

SKATE SAILING ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

SPECIAL RULES

Revised October 2024

In the interpretation of these rules, it shall be understood that the word "SHALL" is mandatory, the words "CAN" and "MAY" are permissive, and the word "SHOULD" shall be taken as a strong recommendation but not mandatory.

PART 1 - GOVERNING RULE OF NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

- 1.1 If any member of the Association finds any section and/or subsection of these Special Rules contained in Parts 2, 3 and 4 inclusive is not complied with, they may report this to a General Meeting of the Association, and it shall be the decision of the members present as to whether to cancel the series or not. This is irrespective of whether the series has started or finished.
- 1.2 If a series is cancelled under 1.1, the previous Australian Champion before the series shall remain the Champion until the next series is held.

PART 2 - ASSOCIATION RESPONSIBILITY RE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

- 2.1 The Association shall, at every Annual General Meeting, make a decision as to which State/Territory Association shall be the host Association responsible for organising the following National Championship series. This meeting shall not decide the actual venue.
- 2.2 The Annual General Meeting shall be held on the day of the fifth (5) heat

PART 3 - STATE/TERRITORY ASSOCIATION RESPONSIBILITY RE: NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

- 3.1 The host Association shall hold a meeting as soon as practicable after the Annual General Meeting of the Australian Association and make a decision as to the venue for the following National Championship series. Before making this decision, the Association shall canvas all clubs they are considering and ensure these clubs are familiar with these rules.
- 3.2 It shall be the responsibility of the host Association to ensure that all other State/Territory Associations are informed of the venue and dates on which the series shall be conducted, which shall be done before July 1st prior to the series and to arrange publishing of the Notice of Race to the Skate Sailing Association website by November 1st prior to commencement of the Series.
- 3.3 The Secretary of the host Association shall verify the claimed financial status and Australian Sailing membership status of Skipper and Crew entrants with their home sailing club.

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- 3.4 The Secretary of the host Association shall verify that Skipper and Crew entrants are fully financial with their home State/Territory Association and have been selected to represent their State/Territory in the series.
- 3.5 The host Association shall decide the entry fee after consultation with the host club.
- 3.6 The closing date for entries should be no earlier than December 1st, prior to the series. The host Association shall decide the closing date for entries after consultation with the host club.
- 3.7 The host Association shall organise the provision of all equipment that is required for the measurement and weighing of boats and sails.

PART 4 – HOST CLUB RESPONSIBILITY RE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

- 4.1 The host club shall be responsible for the overall conduct of the series.
- 4.2 It shall be the responsibility of the host club to ensure that the Notice Of Race and Entry Form are made available to the host Association for publishing on the Skate Sailing Association website before November 1st prior to the series.
- 4.3 The Notice Of Race shall comply with RRS Rule 89.2 – Notice of Race, Appointment of Race Officials, and RRS Appendix J – Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions, and shall be accompanied by the Championship Entry Form which shall capture the following minimum information:
 - a) Boat name and registered number
 - b) Club at which the boat is registered to sail
 - c) Boat insurance – issuer and policy number
 - d) Skipper: Name, Address, Email, Phone, Date of Birth, Australian Sailing Member Number, Home Sailing Club Membership
 - e) Crew: Name, Address, Email, Phone, Date of Birth, Australian Sailing Member Number
 - f) Skipper’s signed and dated declaration of willingness to comply with the Championship Rules and acknowledgement of Rule 4 – Decision to Race.
- 4.4 The host club shall organise the following personnel for the conduct of the series:
 - a. Officer of the Day:
 - i. They should be the Chairman of the Race Committee
 - ii. They shall be responsible for the overall running of the series
 - iii. They shall be a non–competitor
 - b. Race Secretary:
 - i. They should be the Chairman of the Protest Committee
 - ii. They shall be responsible for the allocation of positions and points in each race, as well as to ensure that the Results Notice Board is accurate and kept up to date
 - iii. It shall be their responsibility to ensure that all rules under which the series is conducted are complied with

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- iv. They should have a thorough knowledge of the rules under which the series is being conducted
- v. They should be a non-competitor
- c. Starter:
 - i. It shall be their responsibility to ensure that the start of every race is conducted fairly
 - ii. They may also be the Finisher
 - iii. They should be familiar with the rules under which the series is being conducted, particularly with regard to the rules relating to starts
 - iv. They shall be a non – competitor
- d. Finisher:
 - i. They shall be responsible for the finish of every race and also that the correct times are recorded
 - ii. It shall be their responsibility to position the finish line
 - iii. They should be familiar with the rules under which the series is conducted, particularly with regard to the rules relating to finishes
 - iv. They shall be a non-competitor
- e. Measurement Committee:
 - i. This shall consist of the Registrar of the Skate Sailing Association of Australia and two other persons who may be other officials for the series
 - ii. They shall have the power to co-opt other persons into the committee
 - iii. They shall be responsible for ensuring all boats entered in the series comply with the measuring and registration regulations of the Skate Sailing Association of Australia
 - iv. The Registrar of this Association may nominate a representative to take their place on the committee.

PART 5 - GENERAL RULES RE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

- 5.1 The Championship Series shall be conducted under rules as defined in:
 - a. the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS);
 - b. the Special Regulations of Australian Sailing;
 - c. the Special Rules of the Skate Sailing Association of Australia; and
 - d. the rules of the Host Club.
- 5.2 The Series shall be scheduled to comprise seven heats with five required to be completed to constitute a Championship Series.
- 5.3 The Series shall be scored using the Low Points scoring system as defined in RRS Rule A4 – Scoring System, and Rule A5.3 will apply.
- 5.4 The first race of the Series shall start after December 25th, but before January 7th, of the following year.
- 5.5 There shall be at least two lay - days preferably three, during the Series. There should be no race on January 1st, unless it is absolutely necessary.

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- 5.6 There shall be no more than one race per day unless a previous race has been postponed or cancelled. When there is a requirement to schedule two races on a given day it is preferable that they be scheduled as morning and afternoon races as opposed to back-to-back races.
- 5.7 All communication to the Race Committee of the Series shall be in writing and shall be addressed to the Officer of the Day.
- 5.8 The sails of each competitor shall have been measured by an approved Skate class Measurer or the Measurement Committee prior to being used in a heat of the Series. These sails, once measured and approved, shall be signed and shall include the current sailing season date, using a waterproof ink. The Measurement Committee's decision shall be final.
- 5.9 No person shall measure the sails from the boat on which they sail.
- 5.10 No boat shall race with sails on board that have not been signed by an approved Skate class Measurer or the Measurement Committee. If it does so it shall be disqualified without protest. It is the responsibility of the skipper of each boat to ensure that they are sailing with approved sails on board.
- 5.11 All hulls of boats competing in the series shall have been weighed and measured by an approved Skate class Measurer or the Measurement Committee prior to the start of their first race. The Measurement Committee may undertake random measurement and compliance checking of boats and equipment as it sees fit to do so.
- 5.12 Any boat under hull weight shall have lead correctors equally distributed on the ends of the hull within 1 metre of the ends and firmly secured. Lead or similar materials shall not be placed anywhere in the boat other than as specified in this rule.
- 5.13 No boat shall race if its hull has not been weighed, measured and approved by an approved Skate class Measurer or the Measurement Committee. If it does it shall be disqualified without protest.
- 5.14 Skippers shall comply with the sign-on approach defined in the Sailing Instructions for the Series. If this is not done, the offending boat shall be classed as a non-starter in that race. If applicable the sign-on sheet shall be made available at least one (1) hour before the start of the race.
- 5.15 Skippers shall comply with the sign-off approach defined in the Sailing Instructions including the instructions for boats that retire. If this is not done, the offending boat shall be disqualified without protest. If applicable, the sign-off sheet shall be made available until at least one (1) hour after the finish of the last boat.
- 5.16 There shall be no change of Skipper or Crew during the Series without the express approval of the Race Committee in writing before the start of that race.
- 5.17 Trophies shall be awarded as follows:

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- a. **The "Swan Brewery" perpetual trophy** - shall be awarded to the Skipper of the overall point score winning boat on scratch (National Champion);
- b. **The "Chris Oliver" perpetual trophy** - shall be awarded to the Skipper of the runner-up in the overall point score on scratch;
- c. **The "E Elliot Memorial Shield" perpetual trophy** - shall be awarded to the Skipper of the first boat on scratch in the Invitation Race, or to the Skipper of the first boat to the top mark on the second lap of the first heat of the Series if there is no Invitation Race scheduled;
- d. **The "Doug Jeffkins" perpetual Trophy** - shall be awarded to the Junior Skipper who gains the best placing in the overall point score on scratch;
- e. **The "Stewart Marine Design (Tricky Dicky)" perpetual trophy** - shall be awarded to the veteran Skipper who gains the best placing in the overall point score on scratch, however the Veterans Trophy shall not be awarded to any boat finishing in the top 5 places on scratch for the Series;
- f. **The "Outstanding Crew" Trophy** – donated by the Shiner family and awarded to the outstanding Forward Hand of the Series.
- g. **The "Lyons, Tate, Olde and Waddell" perpetual trophy** – shall be awarded to the Handicap Champion – the best placed boat on handicap however the Handicap Champion Trophy shall not be awarded to any boat finishing in the top 5 places on scratch;
- h. **The Barry Scott Hard Luck perpetual Trophy** – shall be awarded for most expensive/spectacular breakage or worst luck;

The host club shall pay for any engraving of these or other trophies awarded.

Prizes shall be awarded as follows:

- i. Skipper and Crew of 1st, 2nd 3rd place and the Invitation race on scratch;
- j. Skipper and Crew of 4th place on scratch if 10 or more boats are competing
- k. Skipper and Crew of 5th place on scratch if 15 or more boats are competing
- l. Skipper and Crew of 1st, 2nd, 3rd in the handicap point score
- m. Skipper and Crew of the first placed boat on scratch and handicap for each heat
- n. Encouragement award for Crews under the age of 21 years on January 1st during the Series.

Other prizes may be awarded at the discretion of the host club.

5.18 It shall be the responsibility of the State/Territory Skate Association of the current holders of all perpetual trophies and shields to ensure that these are made available for the presentation to the new holders at the end of the Series. If any of these trophies or shields are lost, stolen or damaged, the responsible State/ Territory Association shall be required to replace or repair them with trophies or shields of a similar type, style, size and quality before they are required for presentation to the new holders.

5.19 A Junior entry in the National Championship Series shall be any boat whose entered Skipper is aged up to 30 years on January 1st during the series. A junior shall still be eligible to win the National Championship. If there are no Junior entries, the Junior National Champion trophy shall not be awarded. If there is at least one but less than three junior entries the next youngest Skipper(s) will be eligible to compete to make up the numbers to three minimum.

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- 5.20 A Veterans entry in the National Championship Series shall be any boat whose combined Skipper and Crew age is 100 or greater on January 1st during the series.
- 5.21 Each State/Territory Association shall be limited to enter twenty Skates in the National Championship Series. This twenty shall include the current National Champion Skipper and also the current runner-up Skipper to the National Champion. The host State/Territory Association may make up any shortfall to a maximum of thirty.
- 5.22 The course for each Championship heat may be either an Olympic Triangle or Windward/Leeward, as defined in the Sailing Instructions, at the discretion of the host club.
- 5.23 Any boat or Skipper that fails to comply with these rules in Part 5 shall be disqualified after protest unless otherwise stated in this Part.

PART 6 - GENERAL RULES GOVERNING ALL SKATE RACES AT ALL TIMES THROUGHOUT AUSTRALIA

- 6.1 All races shall be conducted under rules as defined in:
- the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS);
 - the Prescriptions and Special Regulations of Australian Sailing;
 - the Special Rules of the Skate Sailing Association of Australia;
 - the Special Rules of the local State/Territory Association; and
 - the rules of the host club.
- 6.2 One crewmember on a Skate shall be a financial member of a recognised sailing club unless the express permission of the committee of the host club has been given for a non-member to sail.
- 6.3 At least one crewmember on a Skate shall be a financial member of the Skate Sailing Association of Australia.
- 6.4 No Skate shall be eligible to race unless it is registered with the Skate Sailing Association of Australia.
- 6.5 A Skate shall not carry on board more than one jib, one mainsail and one spinnaker whilst racing. The jib shall be set at all times between the stem and hounds whilst racing.
- 6.6 The number of crew on a Skate shall be not less than two whilst racing.
- 6.7 Effective 03 January 2020 until the conclusion of the 2024-25 season Skates will be allowed to use experimental rigs with modifications to forestay mount, mainsail size and self-tacking jibs as agreed at the Skate Class AGM held at Ceduna on 03 January 2020, and shall be eligible to compete and win prizes in Skate Club, State and National competition. Ongoing status of this special rule will be reviewed at the Skate Class AGM held during the 66th Skate National Championship in January 2025.

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- 6.8 Effective 05 January 2024 until the conclusion of the 2024-25 season Skates will be allowed to use experimental hulls as long as the hull does not exceed maximum length and maximum width overall as defined in the current Skate measurement form (approved for issue SSAA AGM January 2005), noting also that the maximum width at the chine cannot be greater than the maximum width of the deck, and shall be eligible to compete and win prizes in Skate Club, State and National competition. Ongoing status of this special rule will be reviewed at the Skate Class AGM held during the 66th Skate National Championship in January 2025.
- 6.9 Any Skate that fails to comply with these rules in part 6 shall be disqualified after protest.

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REVISION REGISTER

Revision Date	Description
October 2024	Updates to reflect decisions made at the SSAA AGM Friday 05 January 2024: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Revision to rule 5.17 relating to awarding of prizes for 4th and 5th places in the Skate National Championship to the number of competitors in the Cha,pionship;• Extension of Experimental Rule 6.7 to the end of the 2024-25 Season;• Addition of new Special Rule 6.8 allowing experimental hulls for the 2024-25 season;• Previous Special Rule 6.8 renumbered to 6.9.

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