

**NCESA BY LAWS**  
**TABLE OF**  
**CONTENTS**

[ARTICLE I - CLASSES OF MEMBERS AND DUES](#)

[ARTICLE II - MEETINGS](#)

[ARTICLE III - AMENDMENTS](#)

[ARTICLE IV - VOTING](#)

[ARTICLE V - ELIGIBLE](#)

[YACHTS](#)

[ARTICLE VI - YACHT'S NUMBER](#)

[ARTICLE VII - RECOGNIZED](#)

[EVENTS](#)

[ARTICLE VIII - RULES FOR RECOGNIZED](#)

[EVENTS ARTICLE IX - TROPHIES](#)

[ARTICLE X - EXPERIMENTAL PROJECTS](#)

**ARTICLE I - CLASSES OF MEMBERS AND DUES**

There shall be three classes of members – Active Owner, Regular, and Associate.

1. An Active Owner member shall be a yacht owner, or a sole designated owner when in a boat partnership that has more than one owner.
2. Regular members shall be skippers, who are not Active Owners, and other people who want to support the NCESA.
3. An Active Owner member shall have the privilege of one vote.
4. Only Active Owner and Regular members shall be eligible for elected or appointed offices.
5. Associate members shall be people interested in supporting the NCESA.
6. Dues shall be payable at the beginning of the fiscal year. A member shall become delinquent upon his failure to pay dues before the Annual Membership Meeting.
7. All Regular and Active Owner Members shall receive all the publications of the Association.

Dues: (set by the Board of Directors at their annual meeting)

Active Owner	\$70
Regular	\$50
Associate	\$15

**ARTICLE II - MEETINGS**

1. Notification of the time and place of the Annual Membership Meeting shall be sent to all Active Owner members at least one month in advance of such meeting.
2. The substance of the matters to be discussed shall be included in the notice of the meeting.
3. The Commodore shall preside at the Annual Membership Meeting.
4. The order of business at the Annual Membership Meetings shall be:
  - A. Call to order.
  - B. Report of Secretary on registered attendance.

- C. Minutes of the last meeting.
  - D. Old business.
  - E. Reports of committees.
  - F. Proposed amendments.
  - G. Other new business.
  - H. Election of Officers and/or Directors for the coming year.
  - I. Adjournment.
- 5. If the National regatta is cancelled or postponed, the Annual Membership meeting shall still be held, either in person or electronically.
  - 6. Notification of the time and place of any meeting of the Board of Directors shall be sent to those eligible to attend at least two weeks in advance.
  - 7. The substance of any unusual matters to be discussed at the Directors Meeting shall be included in the notice.
  - 8. The Commodore shall preside at the meetings of the Board of Directors.
  - 9. The order of business at the Directors Meetings shall be the same as the Annual Membership Meeting, except where inappropriate.

### **ARTICLE III - AMENDMENTS**

- 1. Amendments to the Constitution, By-Laws and Scantling Rules may be proposed by:
  - A. The chair of any committee unless their committee has voted otherwise.
  - B. A member of the Board of Directors.
  - C. A petition signed by any five Active Owner Members.
- 2. The substance of the amendment shall be included in the notice of the meeting in which final consideration is to be made, or in the case of voting by mail or other electronic means, the substance as well as the text of the amendment shall be included with the ballot.

### **ARTICLE IV - VOTING**

- 1. Only those members with the privilege of voting who register with the Secretary at the start of the Annual Membership Meeting shall be eligible to cast votes at such meeting.
- 2. All Active Owner Members shall have the privilege of voting by proxy at any meetings which they are unable to attend or for any other reason they may have for not wishing to cast their vote in person. Proxies shall contain suitable instructions and be properly validated by the Secretary, at the start of the meeting.
- 3. Only Active Owner Members in good standing may cast their ballot in person, by proxy, by mail, or by electronic means.

### **ARTICLE V - ELIGIBLE YACHTS**

- 1. A yacht is eligible to compete if it conforms to the Scantling Rules, has been built by a Licensed Builder (if built after April 1976) and if it has been issued a Certificate of Measurement by the builder. The onetime fee for each builder's certificate is \$300 to be paid to the Secretary-Treasurer.
- 2. It is the yacht owner's responsibility to inform the Chief Measurer of any material change in the boat or its equipment, including the mast, boom, or a dimension, which may cause it not to conform to the Scantling Rules.
- 3. A Certificate of Measurement shall cease to be valid under any of the

following contingencies if the Jury (Protest Committee) or Board of Directors should so direct, on account of protest, or because, in their opinion, infringement of the Measurement and Scantling Rules or irregularity in the Certificate exists.

4. Licensed builders of Class E Scows are: Melges Boat Works
  - A. Licensed builders must submit the fee described in Paragraph I, together with a Measurement Certificate describing each boat to the Secretary- Treasurer of the Association at the time of delivery.
  - B. No Certificate may be issued for a hull unless it has been completed, absent hardware, by a licensed builder.
  - C. Builders are to deliver completed hulls (deck and hulls joined) to comply with current scantling rules.
5. Should a Measurement Certificate, under which a yacht has sailed in any race, prove to have been incorrect for any reason, the Board of Directors or Jury may, after inquiry, correct such Certificate as they may deem proper and revise the claim of the yacht to prizes which she may have been awarded in any race.

#### **ARTICLE VI - YACHT'S NUMBER**

1. Each yacht shall carry her assigned racing number and club letter designator as recognized by the NCESA on her deck and sails to be eligible in NCESA sanctioned events.
2. The size and placement of the racing numbers and club designator shall be governed by the NCESA Scantling Rules.
3. The list of club designator recognized by the NCESA as the official club designators for eligibility in NCESA sanctioned events shall be maintained by the NCESA secretary.

#### **ARTICLE VII - RECOGNIZED EVENTS**

1. A National Championship Regatta shall be held every year under the jurisdiction of the Association at such time and place as the Board of Directors shall determine. Insofar as practical it shall be held early in September and shall rotate around the country in an equitable pattern.
2. A sanctioned regatta of the Association shall be one in which all competing yachts conform to the Scantlings of the Association and boat owners have a 'boat owner' membership type.
3. Any group of members or recognized sailing association sponsoring such a sanctioned regatta may notify the Regatta Chair and request such assistance as may be appropriate.

#### **ARTICLE VIII - RULES FOR RECOGNIZED EVENTS**

1. The National Regatta shall be conducted in accordance with the [Draft Sailing Instructions](#) set forth in Part VIII of the current Yearbook of the NCESA and made a part of these By-Laws. Amendments shall be made in accordance with Article XVI 2 B of the Constitution; however, changes at the regatta site may be approved by the Jury and the NCESA Regatta Chair as provided in the sailing instruction.
2. The number of persons comprising the crew is minimum 3, maximum unlimited, but each yacht shall sail the entire regatta with the same individuals and number of crew members that are declared at the close of

registration, except for unusual situations when the jury of the event may, at its discretion, authorize a substitution, the underlying concept being to prevent "strategic" changing of crew following the close of registration.

3. The number of entries may be limited to such number and in any such manner as the Association may direct.
4. A yacht may use no more than the following items of equipment in any single event:
  - A. Mainsails - 2
  - B. Jibs - 2
  - C. Spinnakers - 2
  - D. Mast - 1
  - E. Boom - 1
  - F. Rudders - 2
  - G. Boards - 2
  - H. Bowsprit - 1
  - I. All other equipment - unlimited

Any of the items of equipment listed in A through I which are damaged during an event may be replaced with the permission of the Jury. All other equipment may be replaced at the skipper's discretion. All substitute equipment must meet Scantling specifications and shall be of the same or greater weight than the equipment replaced. The Jury may require additional lead ballast to be added if necessary, to compensate for any estimated weight difference between original equipment and any substitute equipment approved by them. The position of spreaders may not be restricted or be freed from restriction after the preparatory signal. In the event of a general recall or postponement, this prohibition runs from the new preparatory signal.

5. A skipper shall not steer any yacht other than that which they registered to skipper.
6. No yacht while racing in a sanctioned event may have a paid hand for either skipper or as a member of the crew. The skipper must be an Active Owner or Regular Member in good standing.
7. No person on board a yacht when her preparatory signal was made shall leave or board while she is racing, unless injured or ill; except, that any member of the crew may fall overboard or leave her to swim, stand on the bottom as a means of anchoring, reef sails or bail out, help her to get clear after grounding or fouling another vessel or object, provided that this person is back on board before the yacht continues to race. A yacht shall finish each race with the same equipment it has on board at the time of the preparatory signal unless it is impossible to do so. A yacht shall make every reasonable effort to retrieve any lost equipment. The skipper shall report and justify any unrecovered sail or equipment losses to the Race Committee.
8. During the sanctioned event, the bottom of a boat may be washed down, cleaned or smoothed at any time.
9. All sails must carry an NCESA label permanently affixed to the sail. The Treasurer is authorized to collect \$35.00 per label.
10. For sails or other items requiring measurement at the National Regatta,

the Measurer is authorized to charge fees at the National Regatta, as follows:

\$1.00 per sail, \$2.00 for other items but not exceeding \$5.00 total. If measurement is demanded after time scheduled, a fee of \$5.00 per sail and \$10.00 for other items.

### **ARTICLE IX - TROPHIES**

1. Trophies shall be sailed for according to the condition of donation, and as sanctioned by the Association.
2. Perpetual Trophies shall be returned to the Regatta Committee in ample time to be on display at the awards ceremony at the Annual Championship Regatta. Winners shall return each trophy polished and in good repair. Failure to respect this rule in its entirety shall subject the offender to ineligibility to participate in the regatta and/or suspension from membership. The Regatta Committee may bill a perpetual trophy recipient for missing engraving or repairs as necessary.
3. The Association owns perpetual trophies, as follows:
  - The Bilge Pullers Trophy is awarded annually to the winner of the National Class E Scow Association Championship Regatta.
  - The Robert F. Weldon, Jr. Memorial Trophy is awarded annually to the crew of the Championship boat.
  - Trophies for Individual Race Winners at the National Regatta:

Race One:	Keuka Yacht Club Trophy
Race Two:	Iver C. Johnson Memorial Trophy
Race Three:	Barnegat Bay Trophy
Race Four:	Pewaukee Lake Yacht Club Trophy
Race Five:	Chautauqua Lake Yacht Club Trophy
Race Six:	NCESA Trophy
Race Seven:	Chuck Harrett, Sr. Memorial Trophy
  - Women's Championship Trophy awarded annually to the highest placing female skipper or crew at the National Regatta.
  - Women's Corinthian Trophy awarded annually to the female present at the Annual Regatta who is an active participant in the E Scow fleet and in regattas throughout the year, possesses exemplary knowledge and demonstrates technical skill both on and off the water, is an active member of the team, and embodies sportsmanship by promoting and supporting the sport and women in sailing.
  - Torch Lake Team Trophy awarded to the Yacht Club that attains the best score as a team, counting five boats as participants, in the National Regatta.
  - Colie NCEA Service Award in recognition of special service to the Association.
  - Ferguson National Ranking Champion Trophy awarded to the skipper with the highest point total, using their three highest point regattas.
  - NCEA Youth Championship Trophy awarded the highest-ranking skipper at the National Championship Regatta who is under 26 years old at the start of the regatta.

- NCESA Woman's Top Skipper awarded to the best finishing woman skipper
4. The association will annually award the following permanent trophies to be retained by the winners at the Annual Championship Regatta:
    - A. To skipper and crew of the top 10 finishers.
    - B. To the skipper of the top finisher in the Masters Class. Masters is defined as a skipper who has reached the age of 60 years by the date of the first scheduled racing day of the Regatta.
    - C. To the top Rookie Skipper. Rookie is defined as a skipper who has never before skippered in the Annual Championship Regatta.
    - D. To determine the respective winners above, reference will be made to the participant's overall score against all competitors.

### **ARTICLE X - EXPERIMENTAL PROJECTS**

It shall be mandatory that all proposed modifications or construction changes which may improve or degrade the performance of the boat be submitted for an experimental project. Persons wishing to undertake experimental projects which affect the Scantling Rules or make changes in approved construction methods of the Class E Scow under the auspices of the NCESA shall be governed by the following procedure.

1. In order to keep the class within one design parameters while still allowing the opportunity to evolve the boat to maintain its position at the forefront of exciting one design classes, any experimental proposal shall address the following criteria, some of which should be answered with a yes:
  - Does the proposed change:
    - A. Do more than just provide an incremental speed advantage to the experimenter?
    - B. Make the boat safer to race?
    - C. Make it more economical for the majority of competitors in the long run?
    - D. Significantly enhance the enjoyment of racing the boat?
    - E. Attract new participants or allow existing participants to continue racing longer?
2. Applicants shall present a proposal for an experimental project to the Chair of the Rules Committee. The proposal shall be written and include:
  - A. A description of the project and its goals;
  - B. Suggested duration of the project;
  - C. Approximate cost of the experiment;
  - D. Any scantling rule(s) believed to be affected; and
  - E. Its effect on other boats not modified.
3. The Chair of the Rules Committee shall distribute copies of the proposal to the members of the Rules Committee. A proposal may be approved by (a) a majority of the members in attendance at a duly constituted meeting of its members, or (b) a majority of all members of the Rules Committee voting by any convenient written means such as letter, fax, or email. The experimental project request shall be voted on by the Rules Committee within 20 days of receipt of a properly formatted request.
4. Upon Rules Committee approval of an experimental project, the Rules Committee chair shall give the Board of Directors written notice of the

application, the vote of the Rules Committee, any written comments submitted with responses from their committee members, and the Rules Committee final experiment determination. The Board of Directors will respond with a majority vote within 20 days of receipt of this information whether to allow or disallow the experiment, with a written explanation of their ruling.

5. An experimental boat may compete, but shall not be scored, in all class sanctioned events, including the National Regatta, unless limited or modified by the experimental terms approved by the Rules Committee and Board of Directors.
6. At the end of the approved experimental period, the experimenter shall submit written results and photographs of the project and any proposed changes to or effects on the Scantling Rules or production methods to the Rules Committee and the Board of Directors. At that time the Rules Committee may make further recommendations to the Board. At the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board or a duly convened special meeting, the Board shall act upon the proposal. If a vote by the membership is also required, it shall be done as soon as possible, with the results transmitted to the experimenter, Rules Committee, and Board of Directors.