

Southern Yacht Club Handicap Open Fleet

By-Laws

Article I — Purpose

With the intent of promoting and nurturing competition in racing keel-ballasted monohull yachts under a suitable handicapping system, the Open Fleet of the Southern Yacht Club is herein formed.

The rules particular to the applied handicapping system shall be put forth in Appendix A—Policies and Procedures, which shall be considered part of these By-Laws.

Article II — Officers

The officers of the Fleet shall be Fleet Captain and Secretary/Treasurer. The officers shall be members of the Fleet, and are elected to one (1) year terms by a simple majority at the annual meeting of the membership.

The Fleet Captain shall preside at all meetings of the Fleet and shall have the general powers and duties of supervision and management usually vested in the Chief Executive Officer of an organization.

The Secretary/Treasurer shall have charge of all funds of the Fleet and shall maintain records of receipts and disbursements, making a report of same to the Fleet at the annual meeting. He shall attend all Fleet meetings and record all votes and the minutes of all proceedings attributable thereto. He shall give notice of all meetings of the Fleet and shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Fleet Captain.

Article III — Members

Any yacht owner who is a member of a recognized yachting club or sailing association is eligible for membership in the Fleet.

The criteria for enrollment of a yacht shall be that it is a fully sound racing vessel with standard rigging, accommodations for normal crew, and all required safety equipment, and which conforms to all other applicable requirements herein. The Fleet Officers shall decide the admissibility of any yacht presented for enrollment.

When an enrolled yacht is sold or disposed of, membership with respect to that yacht ceases.

Article IV — Dues

The annual dues shall be set by the Fleet Officers and shall be incurred by each yacht enrolled in the fleet. A member with multiple enrolled yachts must pay dues for each yacht. A member shall not be eligible to vote, nor will the enrolled yacht be scored by the Fleet until the dues are paid.

Article V — Meetings

Meetings shall be called on ten (10) days written notice by the Fleet Officers or any eight (8) members of the Fleet.

The Fleet Captain shall call an annual meeting of the Fleet each year prior to the start of the SYC Racing Season. At this annual meeting, the Secretary/Treasurer shall submit a financial report to the membership.

At any duly called meeting of the Fleet, members may be represented via written proxy by another member of the Fleet, but no member may represent more than two (2) proxies.

Votes shall be cast on the basis of one vote per enrolled yacht represented. Yachts that sailed in fewer than two (2) Fleet races in their prior season of enrollment shall have their voting privileges suspended until they have sailed in two (2) Fleet races in the current season.

Article VI — Handicapping System

The Fleet shall use the ORR-Ez handicapping system as administered by the Offshore Racing Association. All member yachts shall obtain and properly maintain a valid ORR-Ez certificate.

These By-Laws and its appendices may alter the rules of ORR-Ez.

Article VII — Classes

In order to improve competition, the Fleet will be sub-divided into Class divisions (A, B, etc.) based on the overall number of entries and the performance characteristics and/or handicap ratings of each boat. These Classes shall be used for the entire racing season in order to score consistent Fleet series. The method of sub-division shall be as put forth in Appendix A—Policies and Procedures.

Article VIII — Schedule and Scoring

The racing season shall include such races as the Fleet Officers determine. On or before April 1st of each year, the Secretary/Treasurer shall forward to the membership a listing of not more than sixteen (16) races which shall constitute the official racing schedule for determination of Champions for the Spring, Fall and Overall Fleet Series.

The Spring, Fall and Overall Fleet Series schedule of races shall be as determined by the Fleet Officers. A minimum of one completed race shall constitute each series. Each series shall allow the equivalent of not less than any one full day's racing to be excluded from a yacht's score. If fewer than the full number of scheduled races are completed, the number of excluded races shall be correspondingly reduced.

If a Class averages less than three (3) boats per completed race in either the Spring or Fall Series, the yachts in that Class shall be ineligible for the Overall Fleet Series Championship.

The points scoring for all Fleet series shall be the Low-Point System for a series longer than a regatta, in accordance with the SYC General Sailing Instructions, using the places determined by the component races and regattas, except that the first tie-breaker shall be to re-score the tied boats with any excluded scores and, if a tie remains, no scores will be excluded for further tie-breaking methods.

Trophies will be awarded to the Spring and Fall Series Class Champions and to the Overall Fleet Series Champion.

Article IX — Changes to the By-Laws

These By-Laws can be amended by a majority vote of the members present at any duly called meeting of the Fleet, provided the general subject matter of such amendment is included in the call.

The Fleet Officers are given the broadest authority in the interpretation of these By-Laws and their interpretation shall be final and not subject to protest or redress. Any interpretation by the Fleet Officers may be overruled by majority vote of the membership present at a duly called meeting of the Fleet.

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