

INTERNATIONAL ETCHELLS CLASS
2026 ETCHELLS U.S. NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP
Hosted by Fleet 4
Organized by Eastern Yacht Club
Marblehead, Massachusetts, USA
October 9-11, 2026

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

POSTED 09/24/2026

The Organizing Authority (OA) is Eastern Yacht Club in conjunction with Etchells Fleet 4

The notation **[DP]** is defined in the RRS. The notation **[NP]** in a rule means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking this rule. This changes RRS 60.1(a).

1. RULES

1.1. The event is governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS), the rules of the International Etchells Class Association, and the International Etchells Class Code of Conduct.

1.2. If there is a conflict between languages, the English text will take precedence.

1.3. The race committee (RC) will use the Vakaros RaceSense system, providing relevant information to all boats. Refer to **Addendum RS** on the Official Notice Board (ONB) for instructions, rules, and details.

1.4. World Sailing APPENDIX T: ARBITRATION T1, T2, T3 and T4 will apply as changed. T1(b) A post-race penalty is a 20% scoring penalty if taken after the protest time limit or a 30% scoring penalty if taken after the protest time limit but before the beginning of a hearing involving the incident. Scoring penalty is calculated as stated in RRS 44.3 (c). However, RRS 44.1(a) applies.

2. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

2.1. Any change to the Sailing Instructions (SIs) will be posted before 0800 on the day it will take effect, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 1900 on the day before it will take effect.

3. COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS

3.1. Notices to competitors will be posted on the ONB located on the 2026 Etchells Nationals official website. As a courtesy, announcements on WhatsApp will alert competitors to new notices. QR codes will be posted on the ONB.

3.2. The race office is located in the Eastern Yacht Club Sailing Center, 781-631-1400 or the event website.

3.3. On the water, the RC intends to monitor and communicate with competitors on VHF Ch 72.

3.4. In accordance with RRS 90.2, oral changes to the SIs may be made on the water. A change is in effect when the RC signal boat displays Flag L over A with one sound signal. This means competitors should monitor VHF radio channel 72 and come within hail of the RC signal boat to receive the oral changes to the SIs.

3.5. [DP] From thirty minutes before the first scheduled or amended Warning Signal of the day until racing has been concluded for the day, except in an emergency threatening the safety of any person or the flotation of a boat, a boat shall not make voice or data transmissions or receive voice or data communications that are not available to all boats. This restriction includes mobile/cell phones and any device capable of sending or receiving external electronic communication or connecting to the internet, except as expressly permitted by the NOR, these Sailing Instructions, the Class Rules, or subsequent amendments.

3.6. On shore, the OA, RC and PC will communicate with competitors using WhatsApp. Failure to receive messages shall not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 61.1(a).

4. CODE OF CONDUCT

4.1. [DP] Competitors and support persons shall comply with requests from race officials.

5. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

5.1. Signals made ashore will be displayed from the Casey Flagpole at Eastern Yacht Club.

5.2. When Flag AP is displayed ashore, "1 minute" is replaced with "not less than 60 minutes" in Race Signal AP.

6. SCHEDULE OF RACES

6.1.

Thursday, October 8	Registration and Crew Weigh-in	1300 – 1830
Friday, October 9	Late-Registration and Crew Weigh-in	0730 - 0845
Friday, October 9	Competitors' Meeting	0900
Friday, October 9	Race Day 1, 1st Warning Signal	1100
Saturday, October 10	Race Day 2, 1st Warning Signal	1100
Sunday, October 11	Race Day 3, 1st Warning Signal	1100
Sunday, October 11	Prize-giving	1600

6.2. Eight (8) races are scheduled.

6.3. On the last scheduled day of racing, no warning signal will be made after 1430.

7. CLASS FLAGS

7.1. The Class flag will be white with a black Etchells emblem.

8. RACE AREA

8.1. Races will be sailed in Massachusetts Bay in the area between Tinkers Gong and Halfway Rock (Primary Race Area). If conditions warrant, races may be sailed in Salem Sound (Secondary Race Area). See **NOR Attachment A – Race Area**.

9. COURSES

9.1. The courses shall be in a windward-leeward configuration. See **SI Attachment A – Course Description**.

9.2. No later than five (5) minutes before the Warning Signal, the RC Signal vessel will display and announce on VHF channel 72 the course to be sailed, the approximate compass bearing and distance of the first leg.

9.3. If only a single windward or leeward mark is present, boats shall leave that mark to port before proceeding to the next mark of the course.

9.4. The course will not be shortened by reducing the number of legs. This changes RRS 32.

10. MARKS

10.1. Standard Operations - RaceSense Active:

The course uses four orange robotic marks:

10.1.1. **Two Leeward Marks** shall display orange flags. In Course W4, the leeward marks are used as the starting marks, leeward gate, and finishing marks. In Course W5, the leeward marks serve as the starting marks and leeward gate marks only.

10.1.2. **Two Windward Marks** shall display orange flags. In Course W4, these marks are Mark 1 and offset Mark 1a. In Course W5, these marks serve as windward Mark 1, offset Mark 1a, and the finishing marks.

10.1.3. **The RC Signal Boat and RC Finish Vessel are not marks of the course and are not part of the starting or the finishing lines.**

10.2. **Flag Oscar Operations - RaceSense Suspended: When Flag Oscar is displayed, the RC Signal Boat or RC Finish Vessel becomes a mark of the course and forms the starboard end of the starting or finishing line.**

10.3. Change marks will be orange robotic marks.

11. THE START

11.1. Prior to the first warning signal of the first race of the day, boats shall sail on starboard tack, passing the stern of the RC Signal vessel displaying Flag L, to be recorded.

11.2. To alert boats that a race or sequence of races will begin soon, one (1) long sound signal will be made at least five (5) minutes before a warning signal is made.

11.3. Races will be started in accordance with **Addendum RS** as posted on the ONB. This changes RRS 26.

11.4. The starting line is between two staffs displaying orange flags on the two leeward robotic marks.

11.5. Flag Oscar – RaceSense Suspended: When Flag Oscar is displayed, RRS 26 applies. The RC may attempt to hail boats subject to individual recall on VHF 72 using bow or sail numbers. The failure to hail, the order in which boats are hailed, or the untimely hail of a boat or boats shall not be grounds for redress. This modifies RRS 29.1 and changes RRS 62.1(a).

11.6. A boat that does not start within five (5) minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start without a hearing. This changes RRS A5.1 and A5.2.

12. CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

12.1. To change the next leg of the course, the RC will lay a new mark (or move the finishing line) and remove the original mark as soon as practicable.

12.2. The RC may adjust the course during a race, by no more than 10 degrees or 0.1 nm, to maintain course alignment, without signaling a change. This changes RRS 33.

13. THE FINISH

13.1. The finishing line is between staffs displaying orange flags on the applicable robotic marks (leeward marks for Course W4; windward marks for Course W5).

14. PENALTY SYSTEM

14.1. The first two sentences of RRS 44.1 are changed to: "A boat may take a One-Turn Penalty when she may have broken one or more rules of Part 2 or RRS 31 in an incident while racing. However, when she may have broken one or more rules of Part 2 while in the zone around a mark other than a starting mark, her penalty shall be a Two-Turns Penalty."

14.2. In RRS 44.2 insert after the first sentence: "However, if Mark 1a (offset mark) is set, a boat that may have broken one or more rules of Part 2 or RRS 31 in the zone around Mark 1 or on the leg between Mark 1 and Mark 1a shall not take her penalty in that area unless she is well clear of other boats. If she delays taking her penalty, she shall take it as soon as possible after leaving the zone around Mark 1a."

14.3. A boat that has taken a penalty turn or retired under RRS 44.1 shall complete and submit a written acknowledgment form which will either be available at the Jury desk or online, within the protest time limit.

15. TIME LIMITS

15.1. The Mark 1 Time Limit, Race Time Limit (see RRS 35), and the Finishing Window are shown in the table below.

Mark 1 Time Limit	Race Target Time	Race Time Limit	Finishing Window
45 minutes	60 minutes	120 minutes	15 minutes

15.2. If no boat has passed the first mark within the Mark 1 Time Limit, the race will be abandoned.

15.3. The Finishing Window is the time for boats to finish after the first boat sails the course and finishes. Boats failing to finish within the Finishing Window, and not subsequently retired, penalized or given redress, will be scored Time Limit Expired (TLE) without a hearing. A boat scored TLE shall be scored points for the finishing place one more than the points scored by the last boat that finished within the Finishing Window. This changes RRS 35, A5.1, A5.2 and A10.

15.4. Failure to meet the Target Time will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 61.1(a).

16. HEARING REQUEST

16.1. The protest time is 45 minutes from the Signal vessel docking after the last race of the day. The time will be posted on the ONB.

16.2. Hearing request forms are available from the race office in the Eastern Yacht Club Sailing Center.

16.3. Notices will be posted online no later than 10 minutes after the protest time limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses. As a courtesy, announcements on WhatsApp messaging service will alert competitors of new notices from the protest committee.

16.4. Hearings will be held in the Model Room located on the first floor of Eastern Yacht Club.

16.5. Notices of protests by the RC or the protest committee will be posted online to inform boats under RRS 60.2(d).

16.6. The scoring abbreviation for a discretionary penalty imposed by the protest committee will be DPI.

16.7. For boats scored OCS, UFD, or BFD (posted on the Signal vessel and/or on the official notice board) before the protest time limit, a request for redress based on such a posted score shall be made only online, and no later than one hour after the protest time limit. This changes RRS 62.1(b)(1).

17. SCORING

17.1. Five (5) races are required to constitute a series.

17.2. When seven (7) or more races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.

18. BLANK

19. SAFETY REGULATIONS

19.1. [DP] A boat that retires from a race shall notify the RC at the first reasonable opportunity.

20. REPLACEMENT OF CREW OR EQUIPMENT

20.1. [DP] Substitution of competitors is not allowed without prior written approval of the technical committee or protest committee.

20.2. [DP] Substitution of damaged or lost equipment is not allowed unless authorized in writing by the technical committee or protest committee.

21. EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS

21.1. A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the class rules, Notice of Race, and SIs.

21.2. [DP] When instructed by a race official on the water, a boat shall proceed to a designated area for inspection.

21.3. All written requests for crew or equipment change will be answered by the Jury, in writing, and posted on the ONB.

22. OFFICIAL VESSELS

Official vessels will be identified as follows: displaying blue or yellow RC flags.

23. SUPPORT PERSONS AND SUPPORT VESSELS

23.1. All coach/support vessels shall register at the Eastern Yacht Club Sailing Center during Registration and shall comply with local law and event support regulations found in **SI Attachment B – Support Persons and Support Vessels**.

24. [DP][NP] TRASH DISPOSAL AND SUSTAINABILITY

24.1. Trash may be placed aboard official or support vessels.

24.2. Use of single-use plastic water bottles is discouraged. Water bottles may be refilled at a filling station.

25. BERTHING

25.1. [DP] Boats shall be kept in their assigned places while in the harbor.

26. HAUL-OUT RESTRICTIONS

26.1. [DP] Boats are required to remain in the water for the duration of the event and shall not be hauled out during the event except with and according to the terms of prior written permission of the protest committee.

27. PRIZES

27.1. Prizes will be given in accordance with NOR 22.

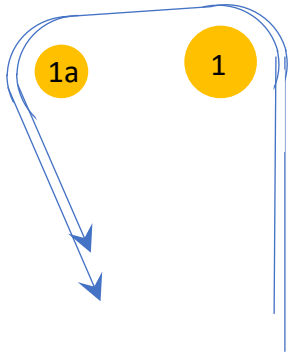
28. RISK STATEMENT

RRS 3 states "The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone." By participating in this event each competitor agrees and acknowledges that sailing is a potentially dangerous activity with inherent risks. These risks include strong winds and rough seas, sudden changes in weather, failure of equipment, boat handling errors, poor seamanship by other boats, loss of balance on an unstable platform, and fatigue resulting in increased risk of injury. Inherent in the sport of sailing is the risk of permanent, catastrophic injury or death by drowning, trauma, hypothermia or other causes.

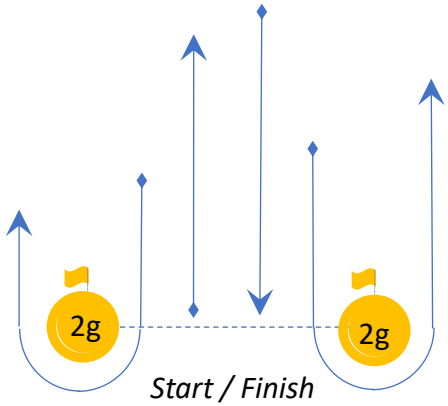
FURTHER INFORMATION

Event Co-Chairs	Jim DaSilva, jim_dasilva@yahoo.com, 781-330-4642 Daan Goedkoop, dgoedkoop93@gmail.com, 617-304-9284
Principal Race Officer	Franny Charles, fran.charles@easternyc.org, 857-221-0828
Chief Judge	Nancy Glover, nancyjglover@hotmail.com, 781-469-6515
Technical Chair	John Koopman, ragbagger@propulsiondata.com, 617-834-9182

SI ATTACHMENT A – COURSE DESCRIPTION

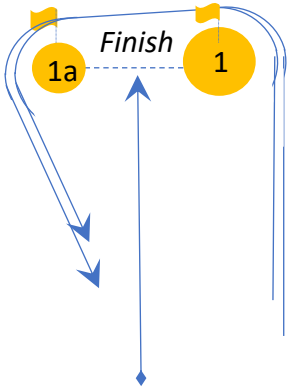


W4

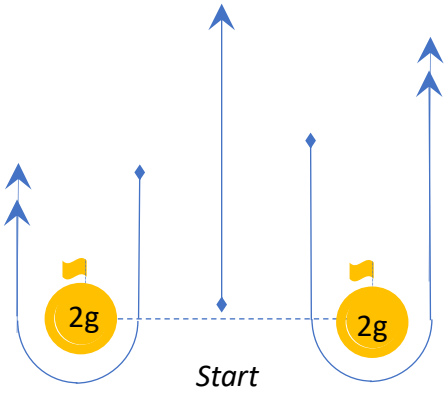


Course:

Signal	Mark Rounding Order
W4	Start - 1 - 1a - 2g - 1 - 1a - Downwind Finish



W5



Course:

Signal	Mark Rounding Order
W5	Start - 1 - 1a - 2g - 1 - 1a - 2g - Upwind Finish

SI ATTACHMENT B – SUPPORT PERSONS AND SUPPORT VESSELS

C.1 Team leaders, coaches, other support personnel and their coach and support boats shall remain detached from competitors and stay outside areas where boats are racing, from thirty minutes before the first scheduled or amended Warning Signal of the day until racing has been concluded for the day. Between races, coach and support boats shall not approach, communicate with or transfer provisions or equipment to or from their supported boats unless there is a medical or emergency requirement threatening the health of the crew or the flotation of the boat and only with the express permission of the Jury or RC.

C.2 Support person vessels shall be marked with a flag provided by the OA at Registration and comply with NOR 5.2.

C.3 Unless instructed by the RC, coach and support vessels are not allowed:

- within 150 meters of the starting line after the warning signal for a start sequence,
- on or above the extensions of the starting line between the warning signal and the starting signal,
- inside the course area after the warning signal and until all boats have finished,
- within 150 meters of laylines, any mark rounding, or any competing boats on either side of the course during the race.

C.4 Coach and support vessels shall carry a VHF radio and monitor RC communications, and, if called upon, be available for safety assistance.