

Off Soundings Club Minimum Equipment and Accommodation Standard
(Based on Offshore Racing Council Special Regulations, Category 4)

STUCTURAL FEATURES:

1. (6.1)* The hull, including deck, coach roof, windows, hatches and all other parts, shall form an integral, essentially watertight unit. Openings in it shall be capable of being immediately secured to maintain this integrity. Centerboard and daggerboard trunks shall not open into the interior of the hull.
2. (6.12) No hatch forward of the maximum beam shall open inwards, excepting those having an area less than 110 sq in. Hatches shall be arranged so as to be above the water when the hull is heeled 90° and shall be permanently fitted so that they can be shut immediately and will remain shut in a 180° capsized.
3. (6.13) Companionways extending below the sheerline shall be capable of being blocked off up to the level of the local sheerline, with the companionway continuing to give access to the interior. The main companionway hatch shall be fitted with a strong securing arrangement operable from above and below. Blocking arrangements (washboards) shall be capable of being secured in position with the hatch open or shut and shall be tethered to the yacht.
4. (6.21) The cockpit shall be structurally strong, self-draining quickly at all angles of heel and permanently incorporated as an integral part of the hull. It shall be essentially watertight, that is, all openings to the hull must be capable of being strongly and rigidly secured. A bow, lateral or stern well is considered to be a cockpit.
5. (6.23) The maximum cockpit volume shall not exceed 9% LOA times Beam times Freeboard abreast of the cockpit. The cockpit sole must be at least 2% LOA above the waterline. If you are unsure of meeting this requirement, ask your measurer to verify it.
6. (6.25) Cockpit drains shall be readily accessible for cleaning and shall be not less in combined area (after allowance for screens) than the equivalent of four 0.75-inch diameter drains.
7. (6.51) Sea cocks or valves shall be fitted on through-hull openings below the waterline, except for integral deck scuppers, shaft log, speed indicators, depth finders and the like. However, a means of closing such openings shall be provided.
8. (6.52) Soft wood plugs, tapered and of various sizes, shall be attached or adjacent to the appropriate fittings.
9. (6.53) Sheet winches shall be mounted in such a way that an operator is not required to be substantially below deck.
- 9a. (6.54) The heel of a keel-stepped mast shall be securely fastened to the mast step or adjoining structure.
10. Lifelines and pulpits: Lifelines shall be stranded stainless steel wire, minimum diameter of 1/8" for yachts under 28.0 ft LOA, 5/32" for yachts 28.0 to 43.0 ft LOA, or 3/16" for yachts over 43.0 ft LOA. A taut lanyard of synthetic rope configured to have at least the same breaking strength as the required wire may be used to secure a lifeline gap of not over 4 inches.

In accordance with Paragraphs (6.61 and 6.62), a yacht of 28 ft LOA and above shall have a bow pulpit and taut 24-inch double lifelines and a yacht less than 28 ft LOA shall have a bow pulpit and at least taut 18-inch single lifelines. Yachts shall also have a stern pulpit unless lifelines are arranged so as to adequately substitute for a stern pulpit.

ACCOMMODATIONS:

11. (7.12) Toilet, securely installed, or fitted bucket.
12. (7.2) Bunks, securely installed.
13. (7.4) Galley facilities.
14. Suitable containers with water. [This is no longer in ORC -- do we want to include it?]

* Numbers in parentheses refer to Paragraphs in the Offshore Racing Council's Special Regulations, dated January 1993.

GENERAL EQUIPMENT:

15. (8.1) At least two fire extinguishers, readily accessible and in different parts of the yacht.
16. (8.2) One manual bilge pump, handle to be fitted with a catch or to be tethered to the yacht. No bilge pump may discharge into the cockpit (unless the cockpit opens aft to the sea). Bilge pumps shall not be connected to cockpit drains.
17. (8.2.6) Two buckets, each of at least 2 gallons capacity, of stout construction and with a lanyard.
18. (8.3) One anchor and suitable rode.
19. (8.42) Flashlight, water resistant, with spare batteries and bulb.
20. (8.5) First aid kit and manual.
21. (8.6) Foghorn.
22. (8.7) Radar reflector with minimum diagonal measurement of 18 inches, or equivalent echoing area of 108 sq ft.
23. (8.9) Shutoff valves on all fuel tanks.

NAVIGATION EQUIPMENT:

24. (9.1) Compass, marine type, properly installed and adjusted.
25. (9.6) Lead line or echo sounder.
26. (9.8) Navigation lights, to be shown as required by the International Regulations for Preventing Collision at Sea, mounted so that they will not be masked by sails or the heeling of the yacht.

EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT:

27. (10.22) One heavy-weather jib of LP not greater than 100%, without reef points, or heavy weather sail in a yacht with no forestay, and reefing equipment for the mainsail.
28. (10.23) Any heavy-weather jib if designed for a seastay or luff-groove device shall have an alternative method of attachment to the stay.
29. (10.24) No mast shall have fewer than two halyards each capable of hoisting a sail.
- 29a. (10.32) The crew must be aware of alternative methods of steering the yacht in any sea condition in the event of rudder loss.
30. (10.4) Tools and spare parts, including adequate means to disconnect or sever the standing rigging from the hull in case of need.
31. (10.63) Radio receiver capable of receiving weather bulletins.

SAFETY EQUIPMENT:

32. (11.1) One lifejacket, Coast Guard approved Type III, for each crew member.
33. (11.51) Lifebuoy with a drogue (or, Lifesling -- without a drogue), equipped with a self-igniting light, within reach of the helmsman and ready for instant use.
34. (11.6) Pyrotechnic signals conforming to SOLAS Regulations Chapter VII, Visual Signals, and not more than 6 years old stowed in waterproof container(s):
 - Red hand flares -- SOLAS Regulation 36 Quantity 4
 - White hand flares (recommended/optional). Specifications (except color and candela rating) should comply with SOLAS Regulation 36. Quantity 4
 - Orange smoke flares -- SOLAS Regulation 37 Quantity 2

Note: For 1994, 50% of the flares may conform to pre-1994 OSC standards.

35. (11.7) Heaving line, minimum 50-foot length, minimum 1/4" diameter, floating, and readily accessible to the cockpit.

Points for Discussion:

- 3. Should we delete "operable from above and below." ?
- 9a. This may be difficult to accomplish and may not be necessary for Off Soundings-type races.
- 27. ORC says "of area not greater than 13.5% of height of foretriangle squared," which may be difficult to meet.
- 29a. This may be too difficult for some Off Soundings yachts? And it may be too stringent for our type of racing.

An Alternate approach would be to prescribe that the Off Soundings fleet shall comply with ORC Category 4 requirements.