

**Precedent Setting Decisions  
of the  
Off Soundings Club  
Board of Governors**

(03-17-51)

RESOLVED, that all members entering military service have their dues waived for the period of military duty.

(01-16-53)

It was voted that penalties for placing in races be changed from 10 % for first place, 5% for second place and 3% for third place to 15% for first place, 10% for second place and 5% for third place. Penalties will be effective for a total of three consecutive series making an effective top penalty limit of 45% for a boat which wins three race series in a row.

It was voted to drop all penalties which may have been acquired by a boat under any owner at the time of the sale of that boat to a new owner.

(04-02-54)

RESOLVED, to accept the recommendation of the Rear Commodore Roderick Stephens, Jr., for determining what is a Motor Sailer in the following manner:

Take the ratio between the square root of the sail area as it would appear under the Off Soundings rule and the load waterline length. If the ratio is less than .8, the boat would tend to be under rigged, slow under sail and hence should be classed as a Motor Sailer. Between .8 and .9, if the boat has a centerboard or reasonable keel area, she could be considered a sail boat. If the ratio is over .9, it can be presumed the boat sails moderately well and may legitimately be classed as a sail boat even without a centerboard and with somewhat less than normal draft. Other factors which should be considered include lack of adequate lateral plane unless supplemented by a centerboard and perhaps lacking provisions for outside steering. even though the sail area ratio might be satisfactory, these factors might properly classify a vessel as a Motor Sailer.

(09-28-55)

It was voted that the club's mailing list was not to be given out to any commercial outfit unless it was for the definite good of the club. However, it was voted that any member could use the mailing list.

(01-12-56)

RESOLVED, that only new members accepted before the completion of the Fall Series will be billed for the calendar year. Any new members accepted between the Fall series and the following year will not be billed until January of the new year.

(01-12-56)

RESOLVED, that the length over-all for Class A yachts be boosted to 62'.

(01-12-56)

RESOLVED, that perpetual trophies shall be awarded to those with the lowest corrected time for both Spring and Fall races neglecting penalties usually applied for winning trophies.

(03-23-57)

RESOLVED, that the following be adopted to assist the Membership Committee in its consideration of applications for membership because of the anticipated large increase in numbers of applications:

- (a) Applicants must have participated in two or more Off Soundings races
- (b) Quota of new members for the year to be limited to thirty-five (35)

(06-06-58)

Mr. White reported for the Membership Committee and recommended that a limit be set insofar as age for admission to the club. Upon a motion made and seconded, it was VOTED that any applicant for membership must have attained his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday.

(06-06-58)

After full discussion, it was VOTED that properly completed measurement certificates by an authorized measurer are valid for three years from the date of measurement.

(09-17-59)

-----and it was VOTED that where one owner sails a different boat of the same one design class which he sailed in a previous race any penalty earned remains with the owner. It was further VOTED that in all other situations any penalty earned stays with the boat unless that boat changes ownership or is sold. Upon such change of ownership or sale the penalty is dropped. Decision as to what constitutes a bona fide sale or change of ownership rests with the Flag Officers of the club.

(04-20-60)

The matter of eligibility for listing in the Club Yearbook of the owner's yachts was discussed at some length, after which it was moved and VOTED that starting with the 1961 Yearbook, only those yachts eligible to race in our races and not less than 15' in overall length be listed in the club's Yearbooks.

(01-19-61)

-----it was VOTED that to be eligible to receive a perpetual trophy a vessel participating in the race must be owned by or under charter to a member and skippered by a member.

(04-08-61)

It was also VOTED that only officially announce entries may cross the starting line for any race and complete the course with the fleet. Members and others as spectators shall keep well clear of the course.

(03-30-63)

Following the report of the Race Committee Chairman, there was considerable discussion with reference to the matter of issuance of invitations to participants in our racing events to non members of the club. It seemed to be the Governor's feeling that participants in our races should have sufficient interest in and be of appropriate caliber for membership in our club, and upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED that beginning with the year 1963 invitations to any individual to participate in the Club's races will be limited to two series for any one individual.

(04-04-64)

After thorough discussion, the following requirements were adopted unanimously by the Board:

1. The minimum rating for any yacht sailing in the O.S.C. Annual Race Series is established at 17 feet. Yachts whose ratings calculate lower than this 17 foot minimum shall race using this 17 foot minimum.
2. The minimum L.O.A. of vessels which may race on the O.S.C. Annual Race Series is established at 23.75 feet. Vessels smaller than this L.O.A. will not be permitted to race.
3. Excepted from this ruling are vessels which fall below these minimums but have raced in a series prior to this date, owned by members or participating guests. These vessels will be permitted to race using ratings shown on the vessel's valid rating certificate so long as there is no change in the vessel's ownership.

(04-05-69)

An additional problem arose where a son received an invitation to race, his father also for the following 2 series (all in the same vessel), such that in an intra-family violation of our invitation policy might arise. It was ruled that family members be considered as individuals as regards our invitation policy "2 series invitations per person with Board approval". A "series" consists of spring and fall races. It was also agreed the policy "the man in whose name the vessel is entered must be aboard during our races" be written in the Race Notice.

(01-15-71)

After discussion regarding method of removing "winning" penalty, it was voted that in order to work off a penalty, in addition to the other conditions, a vessel must start both races in a series. She must finish both races in a series also or submit a withdrawal notice to the Race Committee.

(01-12-73)

A discussion about flying different colored plastic pennants from the bow of competing boats was held. It was VOTED that all contestants will fly the appropriate code flag designated for that class.

(01-12-73)

It was VOTED that in order for a propeller to be rated, it must drive the boat at a speed in knots equal to the square root of the measured waterline length in feet in smooth water with no wind.

(01-12-73)

Commodore Ames reported on an incident last spring where a member added a false transom to his boat in order to make it long enough to meet the minimum LOA requirements. It was VOTED that if additions are to be made to vessels originally built with a LOA of under 23.75 feet LOA, to qualify for entrance, the addition shall be constructed so as to be a fair extension of the basic hull without visible parting lines, be buoyant and structurally adequate consistent with the basic hull. The Chief Measurer shall determine that the above criteria is met before a valid measurement certificate is granted certifying a 23.75 foot or greater LOA. If in doubt, the Commodore shall make the final decision on eligibility.

(01-11-74)

It was VOTED that pulpit and life lines be required in 1975, All boats must meet NAYRU Class 4 requirements except for boats holding a valid MORC certificate.

(04-06-74)

On a motion, made and seconded, it was VOTED to assess any member who had not paid his dues within four months after the dues bills are mailed, an additional \$5.00.

(04-05-75)

-----, it was VOTED to set a limit of 630 on our membership.

(10-25-75)

On a motion, made and seconded, it was VOTED that any member who has not paid his dues by the time of the closing date of the spring series, shall not receive any mailing from the club until his dues are paid.

(10-25-75)

It was moved and VOTED that in the future, no officer, Governor or Committee Chairman shall propose or second anyone for membership but shall be able to write letters of support.

(10-25-75)

-----, it was VOTED that a skipper, with a penalty, can sail that penalty off in three series, but if he does not sail, the penalty will be removed automatically after five series.

(01-09-76)

It was moved and VOTED that membership applications and supporting letters be destroyed three years after a person have been elected to membership.

(01-09-76)

It was VOTED that the measurement certificate must be valid on the days when racing, this supersedes a motion on June 6, 1958.

(01-09-76)

It was VOTED that when a boat changes ownership, the measurement certificate will remain valid until its normal expiration unless changes are made to the boat. This supersedes a motion made 9-11-59.

(04-03-76)

----- clarification of the rule that a guest must be a member of a yacht club. It was moved and VOTED that any person wishing to receive a guest invitation to our Off Soundings races, must be an elected member of a yacht club recognized by the Off Soundings Club Board of Governors

(10-15-77)

The following statement on penalty policy was VOTED adopted:

If a yacht is acquired by a person not associated with the acquisition of the penalty, the penalty will be dropped from the yacht. If the owner then purchases or charters a non-similar yacht he will also not continue to carry the penalty. It is the responsibility of the entrant to contact the Race Secretary prior to the closing date if there is any question regarding the dropping of the penalty.

(01-13-78)

It was moved and VOTED that a guest may be invited to go sailing (as per guest invitation system adopted at the October 15, 1977 meeting), twice, each for one season. If the individual does not become a published candidate for membership thereafter, the person may not be invited again for three seasons.

(01-12-79)

It was moved and VOTED that invitations to ladies to enter our races be considered, as all invitations are considered.

(10-18-80)

The Committee for the use of the mailing list presented the following guidelines for the use of our addressograph plates by others:

1. The purpose of the mailing shall relate to the sport of sailing.
2. The mailing shall not be for commercial or profit making purposes except that this restriction may be waived by a majority vote of the Flag Officers and the Secretary if, in their judgment, there is a benefit to the members which warrants it.
3. The mailing shall not be for fund raising purposes unless approved by the Board of Governors.

(01-09-81)

Mr. Ames, reporting for the "Committee on Category #4", presented a new "ORC Minimum Equipment & Accommodation Standards – Category 4 (as adopted by the Off Soundings Club for its use)", a copy of which is attached to these minutes. It was moved, and VOTED, to adopt these standards.

(01-08-82)

Mr. Robinson read the report of the "Powerboat Skipper Recognition Committee", a copy of which is attached to these minutes. He moved, at it was VOTED to adopt the following resolution and make it retroactive to the start of the 1981 season:

“Be it resolved that: Skipper/Owners of powered vessels, who volunteered their services and vessels towards the furtherance of the purpose of the club and have been appointed to do so by the Race Committee Chairman shall be honored by:

1. The privilege of flying the club burgee when in its appointed service.
2. The privilege of wearing a Club Blazer Insignia, incorporating the words “Race Committee” when in its appointed service.
3. The privilege of affixing to their vessel a bronze plaque indicating as a minimum, the name of said vessel and the date when said service to the Club was performed. Precise wording to be developed by the Chairman of the Race Committee and the Chairman of the Prize and Awards Committee.
4. Finally, formal recognition as a vital member of the “Off Soundings Race Committee”.”

(01-13-84)

-----, it was moved, and VOTED, to donate our archives to the Mystic Seaport Museum for their safe keeping.

(01-13-84)

It was moved, and VOTED, that the Measurement Rule Committee be charged with the continuing responsibility of examining all existing and new rules for the possibility of handicapping the Off Soundings Fleet.

(11-03-84)

It was moved and Voted to use PHRF in 1985.

(04-09-88)

It was moved and VOTED that the following criteria be used for determining Honorary Membership:

1. Candidates shall be living former members. Candidates shall be proposed by the Flag Officers to the Board of Governors for recommendation for election. They need not be a member at the time of selection.
2. Candidates shall, in the opinion of the Board of Governors, have performed outstanding services and in general, made a significant contribution to the operations, image and stature of the Club.
3. Recommendations for Honorary Membership shall reflect the Board’s intention to recognize outstanding service, retain the interest of, and honor such former members who have made extraordinary contributions to the Club and to this extent attention should be given to those who have resigned under the Motorboat Rule.
4. In general, recommendations for Honorary Membership shall be limited to one(1) per year.

(10-24-92)

It was moved and VOTED that the 04-09-88 criteria used for determining Honorary Membership be modified to the following:

1. Candidates shall be proposed by the Flag Officers to the Board of Governors for recommendation for election.
2. Candidates shall, in the opinion of the Board of Governors, have performed outstanding service and in general, made a significant contribution to the operation, image and stature of the Club.
3. Recommendations for Honorary Membership shall reflect the Board's intention to recognize outstanding service, retain the interest of, and honor individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to the Club.
4. In general, recommendations for Honorary Membership shall be limited to one (1) per year.

(10-29-94)

It was moved and VOTED that Off Soundings adopt the Time on Time handicapping system for all future race series.

(01-16-98)

It was moved and VOTED that Off Soundings limit their donations to those that contribute specifically to our mission and not be available for other requests.

(01-21-00)

Race Secretary Roberts stated that the new minimum equipment and accommodation standards had been sent to everyone and turned the discussion over to Mr. Geary. Mr. Geary outlined the history of how we got to where we are on the Equipment and Accommodation Standards. He pointed out that there are some new sections but in large part most of these standards are similar to the 1994 standards.

A discussion ensued. Thereafter, upon motion duly made, seconded and carried the standards were approved as presented except:

1. If a yacht (like a Neith) is not in compliance with the lifeline standards, then at the Race Secretary's discretion the yacht may participate but everyone aboard must wear a PFD during the course of the Race (not necessarily Coast Guard approved).
2. Boats 28' to 35' (LOA) which conformed to the standard before 1994 (at least 18 inch lifelines and pulpits) are "Grandfathered".

(01-26-01)

A further discussion ensued concerning the number of seconders needed for a guest invitation. It was decided upon motion duly made, seconded and carried to require only one seconder.

(01-18-02)

Discussion regarding guest application continued on how much control members needed to have on a guest. It was finally agreed that a guest application be used for two years. It was duly moved and approved that a guest member application will enable a guest to race under application for two years.

(01-06-04)

It was duly moved and approved that a suitable award be presented to members reaching their 30 and 50 years as members.

(04-03-04)

A request by the Race Secretary was made to pass a resolution that multi-hulls be equipped to the NEMA safety standards and that NEMA handicaps be used without PE. Motion duly made and approved to accept the above recommendation of the Race Secretary.

(04-02-05)

It was VOTED to accept either an Off Soundings Data certificate or a current ECSA PHRF certificate as a requirement for entry, rather than requiring the OSC certificate solely.

(10-29-05)

The report of an Ad Hoc Committee on the subject of: "Minimum Equipment and Accommodation Standards 2005-2008" was discussed. It was VOTED to remove the subject standards and to include recommendations regarding safety equipment in the Notice of Race and the Sailing Instructions for each race series.

(03-31-07)

The Board discussed using the low point scoring system for Spring and Fall Series race results. Race Committee Chairman Chorlton emphasized that low point scoring would be more equitable for the competitors and would simplify the scoring process and the Sailing Instructions. It was moved and VOTED to use low point scoring for the Spring and Fall Series.