



# OFF SOUNDINGS CLUB

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## MINIMUM EQUIPMENT AND ACCOMMODATIONS STANDARDS

Report of Ad Hoc Committee Meeting  
September 26, 2005

The following Off Soundings Club officers and members met at Thames Yacht Club on the above date as an ad hoc committee to consider the issue of Equipment Standards for Off Soundings Series:

Steve O'Connell, Commodore  
Bob Geary, Vice Commodore  
Bill Loweth, Rear Commodore  
Frank Bohlen, Past Commodore  
Steven Purdy, Race Secretary  
Paul Jennings, Measurer  
Walter Pratt, Protest Chairman  
Geordie Loveday, Governor  
Norman Rabe  
David Dickerson

Following lengthy discussions regarding equipment standards and their history in the club, safety, liability to the organization, participation, venues, weather conditions and other relevant topics this group recommends that the Off Soundings Club have no formal required Equipment and Accommodations Standards, but that it include recommendations in the Notice of Race and Sailing Instruction for each Race Series, the sense of which follows:

### **Eligibility:**

This race series is open to Masters who are Off Soundings Club members in good standing and invited guests whose boats meet the following requirements:

Accommodations—Boats must contain as a minimum a self-bailing cockpit, fixed berths, galley facilities, and the ability to be self supporting for a weekend cruise.

Min/Max LOA.—The minimum LOA of boats which may race in the OSC Race Series is 23.75 feet and the maximum is 62 feet.

Maximum PHRF or NEMA base boat handicap—300.

Ownership—To determine perpetual trophy winners accurately and assign handicap penalties equitably the ownership or charter arrangement of all entered boats must be confirmed. Please list the names of all owners or charterers, whether or not also listed as Master(s), in the space provided on the Entry Form. For reasons of space please do not list more than two names as Master. If yours is a syndicate boat and you wish to list the syndicate name indicate the skipper's name only.

### Responsibility and Equipment:

The Off Soundings Series are often sailed in exposed waters and difficult weather conditions. The safety of a yacht and her crew is the sole and inescapable responsibility of the Master who has entered her in a Race Series and the responsibility for a yacht's decision to start in a race or to continue racing is the Master's alone. It is expected that each Master will recognize the importance of ensuring the safety of his crew and vessel and the safety of others, and will do his/her best to ensure that the yacht is fully found, thoroughly seaworthy, and manned by an experienced crew who have undergone appropriate familiarization with the capabilities, workings, and peculiarities of the vessel and its equipment, and are physically fit to face bad weather. The Master must be satisfied as to the soundness of the hull, spars, rigging and all gear, and must ensure that safety equipment is properly maintained and stowed and that the crew know where it is kept and how it is used.

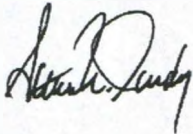
The Off Soundings Club believes that the equipment and other standards recommended for Monohulls and Multihulls in the International Sailing Foundation Offshore Racing Council Special Regulations for Race Category 4 are appropriate for use in the conditions likely to be encountered in its Race Series and recommends that entrants consider them minimum guidelines for outfitting their vessels for participation in Off Soundings events. The Category 4 standards are available for download from the ISAF and U.S. Sailing websites and in hard copy.

In accordance with Rule 1.2 competitors are individually responsible for wearing personal buoyancy adequate for the conditions. In addition all persons aboard vessels not equipped with permanent lifelines must wear USCG certified PFDs from the time of the First Warning signal of a race until the yacht finishes or retires or the race is abandoned.

The following Board action is required to implement this recommendation:

- Review the above, modify as appropriate and approve it as the official Off Soundings Club position on Equipment Standards.
- Rescind the Off Soundings Club Minimum Equipment Standards 2005-2008 approved earlier in 2005.
- Direct the Race Secretary to include the above as approved where appropriate in the race documents removing all other references to equipment standards and requirements.
- Announce these changes in the next membership mailing.

Respectfully submitted,



Steven M. Purdy  
Race Secretary