

SCIRA Proposal Form

Number 24-22

Received: January 2024



From¹: **Evan Hoffmann, SCIRA USA National Secretary**

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Summary: Explicit allowance of VHF radios to be carried as approved equipment in the Snipe for safety, race efficiency, and alignment of SCIRA NOR Template with Class Rules

Affects:

- | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Constitution | <input type="checkbox"/> | By-Laws | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Class Rules |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Deed of Gift | <input type="checkbox"/> | Rules of Conduct | <input type="checkbox"/> | NoR or SI Template |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Other | | | | |

Objective: Improve safe practices on the race course, increase race management efficiency, uplift our class to standard practices allowed by other one design classes, align the conflicting language in the NOR Template with the official Class Rules

Proposal (include current & proposed changed wording- changes to be shown in red): *Example: By Laws: Section 1. Racing Season*

Add section C.5.1: *VHF Radio for communication solely from race committee for race management purposes and safety precautions.*

Any use of a radio outside of these purposes (e.g., communication from other competitors. Coach, spectators, etc.) is grounds for immediate disqualification from the regatta series and potentially suspension from the class under rule 2.

Reasons:

The snipe is one of the only classes that explicitly does not allow the use of a radio. This is a critical safety device as there are typically not enough safety boats or coach boats present at our larger regattas.

Further, we have a clause in the Notice of Race template that "allows" the use of radios in a safety situation, which is in direct conflict with our class rules.

I have received feedback from many of my sailors, international race officers who serve the Snipe class at our major events, and other race officials that the disallowance of radios in our class is: 1. a major safety issue as we are unable to

¹ Proposals can be made by the Board, Technical Committee, National Secretaries or 5 fleet captains up to 1st March.

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communicate directly with the race committee when time is critical and 2. prohibits the race committee from running efficient regattas as it is impossible to communicate efficiently without a radio.

Radios are *inexpensive* (less than \$100) and can save a life in an emergency. Further, this change will bring our regattas up to the standards with other one design classes. Given we already have language that allows the use of radios in our standard SCIRA NOR template, we need to update the allowable class equipment to reflect the same fact pattern in our Class Rules.

I have allowed radios in the US Snipe class for the past two US Nationals. I personally had to use the radio to communicate urgently in two separate situations at our 2022 championship. The first was when a boat capsized on the tow out to the race course, had I not radioed the race committee boat towing us to stop immediately, the sailors of the capsized boat would have been in a *very* unsafe circumstance. The second incident happened with a grand master team capsized and lost their daggerboard as the retainer line had snapped. Again, had I not been able to communicate with race committee quickly on this +15kt day, the safety boat would not have assisted in a timely manner, leaving the grand master team in an unnecessarily dangerous situation.