

INTERNATIONAL ETHELLS FLEET 20

BY-LAWS

Article I – Fleet Name

Fleet 20 of the [International Etchells Class Association](#), herein referred to as “the fleet”, shall consist of certified yachts of the [Etchells Class](#) in the Biscayne Bay area.

Article II – Rules

1. General: The fleet shall comply with and operate under the constitution, By-Laws and current rules of the [International Etchells Class Association](#), all herein referred to as “Class Rules”. Fleet rules and regulations shall supplement but not conflict with Class Rules. The purpose of the fleet By-Laws is to establish procedures and principles under which the fleet shall be governed.
2. Racing Rules: The fleet shall sail under the racing rules of [United States Sailing \(formerly USYRU\)](#), as modified by the Rules of the Biscayne Bay Yacht Racing Association (BBYRA), [except as may be altered by local sailing instructions of a particular event when applicable](#).

Article III – Membership

1. **Active** membership in the fleet is limited to owners, part owners, and charterers of Etchells yachts. An owner may transfer from another fleet at any time and become a member upon payment of Fleet 20 dues. An Active member will receive International, National and fleet newsletters, will have voting rights, and be eligible for the Fleet Championship.
2. Any interested person may become an **Associate** member of the fleet and be eligible to receive International, National and fleet newsletters upon payment of dues. It is a Class Rule requirement that all crew shall be IECA Associate (or Active) members for all Class sanctioned events.
3. [All Active and Associate members shall be concurrently members of United States Sailing or a nationally recognized sailing authority](#).
4. In a co-ownership or syndicate, there must be at least one Active member. The other(s) shall be encouraged to become Active or Associate members. Only Active skippers shall have their scores counted for the Fleet Championship or World’s qualification racing.
5. Any interested person may be a **Fleet** member and be eligible to receive the fleet newsletter by the payment of the Fleet 20 member dues.

Article IV – Dues

1. Fleet dues shall be established by the fleet officers, be ratified by the membership at the Annual Meeting, and be effective for the ensuing year. Dues are payable January 1st (on or before the first championship regatta of the season) or upon the acquisition of an Etchells yacht, and are not transferable or refundable.
2. International and National Etchells Class Association dues, in the amount specified by those Associations, will be collected by the Fleet 20 Treasurer at the time of the annual dues collection and forwarded to the National Association on or before April 1st each year.
3. Additional Fleet assessments may be recommended by the Fleet Officers at any time, but must be approved by a majority of Fleet Active members.

Article V – Scoring

1. Fleet Championship racing and any Worlds qualification series will be scored using the low point system. The races designated as counting for the Fleet Championship and Worlds qualification will be ratified by the membership at the Annual Meeting.
2. A properly registered skipper or co-skipper will be eligible to have his/her scored counted towards the Fleet Championship and towards Worlds qualification.
3. For World qualifiers only, both skipper and co-skipper must be on board if both individuals desire that a particular qualifier count towards eligibility as a helmsman for the Worlds.
4. Non-Fleet 20 skippers and co-skippers finishes will be deleted for the purposes of calculating Fleet Championship and Worlds qualification scores.
5. A properly registered skipper or co-skipper who is unable to compete in a fleet championship race due to being directly involved in on-the-water running of said event will be awarded average scores for those races missed based on average score of all fleet championship races in which he/she competed for in that season.
6. The Fleet Championship will be determined by the lowest point score for the season by calculating the best finishes for 75% of all the scheduled and sailed Fleet Championship races. The Fleet Championship races are the five (5) Annual Regattas of the BBYRA season.
7. Guest skippers are encouraged. Any guest-skipper that wishes to participate in more than one Fleet 20 regatta must, however become an Active member by the payment of the appropriate dues.

Article VI – Board of Directors, Elected and Appointed

1. The following officers shall be elected from among the members of the fleet for a term of one year, renewable, by majority vote at the fall Awards Banquet:
 - a. **Fleet Captain:** The Fleet Captain has the general responsibility for the business-like conduct of all the fleet affairs. He shall set dates and locations of, prepare agendas for and preside at fleet meetings. He is responsible for rendering decisions on the interpretation of fleet rules and regulations reached by majority vote of the fleet officers, and for the enforcement of such decisions. He shall serve as the fleet liaison, or appoint a substitute, to key events or ceremonies as requested and make a consistent effort to express the fleet's gratitude to the yacht club commodore and race committee chair responsible for the hosting of a particular event.
 - b. **Assistant Fleet Captain:** The Assistant Fleet Captain shall prepare the season's racing schedule for approval by the other officers and present it to the members. He shall be responsible for the purchase and awarding of the season's trophies.
 - c. **Secretary-Treasurer:** The Secretary-Treasurer shall keep minutes of meeting, prepare and maintain the Fleet roster, handle all Fleet correspondence, collect dues, pay bills, and present a financial report at the Annual Meeting or when ever requested by another Fleet officer. The offices of Secretary and Treasurer may be separated in the future at the discretion of the Fleet or Fleet Officers.
2. The following board members shall be appointed by the Fleet Captain with the advice and consent of the officers:
 - a. **Fleet Measurer:** The Fleet Measurer shall measure, stamp and record all sails accepted for racing in accordance with fleet regulations and Class rules. The Measurer shall examine any torn or damaged sails where a replacement is being sought. It shall be his/her responsibility to maintain the International One Design integrity of Fleet 20.
 - b. **Fleet Promotion/Social Chairperson:** The Promotion/Social Chairperson shall prepare the season's social schedule and undertake activities to promote Fleet 20 within the Biscayne Bay Area sailing community.
3. Besides the five Board of Directors, there will be a nominating committee consisting of the Fleet Captain, one other current Board member and an Active member not currently on the Board. Ideally, the three individuals should represent different yacht clubs. It shall draw up a slate of proposed officers for the following year, all of whom have agreed to serve if elected, and present this slate to be listed on the advance agenda of the Annual Meeting.

Article VII – Meetings

1. There shall normally be two business meeting of the fleet per year: a winter meeting in early January (the “Annual Meeting”) which will tackle the bulk of the fleet business; and the fall Awards Banquet shortly after the season has finished. A meeting can be held only if a quorum is present or properly represented by proxy. A quorum shall consist of 50% of the Active members of the fleet (limited to one vote per paid-up boat).
2. The Annual Meeting shall elect officers for the ensuing year; approve the racing schedule for the coming season and ratify the dues structure; discuss and adopt plans for special and social events, awards and prizes; act on any proposal presented in accordance with the provisions of Article VIII; and conduct any other business that can properly come before the meeting. Board Members shall present reports and announcements as necessary.
3. The fall Awards Banquet shall vote on perpetual prizes as necessary, and only conduct that business which is necessary and appropriate at a banquet setting.
4. Any other fleet meetings shall be informal, and no changes in rules shall be made between business meetings. If an emergency or urgent situation arises, two-thirds of the fleet officers or one-third of the Active members may request a special business meeting. Proper notification of the rule involved, proposals, meeting date and time must be given to all members with ample lead time.
5. The Board of Directors should meet at least four times a year. The meetings shall be open to interested fleet members. There will be an effort to give notice of board meetings through the newsletter and/or emails.

Article VIII – Amendments

A proposal for an addition to or an amendment of either the fleet or the Class rules may be initiated by any Active member. Such a proposal must be submitted in writing to the Fleet Captain not later than thirty (30) days prior to the date of the next fleet meeting. The Fleet Captain shall post all such proposals in writing to all the members not later than fifteen (15) days prior to the date of said meeting.

Article IX – Eligibility and Voting

1. Voting at meetings is limited to one vote per paid-up boat.
2. Proxies must be in writing and in the hands of the Fleet Officers before the meeting, and should pertain to the specific questions on the advance agenda unless a blanket proxy is given to a voting member in advance.
3. Enactment at a fleet meeting of an amendment or addition to the fleet By-Laws requires a two-thirds vote of all eligible members (as defined in section 1 of this Article), present or properly represented by proxy at the meeting.
4. All other votes require for passage a majority of those present or properly represented by proxy at the meeting, and only when a quorum is present or represented by proxy.

Article X – Administrative and Financial Management

The Fleet Captain and Treasurer are empowered to sign on the Fleet bank account. The treasurer will issue a report to the membership detailing the Fleet financial status, on no less than an annual basis.

Article XI – Yacht Owner Responsibility

1. It is the responsibility of each owner/skipper to ensure that his/her yacht complies with the IECA Class Rules as evidenced by current and valid Hull, Spar and Sail Measurement Certificates. These must be presented to the Fleet Measurer upon demand.
2. All yachts participating in Fleet sanctioned events must comply with the IECA Class Rules.
3. Helmsman eligibility: In order to be scored in any race designated as part of a Fleet sanctioned series, the Helmsman must be an Active member of Fleet 20, as per Article III of these By-Laws.

Article XI – Fleet 20 Trophies

1. The **Contessa Cup** (Fleet Championship):

Declaration of Trust and conditions governing the Contessa Cup

History:

Louis Piana actively campaigned his Etchells, “Contessa,” in Biscayne Bay and was a fleet champion sailor. This perpetual trophy, the Contessa Cup, is named in honor of his boat, one of the first Etchells to be sailed in Biscayne Bay.

Many knew Louis as a passionate sailor and successful retired businessman. He was also a wonderful family man and a loyal friend. To Etchells sailors worldwide he was much more.

In 1967, at a special meeting in New York, Skip Etchells needed ten orders to begin production. At the end of the meeting, he had nine. At the last minute, Louis tabled a check for a boat he had never sailed and became the last of the original founding sailors. As a result, Fleet 1 formed at the Larchmont Yacht Club and the rest is history.

In the mid-1980s, Louis founded our Fleet 20 and kept promoting the class until it was a success in Miami.

In 1997, after participating in the class for 30 years, he was nominated for a Life Membership. The nomination was unanimously approved and Louis became only the fourth member of this elite group. The award was presented at the North American Championships at the Royal Canadian Yacht Club in Toronto.

Conditions:

- 1) The Contessa Cup shall be the Fleet 20 Championship trophy.
- 2) The Contessa Cup will be awarded annually at the conclusion of each sailing season of the Etchells fleet 20 to the yacht and skipper that tallies the best score for the entire season of fleet championship racing by calculating the best finishes for 75% of all the scheduled and sailed five (5) Annual Regattas of the BBYRA season.
- 3) The Contessa Cup will bear the winning boat and skipper on a plate or tag.
- 4) The Contessa Cup will be awarded at either the Fleet 20 Banquet or at the Annual Meeting.
- 5) On award, the trophy may be displayed at the winner’s yacht club.
- 6) By agreement of the Board of Directors of Fleet 20 of Biscayne Bay, all the conditions may be modified in such a manner and to such extent as said Board of Directors may find to be necessary in light of changed circumstances and to best serve the purposes of this award.

2. **The Minerva Cup** (Rookie-of-the-Year):

Declaration of Trust – Minerva Cup – Fleet 20 Rookie of the Year

The trophy was donated to honor the individual in Fleet 20, Biscayne Bay, and in the name of Minerva Trophy, for the first “Rookie” boat in Biscayne Bay who demonstrated superior performance and enthusiasm and commitment to the local class within his or her first two years of owning an Etchells and being a fleet member.

The trophy is a silver bowl, mounted on wood.

Stipulations:

First: The trophy is to be known as the Minerva Trophy and informally as the Rookie of the Year award.

Second: The trophy shall never become the property of an individual or yacht club or other entity, but shall be a perpetual trophy administered by the officers of Etchells Fleet 20.

Third: The trophy shall be awarded once a year at the end of each racing season, preferably at a banquet or similar function, to the person or persons who exhibited the most outstanding performance as a new fleet member or who exhibited outstanding enthusiasm and commitment to the local fleet. Such performance is recognized within the first or second year of becoming an Active member.

Fourth: The winner shall be selected based on the best performance firstly, fleet commitment and enthusiasm, secondly of a one or two year member of Fleet 20

Fifth: No person shall be eligible to win the award twice.

Sixth: The winner shall be in possession of the trophy until the following year and be responsible for its safe keeping.

Seventh: The winner shall have his or her name inscribed upon the perpetual trophy.

Eighth and Final: By the agreement of the Board of Directors of the Etchells Fleet 20 of Biscayne Bay, the foregoing terms and conditions may be modified in such a manner and such extent as said Board or Directors may deem necessary in light of changed circumstances and purposes of said.

3. The **Corinthian Yachtsman Award**:

Declaration of Trust

Resolved that the Corinthian Yachtsman Award shall be awarded annually, beginning in the year 2009, at the discretion of the Board of Directors of Etchells Fleet 20, to a member of Fleet 20 selected by the Board and deemed by it to exemplify distinctive and superior characteristics of Corinthian Yachting and outstanding service to and on behalf of Etchells Fleet 20.

It is further resolved that the Captain of Fleet 20 shall present the trophy to the recipient selected for the award by the Board of Directors. The Board shall provide the name of the recipient each year, and it will be engraved on the trophy with the year of the award and the date of presentation shall be determined annually by the Board of Directors. The trophy shall be and remain in the custody of the Biscayne Bay Yacht Club perpetually.

The foregoing resolution of the Board of Directors was adopted unanimously at the Fleet 20 Annual Meeting on January 09, 2009.

4. The **Crew of the Year Award**:

The Crew of the Year Award shall be awarded annually, at the discretion of the Board of Directors of Etchells Fleet 20, to an Associate Member of Fleet 20 selected by the Board and deemed by it to exemplify distinctive and superior characteristics of outstanding service to and on behalf of Etchells Fleet 20.

These Bylaws were approved on January 3rd, 2009 at the Fleet 20 Annual Meeting by a majority of the membership.