, Florida, Denmark, Portugal, France, Italy, Japan, Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil. Brainard was named US National Measurer and appointed to the Rules Committee in 1987.

In his first year as a member of the Rules Committee, he was instrumental in establishing the rule eliminating Jib hanks, though he was always careful to say that it wasn't his idea – that others deserved the credit. "All I did was convince some key members of the committee that it was the way to go. And I wrote the rule that was adopted."

In 1991, with the aid of Commodore Means Davis, Brainard was instrumental in gaining Rules Committee approval allowing sailors to place advertising on their boats, sails, and equipment.

Brainard succeeded his old skipper Dan Williams as Rules Committee chairman in 1994.

When he became chairman of the Rules Committee, Brainard established email as the primary means of communicating between the far-flung members of the committee. And he hung a sign above his computer screen that stated "No Rule Is Better Than the Fool Enforcing It." His goal, he said, was to never be the "Fool" the sign referred to. In 1998 he was the first Rules Committee chairman to attend the European Championships when they were held at Porto. He was the SCIRA representative on the measuring crew for the 1999 Pan Am Games in Canada.

As chairman, Brainard led the committee in standardizing mast length, rudder gudgeon and pintle placement, and centerboard height, all of which had



been unique to each of the several Snipe builders. He also converted the Rule Book to the metric system. The SCIRA Board of Governors elected Brainard commodore of the Class for the year 2001, following which he served as ISAF representative for 5 years, retiring when he reached age 70 because, "the Snipe is a young person's boat, and they don't need guys my age telling them what to do."

Brainard had by then become involved with race management, and as US Sailing Regional Race Officer ran several national championship-level regattas.

After seven years, SCIRA USA brought Brainard out of 'retirement' to serve as US National Secretary. Health issues forced him to re-retire in 1980, so recently he has been main sheet trimmer on a J-92 in club races at his home club in Chattanooga. Speaking of his long involvement in Class management, Brainard says, "The Snipe Class, to my mind, is the first and best; I'm a Snipe guy for life. I felt I should listen to the sailors and be responsive to them. I always thought of myself as a sailor first and a measurer or administrator after that. I would hope that I wasn't the "Fool" mentioned in that sign over the computer too often."

When asked, Brainard expressed that he was "honored and humbled beyond belief to be considered with the founding lights of the Class and the great champions, many of whom are good friends, and, of course, my dear friends Gonzalo and Bibi.





# SCIRA Hall of Fame - 2020

## Felix Gancedo (1940-present) ESP

Félix Gancedo was born in Málaga, Spain in 1940, and has been a life-long Snipe sailor. After crewing for two years, he got his first Snipe at age 15. In following years, he gained experience in sailing and racing, including crewing also with experienced Snipe sailors such as Pedro Casado in the 1964 Spanish National Championship (2<sup>nd</sup> place) and 1965 Snipe Worlds Championship (5<sup>th</sup> place).

In 1969, Félix Gancedo started an amazing winning streak of 15 Spanish National Snipe Championships (1969-1975, 1977-1981, 1983, 1985 and 1990). He was also runner-up twice (1982 and 1986).



During those years, he also won the Snipe World Championship two times (1973 and 1975), and 3<sup>rd</sup> place in 1971, 4<sup>th</sup> place in 1979, 2<sup>nd</sup> place in 1981, 7<sup>th</sup> place in 1983 and 4<sup>th</sup> place in 1985. Seven times in the Snipe World Championship! He was also the four-time winner of the

Snipe European Championship (1972, 1974, 1978 and 1990) during this period. In 1991, he also won the Snipe World Masters Championship.

In early years, Felix was not only a sailor, but also a rower. Félix won the single scull category at the Spanish National Rowing Championship in 1964. That year, he also crewed on the winning boat in the Spanish National Championship in the Flying Dutchman class.

Later, he also was Spanish National Champion in the Flying Dutchman class (1967 and 1968) and competed in the Summer Olympic



Games in Mexico (1968) in the Flying Dutchman class. That was his first Olympic entry, but not last. Felix also crewed for Prince (later King of Spain) Juan Carlos in the 1972 Olympic Games (Germany) in the Dragon class, and again in the 1976 Olympic Games (Canada) in the Tempest class.

A truly outstanding sailing and racing performance over a period of 22 years! Quoting from his interview for the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Snipe class (Snipe Bulletin, June 2008 issue): ‘ “Hey guy, how many foolish things do you still want to with your poor old life?” Now here I am writing and thinking of you, it is another kind of sailing. I miss so much the sun, the sea, and my friends.’

So in our senior years (as many of us are), it is time to relax and reminisce with friends about your many stories and experiences in the Snipe family. Welcome to the 2020 SCIRA Hall of Fame!



# SCIRA Hall of Fame - 2020

## Giorgio Brezich (1940-present) ITA

Giorgio Brezich, born in Trieste in 1940, started sailing Snipes at a very young age. “My story on the Snipe begins when I was six and I started crewing not because of my skill, but because of my light weight.”

As a sailor, Giorgio won a total of 3 Junior Italian Nationals and 9 Italian Nationals. He also held the role of Italian National Secretary from 1988 to 1995 and spent many years on the Board of Governors for SCIRA International, and one term as SCIRA Commodore in 1996. He was Chairman of the Rules Committee for almost two decades and helped clarify and unify the Measurement Rules. That interest probably dates back to the 1959 Junior Europeans, as this anecdote explains:

“For travel reasons, Prof. Vidulich (our chaperon) and my crew Franco Ostoich and I arrived on site at the very last minute, with the measurement now over. But we were expected to get things done faster, I took care of the boat and Franco of the sails. At the end of the operation, the boat was all right, but the sails were almost all out of measurement. We had arrived with five complete suits of sails and of these only one was accepted, the others were all “too small”. After a long and careful investigation, I learned that the measurer had arranged the mainsail and jib marks on the floor and that anything that did not match was refused. It wasn’t fair, but could I, at 19, go up against an international measurer? Fortunately, Vieri Lasinio (Italian National and European Secretary) was present and I explained the mistake. After a long discussion with the measurer himself, all the sails were re-measured. So, I promised myself to enter the measurement system to have a say.”



The first Snipe Giorgio sailed was “Quarner”, which belonged to his club, the Triestina della Vela. He won his first Italian Junior Championship in 1957 in Riva del Garda with Franco Ostoich, as crew on “Bon II” # 6370.

In 1957 Giorgio’s father built “Barbanera I” #11012, from a project by Giuseppe Fabian, chief carpenter of the Navalgiuliano shipyard in Porto Lido. With this boat

Brezich and Ostoich won two more Junior Championships in 1959 and 1960. This boat was followed by “Barbanera II” #11593 in 1960, “Barbanera III” #13908 in 1963 (designed by D’Isiot and built in okoume by Giorgio’s father), and “Barbanera IV” #15790 in 1966.

With these boats he won the Italian Championship in 1967, 1970, and 1973 with Giorgio Ferin. In 1972, he won the Southern European Championship with Roberto Vencato, and in 1973 he took the Mediterranean Championship with Sergio Morin.

In 1973 Giorgio, always attentive to innovations, bought the first fiberglass boat, a Skipper, followed by some Lillias and finally a Perssons. With these fiberglass Snipes, Giorgio continued his winning ways in the Italian championships in 1974, 1976, and 1978 with Piero Napp, in 1979 and 1981 with Marco Penso, and in 2000 with Lucio Penso.

Giorgio held the role of Italian National Secretary from 1988 to 1995, but he is known around the world for his many years of activity in SCIRA International. He was a member of the Rules Committee from 1985 to 1995.

In 1996, after organizing the 1995 Snipe Worlds in Rimini, he was elected SCIRA Commodore. In the January 1996 issue of the Snipe Bulletin, he wrote: “It is a great honor and pleasure to be elected in such an important position within the Snipe Class organization. ... Also, 1996 will be the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of my Snipe sailing career, as I began at the age of six and it is a fantastic coincidence to be Commodore in the same year! Having been involved in the class for so long means that I have seen first-hand the evolutions of boats, rigging and sails. I believe in evolution, without traumatic revolution. The Snipe must maintain its philosophy but accept the technology



## SCIRA Hall of Fame - 2020

of the time being. Carefully selecting innovations, we will maintain the Snipe always up to date and attractive for the top champions as well as for family crews which are the core of our fleets.”

From 1997 to 2012 he was Chairman of the Rules Committee, watching over the class rules with extreme competence and rigor. Always present at international events, he held seminars and workshops on Snipe measurement techniques in San Diego, Santiago de la Ribera, Punta del Este, Porto, Rungsted, and other places. This greatly helped the class unify measurement techniques around the world.



Thanks to his hard work, the class rules have been updated and made clearer. The latest draft of the Rule Book is the latest gift from Giorgio and his colleagues of the Rules Committee.

Giorgio retired from racing in 2010, but he continued his activity on the SCIRA Board of Governors until 2012 and after that as a measurer; he still

actively follows the Snipe Class, and he is an inexhaustible source of advice thanks to his technical experience and competence. He celebrates his 80<sup>th</sup> year in 2020, as an inductee to the SCIRA Hall of Fame.

### Roy Yamaguchi (unknown-1963) JPN

Roy Yamaguchi was an avid sailor before WWII and one of the founders of the Japan Sailing Federation. The Snipe was first introduced in Japan in 1947 and in 1956 Roy founded SCIRA Japan/Japan Snipe Association and facilitated formation of the first chartered SCIRA Snipe fleet in Japan (Kanto Fleet #428 in Tokyo). In 1957 he was the first Japanese to compete in the Snipe World Championship, held that year in Portugal. In 1960, he was elected to the SCIRA Board of Governors. He attended the 1961 Snipe Worlds Championship in USA and supported the Japan national team as a sponsor for that event. Two additional Japan Snipe fleets were chartered by 1963, with over 45 Snipes and 80 SCIRA members in the three fleets. Roy is considered as the “father” of SCIRA Japan, which has grown to 15 Snipe fleets over the ensuing years. Japan now has a large base of registered Snipes and many SCIRA members, and racing includes competitions for national, high school, intercollegiate, women, master, junior and business team championships.

Roy was also active in formation of other one-design racing classes in Japan, including Finns and Dragons. Roy raced in the Dragon class, and in 1963, he had

a custom 5.5 meter racing yacht built for the 1964 Tokyo Olympic Games, and participated in qualification racing for the Olympics. Sadly, Roy passed away later in 1963

at age 42 following a short illness, but the boat was used as a representative boat. In 1994, Roy’s widow Gertrude along with Motoko and Fujiya Matsumoto, arranged with SCIRA Japan to dedicate the Roy Yamaguchi Memorial Trophy Women’s World Championship, in Roy’s honor, and the first competition for that award was held in 1994 in Yokohama. Roy was remembered for his contributions to yachting associations in Japan, and the goodwill he fostered through sailing.



# SCIRA Hall of Fame - 2020

## Santiago Lange (1961-present) ARG

Santiago “Santi” Lange was born in 1961 in San Isidro, Argentina. He started sailing at age 6, and in his teenage years began winning championships including a national championship (Optimist Pram) in 1976 at age 15.

Santi’s winning international Snipe competition began at the 1983 Pan American Games, where he finished in 2<sup>nd</sup> place for a Silver Medal.

In 1984, after Santi returned to Argentina from university studies in the UK (naval architecture), he bought a 1957 wooden Snipe #10863 that was built in Brazil, and fixed it up for racing. He must have done a very good job in updating and restoring the 27 year old wooden Snipe, because at age 23, he won the 1985 Snipe World Championship with that boat, and also won the 1985 South American Championship. After that, Santi won the Western



Hemisphere and Orient Championship in 1986, and was a four time winner of the Argentina National Championship (1985, 1986, 1988 and 1996).

Santi competed in the Pan American Games in the Snipe in 1987, finished second place for a silver medal.

He also raced in three more Snipe World Championships, finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> in 1987 and winning the title twice in 1993 and 1995, thus becoming only the second Snipe sailor ever to win the Snipe World Championship three times (the Schmidt brothers from Brazil also won three times, in 1961, 1963 and 1965), records that still stand.

His exceptional sailing successes have extended to many other classes and international events as well, including Olympic sailing competition six times representing Argentina with Bronze Medals (3<sup>rd</sup> place) in Tornado catamarans (2004, 2008) and a memorable Gold Medal (1<sup>st</sup> place) in Nacra 17 catamarans (2016).

Santi also won the Tornado World Championship (2004) and a Silver Medal (2<sup>nd</sup> place) in the 1995 Pan American Games (Laser, 1995). To top it off, he has twice raced in the Volvo Ocean Race (2001-02 and 2008-09); and on two entries representing Sweden in the Louis Vuitton Cup preliminary qualification series for the America’s Cup (2007, 2013).

If that is not enough, he has also worked as a naval architect for renowned yacht designer German Frers (ARG) and in 1992 he started building new fiberglass Snipes in Chile, in a cooperative venture with Persson.

As SCIRA Commodore Luis Soubie stated (Snipe Bulletin, Winter 2017 issue),

“Santi made his legend bigger, winning the first Olympic Games Gold Medal in sailing for Argentina, in 2016. As an Argentinian and a Snipe sailor, I cannot be prouder. He deserves it.” Santi noted when informed of his Snipe Hall of Fame induction, “The Snipe is a class that will be forever in my heart and where I did my first steps into international sailing.”



# SCIRA Hall of Fame - 2020

## Torben Grael (1960-present) BRA

Torben Grael was born in Sao Paulo, Brazil in 1960, and over the years since 1978 has established his championship performances in many sailboat racing classes all over the world.

In Snipes, Torben followed the example set by two Brazilian Snipe sailors who had previously won the Snipe World Championship four times (1961, 1963, 1965 and 1977). Torben raced for the Snipe World Championship for the first time in 1981 (3<sup>rd</sup> place), and then won the Snipe World Championship two times (1983 and 1987), and was runner-up in 1989. Torben's 1983 victory was special since he was sailing a 1960 wooden Brazilian-built Snipe #12296 which was the oldest Snipe in the fleet; it was the same Snipe that he had raced in the previous 1981 event. Torben (with his brother Lars Grael as crew) was the first Snipe Junior World Champion (1978) to win the senior title. By 1987, he had been building Snipes in Brazil and raced one of his own boats to win the 1987 Snipe World Championship.



Torben is remembered for introducing a launching whisker pole system to the Snipe in the 1981 Snipe World Championship, and noted that even two years later he was the only sailor using the new whisker pole system in the 1983 Snipe World Championship; but after that, "everyone" was using this method. The system was adapted from a similar launching whisker pole system used by Flying Dutchman and Fireball sailboat classes. (Ref: Spring 2007 issue of US Snipe Sailor).

Torben also has many other international sailboat racing successes in Soling and Star boat regattas and championships. He also has competed in the Olympics ((1984 Soling; 1988, 1996 and 2004 Star),

and Pan American Games (1983, 1987 Soling). He has won five medals in Olympic Games sailing competition.

More recently he was skipper of the Brazil entry in the 2005-06 Volvo Ocean Race (3<sup>rd</sup> place), and skipper of the Sweden entry in the 2008-09 Volvo Ocean Race (1<sup>st</sup> place), setting an average speed record of almost 25 knots/hour during a 24 hour period. Torben also sailed in two qualification series for the America's Cup (2000 and 2007). Torben is another champion Snipe sailor who has achieved an outstanding sailing and racing performance over the past 40 plus years. Welcome to the 2020 SCIRA Hall of Fame!



---

# Thank You to Antonio Bari for his Years of Dedication to SCIRA

It was long time ago...

...when I was asked to become a member of the Rules Committee, so long that I don't remember when it happened... I suppose it was the end of the 90s. More than 20 years spent serving the class, first as member, then as Chief Measurer, finally as Chairman of the Rules Committee. Twenty exciting years in which great changes occurred in the Snipe Rules: the Builder certification, to make the mould's manufactured boats measurements easier, the Measurers' Handbook, to standardise the measurement process, the new Class Rules, the first whole revision of the General Restrictions since decades, marked a period of uninterrupted development of the Class from the rules side.

All this couldn't have been possible without the inputs of the sailors and the measurers from all over the world, the timeless efforts of my predecessors Giorgio Brezich and Steve Stewart, the precious advice of Brainard Cooper, the competent help and suggestions of the Rules Committee members and the Chief measurers who during the past 8 years actively

supported and promoted the actions of the Committee with the development in mind and the love for the Snipe in the heart.

Last, but not least, I would send a special thank to Antonio Espada whose great experience and rules knowledge were a keypoint in setting the guidelines for my assignment.

Now that my second term is close to its end, I'm very pleased to introduce the next Chairman of the Committee, Gus Wirth from San Diego, California. Gus has been vice chairman for the past 4 years and, thanks to his competence and wide vision, will be the ideal connection between the past and the future of the rules governance.

Good luck Gus, and long life to my beloved Snipe (I've been sailing for 40 years and will, for sure, continue sailing).

## Welcome to Gus Wirth New Int. Rules Chairman

Gustav "Gus" Wirth learned to sail at University where he was on the varsity dinghy sailing team for three years, lettering twice. He graduated with a degree in Electrical Engineering and went on to a career as a Nuclear Engineer for the next 15 years but which unfortunately kept him from sailing competitively. But following his time as a Nuclear Engineer he received a Masters Degree in Software Engineering and went on to be the Information Systems Manager of the largest customs broker in San Diego, California, USA. During that time he started to sail in some of the local regattas in big boats, 10 meters and more but preferred the excitement and camaraderie of racing dinghies.

His introduction to the "Serious Sailing, Serious Fun" of the Snipe class came in 1999 where he was asked to crew in the U.S Snipe Nationals after a fellow sailor was unable to attend the regatta with less than a weeks notice. Although not proficient at the start, by the time the regatta was over he was hooked.

Over the last 20 years, Gus has sailed in 5 World

Championships, a Western Hemisphere & Orient Championship, numerous National Championships, and many, many local regattas.

Gus' involvement in the measurement of Snipes began at the 2009 World Championships held in San Diego, California, USA. He assisted the then current U.S Snipe Class measurer with some of the measurement tasks, including designing and building an automated timing device for the Moment of Inertia (MOI) test. It turned out it wasn't that practical but it got him started looking at the technical requirements of what made a Snipe a Snipe.

From there Gus went on to do measurements for the 2011 North American Championships, the 2014 Western Hemisphere & Orient Championship, the 2015 and 2016 U.S. National Championships and became the official U.S. Snipe Class measurer in April 2016 and became a member of the SCIRA Technical Committee in April 2017.



---

# SCIRA's Financial Situation as of the end of 2020

The SCIRA Board would like to say a massive thank you to everyone who paid their membership dues and joined or re-joined SCIRA during 2020.

The good news is that after the big push in the last Bulletin and also by National Secretaries and individuals working hard at encouraging sailors to join, I am pleased to say that SCIRA are on track to just about cover costs and break even in 2020. The net profit is, at present, exceedingly close to that which we budgeted for and with there still being some outstanding payments to come in before the end of the year (plus a few payments to go out too), the bottom line will not be as bleak as was a major concern only a couple of few ago.

This year has been extremely tricky and only in the last month have the finances looked a little more positive. It has also helped that Covid restrictions have not been so intense in some areas, allowing racing to take place which has encouraged sailors to join /re-join. There are some countries who have managed to hold their Nationals and, with all competitors needing to be members, this has helped considerably. Japan for example held their Nationals with 63 boats entered.

During the pandemic you may like to know that we have managed to sell a little more merchandise in the way of Snipe plans! It would seem that the thing to do in lockdown is to build your own Snipe! SCIRA also get an income from new hull numbers and sail royalties, both of which are down on what was budgeted, most likely due to the pandemic affecting personal finances and the lack of sailing opportunities. Although there were no travel expenses for our Commodore, SCIRA Rep, Executive Director and Chief Measurer; there are still costs that have to be paid. These include bank service charges, printing and posting of boat decals, ISAF Fees, Legal & accounting, Management fee (has not increased in 8 years), Championship support (the setting up of professional websites for each event – these were done and paid for at the beginning of 2020 before the pandemic occurred), Coaching clinic (a flight was paid for before Covid occurred but the clinic is now postponed) plus

other costs for running the website and office.

We are a non-profit organisation which can make it very difficult to ensure we stay afloat whilst keeping profits to a minimum – this year has been a testing one!

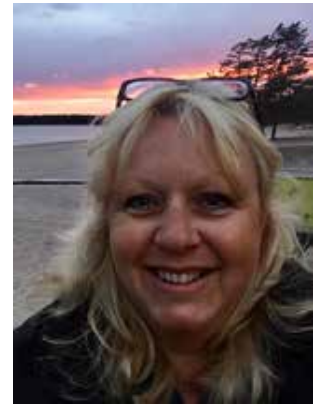
The membership fees have remained the same for the last 20 years at \$15 member, \$10 boat, \$10 junior which is hopefully affordable for most, even during a pandemic. Setting the budget for 2021 will be a little tricky but we are optimistic that sailing will start to open up around the World as the year progresses.

Thank you again to those of you who supported your association during such a difficult year and we look forward to your continued support during 2021. If you were unable to join SCIRA during 2020, we hope you will be able to do so in 2021.

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and may good health and fair winds allow us to all get back out on the water, doing what we love to do in the way we love to do it, very soon!

With best wishes,

**Sue Roberts (Basil 29611)**  
**SCIRA International Treasurer**



---

# Kanto Snipe Class Championship

The Kanto Snipe Class Championship was held off the coast of Hayama on September 19th and 20th. It was the first official regatta held by the Kanto Area Student Sailing Club Association this year. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, most universities had shut down their sailing teams. This meant months of no sailing. So, we were thrilled to learn that the regatta would be taking place, although most of us would not have enough time to practice.

Hayama town is known as the birthplace of Japanese yachting. A man who lives in the town told me “Good for you that you are back on the yacht, the season is finally here!” While visiting other prefectures is strongly discouraged, in order to comply with COVID-19 recommendations, the people of this town welcomed us back to Hayama. We are thankful for their support and understanding about regattas. These days, I see many yachts out on the ocean and I believe that sight has brought life back to the town.

*Haruna Egawa*





# Uruguyan Nationals - 2020



1	<b>PABLO AMORIN</b> URUGUAY 🇺🇾	<b>RODRIGO ROSSI</b> URU 🇺🇾	8.5	OCS	1	4	1	1	1	8
2	<b>GONZALO GRUN</b> URUGUAY 🇺🇾	<b>MATEO NOVO</b> URU 🇺🇾	6.8	OCS	5	1	2	2	3	13
3	<b>RODRIGO GONZALEZ</b> URUGUAY 🇺🇾	<b>ANAHI BENITEZ</b> URU 🇺🇾	5.81	3	2	5	3	3	2	13
4	<b>ANDRES PELEGRINO</b> URUGUAY 🇺🇾	<b>MAXIMO ORTIZ</b> URU 🇺🇾	4.82	2	3	2	4	4	4	15
5	<b>JUAN PEDRO COLL</b> URUGUAY 🇺🇾	<b>GUILLERMO LUZ</b> URU 🇺🇾	3.83	1	4	3	5	6	DNF	19
6	<b>PABLO CABEZAS</b> URUGUAY 🇺🇾	<b>VICTORIA TACHINO</b> URU 🇺🇾	2.83	DNC	6	7	6	5	5	29
7	<b>ANDRES AMOR</b> URUGUAY 🇺🇾	<b>ROSINA GIORGI</b> URU 🇺🇾	1.84	DNC	8	DNF	7	7	6	38
8	<b>CAROLINA RODRIGUEZ</b> URUGUAY 🇺🇾	<b>ANDRES ROLAND</b> URU 🇺🇾	0.85	OCS	7	6	DNC	DNC	DNC	43



# Copa Brazil



Fred Hoffmann photo

## Snipe Class

Sailed: 9, Discards: 1, To count: 8, Entries: 10, Scoring system: Appendix A

Class.	Timoneiro	Proeiro	Cat.	SailNo	Club	Total	C./desc.	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9
1st	Nick Pellicano Grael	Matheus Gonçalves	Geral	31368	ICRJ / MB	25	14	2	1	3	1	3	1	2	1	(11 DNC)
2nd	Felipe Rondina	Luiz Felipe Giagio Amaral	Geral	31425	ICB - DF	29	18	1	4	1	4	1	3	1	3	(11 DNC)
3rd	Malcolm Scofield	Gustavo Baiano	Geral	31569	ICRJ / UPW	23	19	(4)	3	2	3	2	2	4	2	1
4th	Thiago Cintra	Guilherme Siqueira Araújo	Geral	31369	CICP	47	36	(11 DNC)	11 DNC	4	2	4	4	3	4	4
5th	Mario Eugenio Tavares	Vivian Machado	Geral	31326	CRG	49	38	5	5	5	5	5	5	6	(11 DNC)	2
6th	Diogo Vieira	Klaus Stier	Geral	30668	CRG	66	55	7	7	7	8	7	7	7	(11 DNC)	5
7th	Roberto Adler	Michelle Chevrand	Geral	30533	CC	71	60	(11 DNC)	8	9	7	6	8	8	11 DNC	3
8th	Carlos Alberto Rossi	Jorge Bueno	Geral	31017	CRG	72	61	3	2	6	6	(11 DNC)	11 DNC	11 DNC	11 DNC	11 DNC
9th	Roman Davila	Melissa Rodrigues Sousa	Geral	31120	ICRJ	73	62	6	6	8	9	(11 DNC)	6	5	11 DNC	11 DNC
10th	Marco Aurélio de Sá Ribeiro	Rodrigo Vianna	Geral	31600	ICRJ	99	88	(11 DNC)	11 DNC	11 DNC	11 DNC	11 DNC	11 DNC	11 DNC	11 DNC	11 DNC



# Spanish Round-up

## RCNP Fall Series

Hugo Ramón and Miguel Martínez were proclaimed champions of the Autumn Series of the Snipe class, organized by the Real Club Náutico de Palma (RCNP).

The competition, which has had 13 entries, began on October 24 and ended on Sunday, with the dispute of the twelfth round. The podium was completed by Víctor Pérez and Juan Carlos Serrano (silver), followed by Ignacio Pegue-ro and Andreu Juan (bronze).



Tomas Moya photo

The winning crew did not participate in the two tests yesterday due to an injury to Miguel Martínez. However, the income obtained in the previous ten rounds (with five first, three seconds and two third) and the possibility of discarding the four worst results of the series were decisive for the Ramón-Martínez duo to prevail comfortably.

Hugo Ramón, member of RCNP dinghy sailing, is satisfied with the development of the Autumn Series and the new format of short races, lasting about 20 minutes. "It has been seen that it works, it allows us to do more tests, but at the same time we are open to doing classic routes, like last weekend", says Ramón, who is committed to promoting the Snipe class, "the only dinghy class in the one that adults participate".

The RCNP will request the celebration of the Snipe national of 2022 and the 2028 World Cup, the year of the 80th anniversary of the RCNP, whose inaugural regatta was, precisely, an international championship of this non-Olympic class, but which has thousands of practitioners throughout the world.

## Mahon Winter Series

Mahon, Menorca, Spain, December 12, 2020. Final results after 4 races:

1. Toni Pons & Claudia Pons
2. Damian Borrás Camps & Sara Franceschi
3. Jordi Triay Pons & Cristian Vidal
4. Marta Torner Rubios & Enrique Mir Pons
5. Juan Magro del Bano & David Gomez Lopez



## Code Zero Trophy - Lanzarote

Puerto Calero, Lanzarote, Spain, December 6, 2020.  
Final results after 5 races (1 discard):

1. Alfredo Gonzalez & Cristian Sanchez Barreto, 6
2. Gustavo del Castillo Palop & Rafael del Castillo Palop, 8
3. Aureliano Negrin Sanguines, David Martin Perez, 12
4. Carlos Hernandez Robayna & Rafael del Castillo Diaz, 15
5. Jorge Perez Badia & Airam Sanchez Rodriguez, 21



# Peru



## REGATAS DE PROGRESION DE LA CLINICA SNIPE 2020 YACHT CLUB ANCON - ANCON, LIMA

RANK	BOTE	TIMONEL	TRIPULANTE	NRO. VELA	CLUB	REGATAS							TOTAL
						R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	
1	ESNAI	ISMAEL MUELLE	ALESSIA ZAVALA	S/N	YCA/CRL	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
2	EL NENE	ALEC HUGHES	VALRIA BREÑA	31150	YCA	3	2	2	2	2	3	3	14
3	ANGER THERAPY	JUAN LYON	VALENTINA LYON	31084	YCA	5	4	5	3	4	4	4	24
4	EL HIERRO	ALAIN RAMIREZ	GONZALO CALLE	31	YCA	2	3	3	4	DNS	DNC	DNC	26
5	EL TANQUE	DIEGO CACERES	ALBERTO VARILLAS	31074	YCA/CRL	4	5	4	DNS	3	5	5	26
6	AMERICANO	PEDRO VEGA	STEPHIE FRANCO	3108	-	DSQ	DSQ	DNC	DNC	DNC	2	2	32

# Colombia



1	DANIEL CASTILLO	ALFONSO ESCOLAR N.D.	8.5	2	1	3	1	1	5
2	FRANCISCO CASTILLO COLOMBIA 🇨🇴	JUAN PABLO ANGULO COL 🇨🇴	6.59	1	2	1	2	2	6
3	LUCAS LAFITA	DANIEL LAFITA COL 🇨🇴	4.68	DNC	3	4	3	3	13
4	ARMANDO DE MULDER		2.76	3	4	5	5	4	16
5	JOAQUIN TAMAYO		0.85	DNC	DNC	2	4	DNC	18



# Remembering Erling Olsen

Erling Olsen died on 30 November 2020 at the age of 82 years.

Erling was the founder of the companies Skipper Snipe and Alu Mast and, through a long career, a significant supplier of boats and equipment to the Snipe Class and sailors all over the world.

Erling's interest in building Snipe dinghies emerged in the sixties and seventies, a period in which Snipe sailing in Denmark bloomed and amateur construction of boats took off in Espergærde Sailing Club, Pioneer Fleet 302.

Erling showed a special talent and interest in boat building and was the man behind the Skipper Snipe.

It all began in an old cow stable in the little village of Espergærde, just south of Elsinore, Denmark. Initially the construction of 10 plywood Snipes was started by a group of amateurs, and year after year the interest for the class increased. Soon more than 50 plywood Snipes were built. Every year new improvements were found. Better building methods, finer lines to the hull, new cockpit arrangements, and better rig and sails. All should be the best and fastest in accordance with the SCIRA Rules. Erling Olsen and architect Peer Bruun started the first Danish fiberglass racing dinghy factory named "Larchmont" boats, where Snipes and Finns were built in numbers. Later Paul Elvström joined the company and brought to it his knowledge and expertise, especially to the building of the Finns. After some years the factory was sold to Poul Elvström, who continued only with the Finns.

Because of a big demand from sailors in Denmark and Sweden, Erling Olsen wanted to proceed with Snipe construction and now, with the experience gained from building more than 100 plywood and fiberglass Snipes, and with all knowledge of construction and fitting-out, he was determined to make the "just right" Snipe and market it under the trade name of "SKIPPER". Erling set up a strict standard of quality and performance which appeared difficult to obtain, but the product met all class and sailing requirements and has enjoyed a tremendous acceptance and success. Erling started his own factory based on the Skipper Snipe which he improved over the years.

Approximately 2,300 Skipper Snipe were produced in Erling's years as builder and many Snipe Worlds and Snipe Europeans were won with the Skipper Snipe.

Erling was an amazing craftsman who rarely neglected an opportunity to proceed into other areas of manufacturing if he saw an opportunity to develop and improve a product. For this reason, Erling started his production of masts and booms for the Snipe class in 1974 under the auspices of Alu Mast. It became several mast models over the years and ended with the success of the SideWinder mast, as we know it today - the favorite mast in the Snipe Class. Erling also built several road trailers of his own design for the transport of Snipe dinghies and many of these are still on the road.

Erling worked for a long time to promote the interests of the Snipe class and SCIRA in Denmark, Norway and Sweden as well as Europe in general. Erling was one of the main forces in the implementation of the very successful 1980 Snipe Europeans in Espergærde, and in the following years he participated in the organization of several large Snipe events in Europe.

Several years ago, Erling felt the urge to pursue other interest, such as his great interest in photography, film and TV and handed over his production of boats and masts to younger forces, thus losing his connection to the Snipe Class.

We send our condolences to his family.



## DUES 2020 as of Dec 20

	2020	2020	2019	2019
Country	Members	Boats	Members	Boats
<b>Argentina</b>	61	47	53	23
<b>Austria</b>	2	1	2	1
<b>Bahamas</b>	17	7	17	4
<b>Belgium</b>	76	41	82	49
<b>Brazil</b>	238	179	295	183
<b>Canada</b>	13	15	14	19
<b>Chile</b>	51	24	48	22
<b>Colombia</b>	5	2		10
<b>Croatia</b>	7	6	16	8
<b>Cuba</b>	0	0	11	5
<b>Denmark</b>	6	3	9	5
<b>Ecuador</b>	0	0	4	11
<b>Finland</b>	74	34	49	24
<b>France</b>	26	20	31	20
<b>Germany</b>	7	5	9	9
<b>Guatemala</b>	1	3	2	1
<b>Italy</b>	225	109	280	125
<b>Japan</b>	312	206	1018	569
<b>Lithuania</b>	0			
<b>Mexico</b>	0	0		
<b>Norway</b>	27	15	27	29
<b>Peru</b>	4	9	5	11
<b>Poland</b>	30	13	40	18
<b>Portugal</b>	87	45	82	30
<b>Puerto Rico</b>	1	4	4	8
<b>Spain</b>	552	255	503	203
<b>Sweden</b>	15	9	22	13
<b>Switzerland</b>	3	2	3	0
<b>United Kingdom</b>	42	24	54	18
<b>United States</b>	348	307	434	297
<b>Uruguay</b>	17	9	34	9
<b>Venezuela</b>	0			
	<b>2247</b>	<b>1394</b>	<b>3166</b>	<b>1724</b>





## Snipe Ranking Guidelines

SCIRA has an agreement with the SSL (Star Sailors League) whereby if we provide regatta results, they will calculate an international ranking system for us. In order to have a great ranking system, we need the cooperation of all regatta organizers and National Secretaries to encompass as many events and sailors as possible.

Read the guidelines to the right to help gather the information. Use this link to download the excel template (save as a csv file) and then send to the SnipeToday editor or the SCIRA office. It's that easy!

[Results Template](#)

### Guidelines for sending regatta results for the International Ranking

The purpose of these guidelines is to facilitate the loading of results into the SSL database.

- It is necessary to fill in all fields in the attached file.
- In particular it is important to fill in the "Sailor ID" field.
- Sailor ID means SCIRA memberID number.
- The SCIRA member ID can be found by entering the name of the sailor and checking the corresponding number at this [link](#):
- The SCIRA member ID is used to avoid duplications or errors with the names of sailors (for example: Martin Bermudez or Marin Bermudez de la Puente or Martin Bermudez de la Puente Gallego).
- Using the SCIRA member ID also makes it possible for SCIRA to check that the sailor is a member in good standing.
- Fill in the number of races, correctly indicating the DNC or DNS boats in the individual races.
- Send the file to [editor@snipetoday.org](mailto:editor@snipetoday.org)
- The file will then be forwarded to the SSL Team, which will upload it to the "machine", a complex excel file, on which the International Ranking regattas are loaded.
- Results in .jpeg format are absolutely to be avoided.

Thanks for your collaboration!

