

## Committee to Review Shields Class Rules Section VI 2.4 - 2.5

There are two basic questions that are the part of the review of Shields Class Rules Section VI - Rules Governing the National Championship Regatta subsections *2.4 Courses* and *2.5 Number of Races* (See **Appendix A** of this memo).

1. Should the course Rules be changed?
2. Should there be better guidance to the Race Officers?

For the last 55 years a Shields National Champion has been defined as the winner of a regatta of 6 to 8 planned races, minimum of 3 or 4 races completed, windward-leeward or triangle six-mile courses with a three-hour time limit over three days. In 2006 the Rule was revised to allow for the Race Committee, at its discretion, to shorten the race, provided that the course sailed is judged a "fair" test and will be at least 4 nautical miles in length. Historically looking at available data in terms of number of races the following has occurred. There is no data as to actual length of the sailed races.

Races for Regatta	Years	Percent of Known
8	2	7%
7	7	24%
6	15	52%
5	3	10%
4	1	3%
0	1	3%
Unknown	26	

Appendices B (J70), C (Tartan Ten) and D (J24) are examples of what other class have done in terms of defining racing for a championship.

### Questions:

1. Should the length of the course be defined in terms of time rather than length better accounting for low wind velocity?
2. Is six miles too long in general?
3. Should the three hour time limit be revised and include a time to first windward mark and an overall time?
4. Should there be guidance as to the wind upper and lower velocity limits as to when racing should be abandoned?
5. Should more than three races per day be allowed?
6. Should three races completed constitute a Regatta?
7. Should windward-leeward-triangles be included with windward-leeward allowed courses?

## **APPENDIX A: Shields Class Sailing Association – Class Rules**

<https://shieldsclass.com/bluebook/section6.php#s6-2.4>

### **Section VI - Rules Governing the National Championship Regatta**

#### *2.4 Courses*

- a. The courses shall be Windward-Leeward or Windward-Leeward Triangle courses of the type shown in the United States Sailing Association's Appendix L, Addendum A, or courses substantially similar thereto, and shall be published and illustrated in the Sailing Instructions.
- b. The minimum length of the course sailed shall be six nautical miles. However, in the event that the completion of a race is threatened by the approach of the time limit, the Race Committee may, at its discretion, shorten the race, provided that the course sailed is judged a "fair" test and will be at least 4 nautical miles in length.
- c. The time limit for each race shall be three hours, subject to such further limitation as may be established by the Committee.

#### *2.5 Number of Races*

There shall be not more than eight nor fewer than three races. Three races completed will constitute a Regatta. No more than three races per day can be scheduled.

## **APPENDIX B: International J70 Class Association – Regatta Regulations**

<http://j70ica.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Race-Management-Policies-for-Major-Championships.pdf>

### **2.2. Decision to Race**

- 2.2.1. Races should not be started when there is less than an average of 5 knots of wind over the entire course area. This lower limit may be higher if there is a strong current in the racing area.
- 2.2.2. Races should not be started when the winds exceed an average of 25 knots or gusting to 28 knots or above. The RC should factor sea conditions, current and rapid changes in velocity in final decision to race.
- 2.2.3. Races shall not be started if reduced visibility prevents the race management team from sighting the starting line and identifying premature starters. The fact that the first mark cannot be seen from the starting area is not, in and of itself, a reason to postpone racing.

### **2.3. Courses**

- 2.3.1. Target time for races should be 55-65 minutes. See Attachment A for predicted course lengths for different wind speeds.
- 2.3.2. The course length should be set to give the first boat of each fleet the best chance of achieving the target time. The race management team should rely primarily on 4-leg windward/leeward courses. The 5-leg windward/leeward course should only be used to enable the fleet to finish closer to the harbor at the end of a day.
- 2.3.3. The weather mark should have an offset mark set approximately 10-12 boat-lengths on a course approximately 90 degrees from the direction to the weather mark. (see Attachment A)
- 2.3.4. The leeward mark should be a gate of two marks approximately 10 hull lengths apart, set square to the sailing wind. Variations in width and angle of the offset or gate may be necessary in order to adjust for size of the fleet, current, or other prevailing conditions.

### **2.5. Schedule**

- 2.5.1. The overall schedule shall be based on 3 races per day. A maximum of 4 races may be sailed in one day.
- 2.5.2. The schedule shall be based on 4 days of racing. If the organizer anticipates a split fleet, 5 days of racing should be planned.

**ATTACHMENT A - J70 Predicted Course Lengths (assuming slack current)**

**4 LEG COURSE - Distance from LM to WM**

Wind (kts)	Small	Medium	Small	Medium	Large	Small	Medium	Large	Medium	Large	Start Fleet Offset Target Time
	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.4	
	<b>1:00:00</b>	<b>1:00:00</b>	<b>1:10:00</b>	<b>1:10:00</b>	<b>1:10:00</b>	<b>1:20:00</b>	<b>1:20:00</b>	<b>1:20:00</b>	<b>1:30:00</b>	<b>1:30:00</b>	
6	0.70	0.65	0.83	0.78	0.73	0.96	0.91	0.86	1.05	1.00	nm
8	0.87	0.82	1.03	0.98	0.93	1.19	1.14	1.09	1.30	1.25	
10	1.04	0.99	1.23	1.18	1.13	1.42	1.37	1.32	1.56	1.51	
12	1.15	1.10	1.36	1.31	1.26	1.56	1.51	1.46	1.72	1.67	
14	1.20	1.15	1.42	1.37	1.32	1.64	1.59	1.54	1.81	1.76	
16	1.28	1.23	1.51	1.46	1.41	1.74	1.69	1.64	1.92	1.87	
20	1.43	1.38	1.69	1.64	1.59	1.95	1.90	1.85	2.15	2.10	

**4 LEG COURSE - Est. time of first beat**

6	17:56	18:56	20:36	21:36	22:36	23:15	24:15	25:15	26:54	27:54	mm:ss
8	17:49	18:39	20:31	21:21	22:11	23:12	24:02	24:52	26:44	27:34	
10	17:44	18:27	20:27	21:10	21:53	23:10	23:53	24:36	26:36	27:19	
12	17:58	18:38	20:44	21:24	22:04	23:31	24:11	24:51	26:57	27:37	
14	18:43	19:23	21:37	22:17	22:57	24:31	25:11	25:51	28:04	28:44	
16	18:54	19:33	21:51	22:29	23:07	24:47	25:25	26:04	28:22	29:00	
20	20:25	21:03	23:37	24:15	24:52	26:49	27:26	28:04	30:38	31:16	

## APPENDIX C: T-Ten (Tartan Ten) Class Association

[https://www.tten.com/s/t-10\\_nac\\_regs\\_2011c-w7bc.pdf](https://www.tten.com/s/t-10_nac_regs_2011c-w7bc.pdf)

### 11. ARTICLE 11: COURSES

11.1 Courses shall consist of Windward-Leeward courses, unless alternative courses proposed by the Championship Committee are approved by the Board of Governors and are included in the Sailing Instructions.

11.2 Races shall not be started at less than four nor more than ten nautical miles in length. The minimum length of a leg on the course shall be 1.0 nautical mile. In the case of a shortened course, the Race Committee shall have the competitors complete at least three legs of the course. In the event the course is reduced to less than four nautical miles, shortening the course shall not be subject to redress by Contestants.

11.3 As an exception to Article 11.2, The Championship Committee may allow one "distance" race during the series which shall count the same as any other race. The "distance" race shall be started at more than ten nautical miles in length, but may be shortened in a manner determined by the Race Committee.

11.4 A 30 degree or greater wind shift for more than five minutes prior to the leading yacht completing the first leg of the course as solely determined by the Race Committee shall result in an abandoned race.

### 12. ARTICLE 12: TIME LIMITS

12.1 A race in which the leading yacht has not completed the first leg of the course within sixty (60) minutes of the starting signal shall be abandoned. Races in which no yachts have finished within three (3) hours of the starting signal shall be abandoned.

12.2 open

12.3 After the starting signal, the race committee may shorten the course (display flag S with two sounds) or *abandon* the race (display flag N, N over H, or N over A, with three sounds), as appropriate,

- (a) because of an error in the starting procedure,
- (b) because of foul weather,
- (c) because of insufficient wind making it unlikely that any boat will *finish* within the time limit,
- (d) because a *mark* is missing or out of position, or
- (e) for any other reason directly affecting the safety or fairness of the competition,

or may shorten the course so that other scheduled races can be sailed. However, after one boat has sailed the course and *finished* within the time limit (ref. 12.1), the race committee shall not *abandon* the race without considering the consequences for all boats in the race or series.

## **Appendix D: International J24 Class Regatta Regulations**

<http://www.j24class.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/J24-Regatta-Regulations-2019-EC-Approved.pdf>

### **49. Schedule of Races**

49.1. A minimum of six (6) races shall be scheduled, with a minimum of four (4) races to be completed to constitute a Continental Championship series.

49.2. There shall be no lay days.

### **50. Courses**

50.1. Continental Championship courses shall be Windward/Leeward per RRS Appendix S – WA3 or LA2

50.2. Individual races should be targeted for 60 to 80 minutes.

50.3. Course WA3 may be shortened to LA2 at the discretion of the RC and in accordance with the RRS.