



RULES OF CONDUCT for Conducting National and International Championship Regattas

As approved by the Board of Governors – effective January 1st, 2026 – changes in red

All major championship regattas with a Deed of Gift recorded at SCIRA shall be conducted in accordance with the following rules. Changes to sections 5 and 6 may be requested for local conditions and must be submitted to and approved by the Board of Governors.

National Championships and lower-level regattas may modify these rules, excluding sections 3 and 4 4.1, 4.4, 4.6, 4.7, 4.9, 4.10, for local requirements, only upon approval of the National Secretary.

1. General

- 1.1 These rules are written for the purpose of conducting any major SCIRA Regattas to ensure the same standards around the world. All other considerations, such as the convenience of the Race Committee, spectators, and other non-participants shall be considered only if no sacrifice is made in conducting the best racing.
- 1.2 These rules shall be interpreted according to their intent rather than any semantic or technical misinterpretation that may arise from their wording.
- 1.3 In considering a location for the hosting of these events, no venue award shall be made to any Organizing Authority unable or unwilling to comply fully with these rules. The understanding, willingness and ability of the Organizing Authority to comply fully with these rules are presumed in good faith when the event is bid.

2. Authorities and Rules

- 2.1 The official language for all International Championships shall be English.
- 2.2 An official SCIRA Representative shall be assigned by SCIRA for each regatta to assure the regatta is conducted in full accordance with the applicable Deed of Gift, these Rules of Conduct, and the SCIRA Sailing Instructions, all of which rank as rules. While normally an advisor, the SCIRA Representative shall have full power to file a strong protest against the Race Committee Chairman or other official and withhold the SCIRA trophy if he/she is convinced that the conduct of the regatta is not in compliance with these rules. He/she shall assist all committees in an advisory capacity and shall be consulted in any dispute concerning SCIRA rules. He/she should, generally, not be a formal member of any committee. He/she shall be available for all measurement, registration times and the competitor's meeting, and shall be present on the main Race Committee boat during all races. The designation of the SCIRA Representative is as follows, unless the Commodore and the Chairman of the **Technical** Committee authorize a change: *(See note below)*
 - World Championships** - Commodore
 - European Championships** - General Secretary for Europe
 - Western Hemisphere & Asia Championship** - General Secretary for Western Hemisphere & Asia
 - North American Championship** - National Secretary of the host country or his/her designee, which shall be posted
 - South American Championship** - National Secretary of the host country or his/her designee, which shall be posted
 - National Championships** - Host National Secretary or his designee whose name shall be posted.**Note:** If the SCIRA Representative designated by this rule is not completely familiar with current race management rules and practice, he/she shall designate a “*representative of the SCIRA Representative*” who is completely familiar with race management to advise the Race Committee during the event.
- 2.3 Where the Deed of Gift covering the Trophy that is being competed for has been published in the SCIRA Web site, any modifications to its Rules are subject to approval by the Board of Governors of SCIRA and must be published by Circular Letter on the official SCIRA Web site in order to apply.
- 2.4 The current Racing Rules of Sailing as published by WS with prescriptions of the hosting National Authority or Federation (if any) shall apply, except where they have been properly modified by: these Rules, the SCIRA Constitution & By-laws, or SCIRA **Notice of Race** or Sailing Instructions as published on the SCIRA Web site or changed by published amendments, if any. The Rules of Conduct for Conducting National and International Championship Regattas shall be listed in the **Notice of Race** and they are considered changes made for the purposes of rule 86. In all cases of conflict these Rules shall prevail, except as prohibited by RRS 86.1(b).
- 2.5 World Sailing Regulation 12 shall be followed to constitute a World Championship. In any other case 3 Countries are necessary to constitute an International Championship Regatta if not otherwise specified in the appropriate Deed of Gift.
- 2.6 Advertising in all SCIRA events shall comply with World Sailing Regulation 20.



3. Regatta Categories

3.1 The Snipe Class Regattas are categorized as follows:

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
North Americans, South American and National Championships	WH&A and European Championships	World Championships	All Master events

4. Entry, Eligibility and Measurement Restrictions

- 4.1 No **helmsperson** or crew shall be eligible to enter any race unless they are in good standing with SCIRA for the current year.
- 4.2 No **helmsperson** or crew under 10 years of age shall be eligible to enter any International Championship regatta with a Deed of Gift published on the SCIRA Web site.
- 4.3 World Sailing Eligibility Code Section 2 and 3 shall apply to Worlds, Europeans, Western Hemisphere & Asia, North American and South American Championships. Nationality to be determined **according to the Constitution, Section 18. Additional eligibility criteria may be established in the event’s Deed of Gift.**
- 4.4 The same **helmsperson** must sail all races and may be replaced after the first race only, and then only if the **helmsperson** is obviously incapacitated. If a **helmsperson** is replaced in this manner, the first race shall be the race excluded. The same crew must sail in all races except for reasons satisfactory to the Race Committee.
- 4.5 No boat shall be eligible to enter any Class championship race unless she has a Measurement Data Sheet (MDS) on file at the SCIRA office. Only Snipe boats with a completed MDS on file with the SCIRA office shall be entitled to place the SCIRA Class decal for that year on the hull. The SCIRA decal shall be on all boats intending to compete in any race. Additionally, no boat shall be eligible to enter a World, European, Western Hemisphere and Asia Championship without a Moment of Inertia measurement certificate on file at the SCIRA office.
- 4.6 The same boat and measured equipment must be used throughout the entire regatta unless it is so severely damaged as to be incapable of being sailed. All claims of damage requiring replacement shall be petitioned to the Race Committee in writing and all replacements shall comply with the Class Rules and shall be approved by the event's Technical Committee (if present).
- 4.7 No more than two suits of sails per boat may be **presented for inspection** for any competitor. The Race Committee may authorize a measured replacement if a sail is found to be irreparably damaged.
- 4.8 Any International Championships **are** required to check sails’ **certification and royalty**, decals, **daggerboard safety line, rudder security system**, paddle, tow line and personal flotation devices at minimum. Other championships in addition to the lower level are required to **inspect** boats according to the specifications below:

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Corrector weights, daggerboard retaining system, mast step	Level 1 and hull weight, sails, daggerboard, jib tack.	Level 1 and 2 and Rudder, mast, boom, pole.	Hull weight and sails only

- At discretion of the Measurement Committee of the event, one or more of the **inspections** of the higher level of competition may be requested providing it is indicated on the Notice of Race, unless differently stated in the event’s DoG.
- 4.9 At Championships the **technical** committee approves the conformity of boats. Thereafter the boat **shall not** be modified in a manner which would require re-measurement.
- 4.10 A country must be current for all monies owed to SCIRA or its competitors shall not compete in Continental, Hemisphere, or World Championships.

5. Race Schedule

- 5.1 Unless specified in the event Deed of Gift, three races shall constitute a regatta **to award a title.**
- 5.2 No more than two (2) races shall be sailed per day, unless behind schedule. In Master events, no more than two (2) races shall be sailed per day.
- 5.2 The number of races per day will be scheduled according to the Level of the regatta as defined in RoC 3.1 and it will be as follows:

	Level 1 and 2 regattas	Level 3 regattas	Level 4 regattas
Number of races	No more than three (3) races shall be sailed per day	No more than two (2) races shall be sailed per day, unless behind schedule	No more than two (2) races shall be sailed per day

- 5.3 No more than 9 races shall be scheduled. Unless specified in the event’s DoG, if 7 to 9 races are sailed, the worst race shall be excluded according to RRS 90.3 and Appendix A. If less than 7 races are scheduled, the race exclusion shall be specified in the NoR or SI. No race shall be excluded if 3 or less races are sailed.



6. Race Courses and Requirements (see Course Selection Diagram)

- 6.1 Any course used for a World, European, or Western Hemisphere & Asia Championship shall be one of those shown in the Course Selection Diagram in the SCIRA Web site (for National Championships, use of SCIRA course Selection Diagram is strongly encouraged, though an additional variant course to accommodate local conditions may also be used subject to the approval of the National Secretary of the country. The first leg of the variant course shall be made to make the first leg a minimum of 0.5 nautical mile.)
- 6.2 Courses shall be determined to last approximately 60-75 minutes. Failure to meet the target time will not be grounds for redress. (This changes RRS 61.4(b)(1)).
- 6.3 **Except at a gate**, course marks shall be left to port.
- 6.4 The number of legs in a race may be reduced (RRS code flag S) but at least 2 (two) windward legs of the race shall be completed (this changes RRS 32.2)
- 6.5 After completion of the first windward leg of the race the remaining legs may be increased or decreased (RRS 33 +/-) by not more than 30% of the original length (this changes RRS 33).
- 6.6 A ~~permanent~~ **persistent** wind variation of 20 degrees or more from the posted bearing during the first leg of a race shall be ground to apply RRS 32.1.
- 6.7 A ~~permanent~~ **persistent** variation of 40 degrees or more off the posted bearing during the first lap shall be ground to apply RRS 32.1. For the purpose of this rule a lap means the rounding of mark 3 for the first time.
- 6.8 A fleet may be split with more than 80 boats.

7. Marks

- 7.1 Courses shall be established using only temporary inflatable marks.
- 7.2 The Race Committee is requested to record the order of competitors' passing at each primary course mark.

8. Starting Lines

- 8.1 Fixed starting lines shall not be used.
- 8.2 A Race Committee **vessel** should not be larger than 15 meters (50 feet) overall so that its size should not be a consideration in a competitor's starting strategy.
- 8.3 The Race Committee may post official **vessels** at each end of the starting line.

9. Starting Systems and Procedures

- 9.1 Races shall be started in accordance with RRS 26.
- 9.2 Any boats not starting within 5 minutes after her starting signal shall be scored DNS. (This changes RRS A5).
- 9.3 The course signal (code O,T,W or O2, T2, W2) shall be hoisted at least one minute prior to the warning signal.
- 9.4 Black Flag can be used in fleets with more than 45 boats only and after the **1st U flag** general recall. This changes RRS 30.4.
- ~~9.5 Z, U and Black flags rules are modified so that the Race Committee may display at the first mark, or on the Race Committee boat in case of a general recall, the sail number(s) or bow number(s) of those boats that have infringed the rules. The failure of posting an incomplete or wrong list will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 61.4(b).~~

10. Weather Limitations (Course and Starting)

- 10.1 A race shall not be started unless the Race Committee and SCIRA Representative are confident that a fair race can be completed.
- 10.2 The wind speed ranges shall be no less than 5 knots and not to exceed 23 knots or in accordance with the applicable Deed of Gift.
 - For Masters' events the maximum wind speed allowed shall be 15 knots
 - For Women's events the maximum wind speed allowed shall be 18 knots
- 10.3 If during a race the wind and/or wave action changes to the point where the selected course would be inadvisable (See Course Selection Diagram), the Race Committee shall change the course at any mark. A change of the type of course during the race shall be signaled displaying the new appropriate flag and accompanied by repetitive sounds before the leading boat has passed or rounded the mark.
- 10.4 Wind reading instruments shall be between 2 and 3 meters above the surface of the water. The duration of reading shall be 3 consecutive minutes prior to the race warning. The wind reading shall be taken from an unobstructed area on the boat, it is recommended that there be a minimum 4 meters of free space surrounding the wind instruments. If during the race the wind speed goes under the minimum (5 knots) the RC may wait for the time limit to expire or abandon the race as per RRS 32.1(b).



- 10.5 If during the race the wind speed goes over the maximum **wind speed established in the RoC or in the applicable DoG** for more than 3 consecutive minutes the race shall be abandoned. (This changes RRS 32.1) If frequent heavy gusts go over the limit even for less than 3 consecutive minutes, the Race Committee and the SCIRA Representative, for ensuring a fair and safe race, may decide to not start or abandon the race.

11. Race course recommendations:

0 – 5 knots	Do not start
6 – 18 knots	Windward/Leeward (W – W2)
15 – 18 knots	Triangle-windward-leeward (O – O2)
16 – 23 knots	Two Triangles (T – T2)
24 and above knots	Do not start

12. Finish Line

- 12.1 The length of the finish line shall be not less than 30 meters or more than 45 meters.

13. Equipment Check

- 13.1 Boats should be **randomly** checked for required equipment and rule compliance immediately after their finish in each race or the last race of the day if no return ashore. While top competitors should be the focus, it is not necessary to inspect any competitor more than once per race day, unless that competitor has returned to shore or has been in contact with a support **vessel**.

14. Time Limits

- 14.1 The time limit for the first boat to complete the first lap shall be 40 minutes from the start.
- 14.2 The time limit for the first boat to **sail the course** shall be 1 hour, 30 minutes.
- 14.3 Any boat failing to **sail the course** within 20 minutes after the first boat sails the course and finishes, or failing to **sail the course** within 1 hour, 50 minutes from the start, whichever is shorter, shall be scored DNF. *(This changes RRS 35, A4 and A5)*
- 14.4 The warning signal of a fleet or group for the third race of the day in Level 1&2 regattas will not be displayed if the total time of racing has been more than two (2) hours. The total time of racing is the time of the first two (2) races combined. For the purposes of this rule ONLY, a race time will be the time for the first boat to sail the course.

15. Protests

- 15.1 An international Jury per RRS Appendix N shall be appointed in all World Championships **and**, if requested by the SCIRA or the MNA of the host country, **in all Masters**, Hemisphere, North American, South American and European Championships. Familiarity and experience with SNIPE sailing is a critical criterion for the selection of jury members. The SCIRA Representative shall be satisfied that there is compliance with this requirement in advance of the event.
- 15.2 The provisions of rule N2.2 are reserved to the SCIRA Representative.
- 15.3 Providing that an International Jury has not been appointed under Appendix N, appeals shall be addressed according to RRS 70. Any request for clarification related to SCIRA Rules may be addressed by the appropriate appeals committee of the hosting MNA to the SCIRA Chairman of the Technical Committee.

16. Breakdowns

- 16.1 In events requiring the use of borrowed or chartered boats provided by or authorized by the organizing authority, a breakdown, **not including sails**, **determined found** to be no fault of the ~~competitors sailing~~ **crew of** that boat shall be grounds for redress **according to RRS A9**.

17. Scoring

- 17.1 RRS Appendix A scoring system shall be used.
- ~~17.2 In events requiring the use of borrowed boats or any event where RDG points may be awarded by the jury, SCIRA prefers that any breakdown points or RDG Points equal the average earned to the nearest tenth of a point (round .05 and greater upward) of the competitor's points in the series except the race excluded (if any) and the race in question.~~
- 17.2 Penalties for breaking Class Rules may be less than disqualification **and according to the SCIRA Penalty Table**. This changes RRS 60.5(c).



18. Support Vessels

- 18.1 All Race Committees are required to be diligent in their strict supervision of all support **vessels** activity. Under no circumstances should the use of support **vessels** influence the outcome of a race.
- 18.2 **Support personnel** shall not go afloat in the racing area during the racing except on Race Committee designated ~~spectator~~ **vessels**. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in the penalization of any boat(s) associated with the boat infringing with this rule.

19. Team Racing

- 19.1 Under no circumstances shall the use of team racing tactics be tolerated in fleet racing.

20. Rules Compliance

- 20.1 Non-compliance with rules 5.2, 6.4, 6.5, 9.4, 10.2, 14.1, 14.2 **and 14.4** may be grounds for a request for redress by a boat. In addition, the SCIRA Representative may demand that the race is abandoned. Those rules are compulsory for the Race Committee. When the Protest Committee decides that the Race Committee or Organizing Authority did not comply with the rules listed above, the race where the non-compliance occurred shall be abandoned (This changes RRS 61.4(c)).

21. Rights to use Name and Likeness

- 21.1 By participating in SCIRA events, competitors automatically grant to SCIRA, the organizing authority and the event sponsors the right, in perpetuity, to make, use, and show, at their discretion, any photography, audio and video recording, and other reproductions of them made at the venue or on the water from the time of their arrival at the venue, until their final departure, without compensation.

----- *End* -----