

***Taipan Catamaran Association  
of Australia Incorporated***

***National Constitution***

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## **1. NAME**

- 1.1 *The name of this body shall be the Taipan Catamaran Association of Australia incorporated and it shall hereinafter be referred to as the "TCAA".*
- 1.2 *In these rules, unless the contrary intention appears – 'Committee' means the Committee of Management of the Association; 'meeting' means a general meeting of members of the Association convened in accordance with these rules; 'member' means a member of the Association; the 'Act' means the Associations Incorporation Act 1984; the 'Regulations' means the Associations Incorporations Act, 1984; 'Taipan' means a sailing catamaran built in accordance with the plan specifications and class rules as determined by the TCAA.*

## **2. OBJECTIVES**

- 2.1 *To govern the sailing, competition and construction of the Taipan Catamaran class in Australia.*
- 2.2 *To affiliate with, support and abide by the rules of the appropriate International, National and State Yachting authorities.*
- 2.3 *To promote the Taipan classes throughout Australia .*
- 2.4 *To regulate the class in Australia by ensuring compliance with the Class Rules as established by the TCAA.*
- 2.5 *To foster the sport of sailing.*

## **3. ORGANISATION AND POWERS**

- 3.1 *The TCAA shall be affiliated with the Australian Yachting Federation (AYF) and shall pay such fees as are prescribed by the AYF.*
- 3.2 *The TCAA shall have all the powers conferred by the Act save and except such modifications and exclusions as are specified in this rule.*

## **4. MEMBERSHIP**

- 4.1 **Membership of the TCAA shall consist of the following classes:**
  - 4.1.1 *Financial Member, being persons who are registered Taipan owners and have paid annual subscription in accordance with clause 5.2 or 5.3.*
  - 4.1.2 *Associate Member, being persons who have paid annual subscription in accordance with clause 5.2 or 5.3*
  - 4.1.3 *Life members, being persons who have rendered special service to TCAA and who have been recommended for "life" membership and subsequently elected by a resolution passed at the Annual General Meeting:*
- 4.2 *Application for membership shall be made on the form prescribed from time to time by the committee.*
- 4.3 *If any member shall willfully refuse or neglect to comply with the Rules of the Association shall be guilty of any conduct which in the opinion of the Committee is unbecoming of a member or prejudicial to the interest of the Association, the Committee shall have power:*
  - 4.3.1 *To expel the member from the Association and remove the persons name from the Register of Members.*
  - 4.3.2 *To suspend a member from membership of the Association for a specified period. Provided that at least two weeks before the meeting of the Committee at which a resolution for his/her expulsion or suspension is to be considered and passed, the member shall have had notice of such meeting and of what is alleged against him/her and of the consideration of an intended resolution for his/her expulsion or suspension. He/she shall at such a meeting and before the passing of such a resolution have the opportunity of providing verbal or in writing any explanation or defense he/she may think fit. Any such member may give notice in writing, to be lodged with the Secretary at least twenty four hours before the time for holding the meeting at which the resolution for his/her expulsion or suspension is to be considered by the Committee elect, to have the*

*question of his/her expulsion dealt with by the Association by a Special general meeting. In the event an Special general meeting of the Association be called for the purpose and if at the meeting a resolution for the expulsion, or suspension be passed by a majority of 2/3 of those present and voting (such voting to be taken by ballot), the member may be expelled or suspended in accordance with the direction of the meeting.*

## **5 MEMBERSHIP FEES**

- 5.1** *All members other than life members, shall be liable to pay such annual fees as may be determined by the TCAA at the Annual General Meeting.*
- 5.2** *Annual subscriptions shall become due on the first day of January and are payable to the TCAA.*
- 5.3** *All members whose subscriptions have not been renewed by the 30<sup>th</sup> of April shall cease to be members of the TCAA.*

## **6. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS**

- 6.1** *The Annual General Meeting of the TCAA shall be held to coincide with the Annual National Championships.*
- 6.2** *Items for the agenda of the Annual General Meeting shall be in the hands of the Secretary at least eight weeks prior to the Annual General Meeting.*
- 6.3** *The agenda shall be provided to all members at least six weeks prior to the Annual General Meeting.*
- 6.4** *No business shall be transacted at any Annual General Meeting unless a quorum be present. A quorum shall be at least 20% of financial members must be present or such greater number thereof as the National body may decide from time to time in General Meeting.*
- 6.5** *If, within half an hour of the scheduled start time for the meeting, a quorum is not present, a meeting convened upon requisition of members shall be dissolved and it shall stand adjourned to a time and place specified by the members.*
- 6.6** *The ordinary business of the annual general meeting shall be;*
  - 6.6.1** *To confirm the minutes of the preceding Annual General Meeting.*
  - 6.6.2** *To receive reports from the Committee of activities and financial statements from the last preceding financial year.*
  - 6.6.3** *To elect the Committee for the ensuing year..*
  - 6.6.4** *To set the annual subscription fee per each craft registered with TCAA.*
  - 6.6.5** *To transact such other business, notice of which has been given in the notice calling the Annual General Meeting.*
- 6.7** *At any General Meeting of the TCAA, each financial or life member of TCAA shall have one vote.*
- 6.8** *Absentee voting is permitted by proxy. Each financial member shall be entitled to appoint another member as his/her proxy by giving notice to the Secretary no later than 24 hours before the scheduled start time for the meeting.*

## **7. BY-LAWS**

- 7.1** *The TCAA may from time to time by resolution make, amend or repeal by-laws in respect of any subject or matter for the general care and good government of the TCAA.*
- 7.2** *No by-laws may be made, amended or repealed unless notice of the proposed making, amending or repealing is contained in the notice convening the meeting at which such by-laws shall be considered.*
- 7.3** *A by-law while in force shall have the same effect as this Constitution.*

## **8. THE COMMITTEE**

- 8.1** *The business and affairs of the TCAA shall be under the management and control of the Committee, provided however, that except in the case of extreme urgency the Committee shall not take any action contrary to decisions made at a General Meeting.*
- 8.2** *The Committee shall be responsible for the day-day management of the affairs of the TCAA and shall exercise the powers of the TCAA except those required by this Constitution to be exercised by the TCAA in General Meeting.*
- 8.3** *The Committee shall consist of a:*
- 8.3.1** *President*
  - 8.3.2** *Secretary*
  - 8.3.3** *Treasurer*
  - 8.3.4** *Technical Officer*
  - 8.3.5** *Documentation Officer*
  - 8.3.6** *Marketing Officer*
  - 8.3.7** *One financial member from each State or Territory of Australia*
- 8.4** *Should any vacancy occur in the Committee of the TCAA other than in the normal course of elections, the Committee shall fill such vacancy from the financial members of the Association and such members duly elected shall hold office for the unexpired portion of the predecessors term.*
- 8.5** *Any member of the Committee shall be deemed to have vacated his office if he/she*
- 8.5.1** *Becomes bankrupt*
  - 8.5.2** *Becomes of unsound mind or a person or estate is liable to be dealt with in any way under the laws relating to mental health; or*
  - 8.5.3** *Resigns his/her office by notice in writing to the Secretary.*
- 8.6** **Committee Powers**
- 8.6.1** *The Committee shall have the power to delegate any of its powers to a sub-committee to deal with any particular matter or matters and upon such terms, as the Committee may think fit. At least two members of the committee shall be ex-officio members of all sub-committees.*
  - 8.6.2** *All acts or decisions done or made by any meeting of the Committee or member thereof shall, notwithstanding that it be afterwards discovered that there was some defect in the appointment of such member or all or any members of the Committee, be as valid and effective as if they had all been properly appointed, unless it is proved that the appointment was made in fraud or bad faith.*
- 8.7** *All members of the Committee shall retire annually and shall, subject to clause 8.5, be eligible for re-election.*
- 8.8** *All appointments to the Committee will be effective from February 1<sup>st</sup> each year.*

## **9. ELECTION OF THE COMMITTEE**

- 9.1** *Nomination for each candidate for election as Committee member shall be proposed and seconded by two (2) financial members at the Annual General Meeting.*
- 9.2** *No persons shall be eligible for election unless they are financial members of the TCAA. The conditions outlined in Section 5 in Membership also apply.*
- 9.3** *The election of the Committee shall be secret ballot of financial members present and voting thereon, held at the Annual General Meeting. No ballot shall be required when the number of candidates nominated for each office does not exceed the number of vacancies and they shall be declared duly elected.*

## **10. DUTIES OF THE COMMITTEE**

### **10.1 The President shall:**

- 10.1.1** act as chair at Committee meetings.
- 10.1.2** represent the Association at any function, meeting or event at which the Association is to be represented.
- 10.1.3** present a report at the Annual General Meeting.
- 10.1.4** oversee the planning and organisation of all events conducted by the TCAA.
- 10.1.5** Investigate and provide guidance to the class on areas of potential growth, Nationally or Internationally.

### **10.2 The Secretary shall:**

- 10.2.1** be appointed to keep correct minutes and records of all TCAA meetings, together with the TCAA Register and Class Register and shall be responsible for communicating the decisions of the TCAA to all members, and shall circulate minutes of all General Meetings to all members.
- 10.2.2** attend to correspondence, issue notices of meetings, keep records and a true record of all minutes of all meetings in books provided for the purpose together with a record of the names of persons present at committee meetings..
- 10.2.3** generally perform duties as directed by the Committee from time to time.

### **10.3 The Treasurer shall:**

- 10.3.1** receive all monies payable to the Association and give receipts for same. All monies so received shall be paid into the banking account of the Association.
- 10.3.2** present at each General Meeting a balance of the finances of the Association.
- 10.3.3** keep proper books of account of all monies received and disbursed.

### **10.4 The Technical Officer shall:**

- 10.4.1** Keep records on the boat numbers and measurements in Australia.
- 10.4.2** Coordinate the annual class rules review by liaising with Australian High Performance Catamarans.
- 10.4.3** Provide guidance to elected measurers for State and National events.
- 10.4.4** Ensure compliance of Class rules and provide guidance to members relating to the interpretation of the rules.
- 10.4.5** Generally perform duties as directed by the Committee from time to time.

### **10.5 The Documentation Officer shall:**

- 10.5.1.** Ensure the Class Rules and National Constitution is current in accordance with any changes approved.
- 10.5.2.** Manage a central repository for all current and past class documentation.
- 10.5.3.** Provide copies of current documentation on request to appropriate parties.
- 10.5.4.** Provide guidance and support to event organisers to ensure compliance with Appendices 1, 2 and 3.
- 10.5.5.** Oversee the quarterly distribution of relevant information to members who have nominated limited access to electronic publications.

### **10.6 The Marketing Officer shall:**

- 10.6.1.** Coordinate any sponsorship relating to the TCAA and associated events.
- 10.6.2.** Ensure the National Website is up to date and informative.
- 10.6.3.** Ensure that results for National Championship are published daily.
- 10.6.4.** Coordinate and ensure reports are published in the print and electronic media for all major events.
- 10.6.5.** **The**

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**10.6.6.** *Coordinate with Australia High Performance Catamarans to promote the class Nationally and Internationally.*

**10.7** *The TCAA shall cause minutes to be of:*

**10.7.1.** *All appointments of officers; and*

**10.7.2.** *Proceedings at all meetings*

**10.8** *Such minutes shall, subject to the approval of the meeting, be signed by the Chairperson of the meeting at the time the meeting was held or by the Chairperson of the succeeding meeting.*

## **11. FINANCE**

**11.1** *All monies of the Association shall be paid into the account of the Association at such bank as the Committee may from time to time direct.*

**11.2** *Monies shall be drawn from the Association's account by cheques signed by two signatories authorized by the Committee. Signatories shall include two officers of the Committee, one of whom shall be the, Secretary or Treasurer and one of four other person elected by the Committee.*

**11.3** *The books of account shall be kept in such place(s) as the Committee thinks fit and shall, subject to any instructions that may be imposed by the Committee from time to time in respect of the time and manner of inspection, be reasonably available on request by any member of the TCAA for inspection.*

**11.4** *A financial statement shall be presented to the TCAA at every General Meeting. The statement to be presented to the Annual General Meeting shall include Profit and Loss Account, Balance Sheet and a copy of the Statement shall be forwarded, not less than 21 days before the day of the meeting, to all persons entitled to receive notices of general meetings of the TCAA .*

## **12. NOTICES**

**12.1** *All members are responsible to notify the Secretary of a change of address.*

**12.2** *All notices shall be deemed to have been duly given if posted to the registered address.*

## **13. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

**13.1** *This Constitution may be amended at a General Meeting of the TCAA, provided that notice of the proposed amendment is included in the notice calling the said General Meeting.*

**13.2** *No amendment to this Constitution unless otherwise specified in this Constitution inclusive of the By-laws, shall be of any affect whatever unless passed by 2/3rds majority of financial members present at the meeting referred to in Section 6.*



## **14. RACING BY-LAWS**

### **14.1 National Titles**

**14.1.1** *The TCAA shall conduct National Titles on an annual basis for Taipan 4.9 Cat and Sloop Rigged, and 5.7 Catamarans.*

**14.1.2** *A National Title shall deem to exist when a minimum of 3 boats shall compete for any class.*

**14.1.3** *The conducting of the National Titles will be the responsibility of the TCAA and a nominated sub-committee.*

**14.1.4** *To be eligible to compete at International, National or State Taipan championships, each registered Taipan Catamaran must be crewed by a member of the TCAA.*

### **14.2 Location of National Titles**

**14.2.1** *Australian National Titles are to be held annually in the following rotation system, VIC., SA., QLD., NSW., subject to the availability of a suitable venue and willingness of members to conduct the event*

**14.2.2** *The TCAA shall notify all members of the venue of the next Australian Titles at the Annual General Meeting of the proceeding Titles.*

### **14.3 Notice of Regatta**

**14.3.1** *The Notice of Regatta will be in accordance with the following wording in Appendix 1. Adjustments may be made to comply with local requirements and State Yachting Association Rules.*

### **14.4 Championship Rules**

**14.4.1** *The National Championships will be conducted in accordance with the Championship Rules of the Taipan Class, see Appendix 3. Adjustments may be made to comply with State Yachting Association regulations or ISAF Rules.*

### **14.5 Sailing Instructions**

**14.5.1** *The Sailing Instructions will be in accordance with the following wording in Appendix 2. Adjustments may be made to comply with local requirements and State Yachting Association regulations.*

## **15. WINDING UP OF THE ASSOCIATION**

**15.1** *If at any time membership falls to nil (0) persons, the Association shall be disbanded and the assets of the Association shall be disposed of at a reasonable market value. The proceeds of the disposal shall be given to the A.Y.F. or a charity selected by the remaining members. At no time will any member be entitled to receive a distribution of the assets of the Association*



## APPENDIX 2 – SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

**TAIPAN AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**  
**CONDUCTED BY (CLUB)**  
**(YEAR)**  
**Sailing Instructions**

### **1 Rules**

- 1.1** *The regatta will be governed by*
- (a) *The ISAF Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) 2001-2004, except as changed by these sailing instructions;*
  - (b) *The prescriptions of the Australian Yachting Federation (AYF);*
  - (c) *The Championship Rules of the TCAA and Taipan Class Rules;*
  - (d) *These Sailing Instructions (S.I.), Including changes made in compliance with instructions 3 and 4.*
- 1.2** *Entrants in the regatta shall comply with the ISAF Eligibility Rules as provided in Appendix 2.*
- 1.3** *Boats that display advertising shall comply with Category C in accordance with RRS Appendix 1, 20.3.1.*

### **2 Notices to Competitors**

### **3 Changes to Sailing Instructions**

*Any change to the Sailing Instructions will be posted not less than 2 hours prior to the start of the first race on the day it will take effect except that any change to the Schedule of races shall be posted prior to 2000hrs on the day before it will take effect.*

### **4 Signals Made Ashore**

### **5 Format**

### **6 Schedule of Races**

### **7 Class Flags**

### **8 Racing Areas**

### **9 The Courses**

*The Course will be the Taipan Championship Course as detailed in the Championship Rules.*

### **10 Marks**

### **11 The Start**

### **12 Change of Position of the Next Mark**

*A change of the position of the next mark will be signaled before the leading boat has begun the leg, although the new mark (SI 10) may not then be in position. Any mark to be rounded after rounding the new mark may be relocated without further signaling to maintain the original course configuration, and such marks will be original course marks. When in a subsequent change of the new mark is replaced, it will be replaced with an original mark.*

### **13 The Finish**

*The finish line will be between a staff displaying a “ “ on the Race Committee Vessel and the Finishing Mark.*

### **14 Penalty System**

### **15 Protests**

### **16 Safety Regulations**

*Competitors attention is drawn to fundamental RRS 1 and 4. Competitors shall make their own decision to start or proceed in a race, taking into consideration the prevailing conditions at the time.*

## **APPENDIX 3 – CHAMPIONSHIP RULES**

### **Taipan Catamaran Association of Australia Championship Rules**

#### **1.0 Responsibility for Venue and Organisation**

- 1.1** *A copy of these rules will be supplied to the Host Club who must in turn assure the Taipan Catamaran Association of Australia (herein after referred to as "the TCAA") that they can comply with these rules.*
- 1.2** *Participation by sponsors shall be as prescribed by the ISAF. Naming of the event shall be approved by the TCAA.*

#### **2.0 Appointment of a Protest Committee and their terms of reference.**

- 2.1** *A Protest Committee shall be appointed as provided under the ISAF Racing Rules Appendix Q.*
- 2.2** *The Protest Committee shall include at least one person with experience in a Catamaran Class.*
- 2.3** *The Protest Committee shall be approved by the TCAA.*

#### **3.0 Eligibility and Entries**

- 3.1** *The skipper or crew of each yacht shall be a member of the TCAA*
- 3.2** *After the first race of the series, helmsperson or crew substitutes shall be allowed in case of sickness, accident or special circumstances and only with written permission of the Race Committee.*

#### **4.0 Measurement**

- 4.1** *The host club shall provide facilities for the complete measurement of boats.*
- 4.2** *A Chief Measurer shall be appointed and subject to approval by the TCAA.*
- 4.3** *A boat may not be allowed to race unless a valid measurement certificate (acceptable to the measurer), issued by a State Association is presented or otherwise confirmed.*
- 4.4** *Minimum check measurements selected from Class Rules shall be determined by the Chief Measurer. This may be used in place of a measurement certificate at the discretion of the Chief Measurer.*
- 4.5** *Other measurements may be required by the Chief Measurer.*
- 4.6** *All Sails to be used at an event shall measure in accordance with Class Rules. It is the Skipper's responsibility to ensure the sails conform with the class rules. Sail tags must be signed and affixed to all 4.9 sails manufactured after November 1998.*
- 4.7** *Each Boat may measure only one complete set of equipment, which includes one mainsail for cat-rigged boats and one mainsail and two headsails for sloop rigged boats. The Race Committee may allow replacement of any items damaged beyond repair. Such items must measure within the Class Rules to the satisfaction of the Chief Measurer.*
- 4.8** *The Chief Measurer must sign the nominated sails, Eg: Nats 200# AUS001 (Signature). Measurement will be provided at the Club to allow any competitor to check their conformity with the Class Rules.*
- 4.9** *Any repairs which could affect measurement shall be reported to and be under the control of the Race/Protest Committee.*
- 4.10** *No official measurement shall take place after Race 1 except as the result of protest, or due to replacement, alteration or repair of any item.*

- 4.11** No competitor may protest a question of measurement later than the normal protest time applying to Race 1 – except on the grounds that there has been subsequent alteration of the boat or its equipment.
- 4.12** Corrector weights where necessary must be affixed to the boat in a visible position.

## **5.0 Racing Rules and Conditions**

- 5.1** All Taipan Class Regattas shall be governed by the 2001/2004 ISAF Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) except as modified by the Taipan Class Rules, these Championship Rules and the Sailing Instructions for each event.
- 5.2** The Sailing Instructions must conform to the RRS and must be approved by the TCAA prior to the commencement of the event.
- 5.3** Races may be abandoned if the Race Committee believes that fair sailing has been compromised.
- 5.4** There shall be a minimum of two rescue boats on the water for any race to be started or continued.
- 5.5** No races shall be started if the average wind is less than 4 knots or more than 22 knots.

## **6.0 Notices to Competitors Made Ashore**

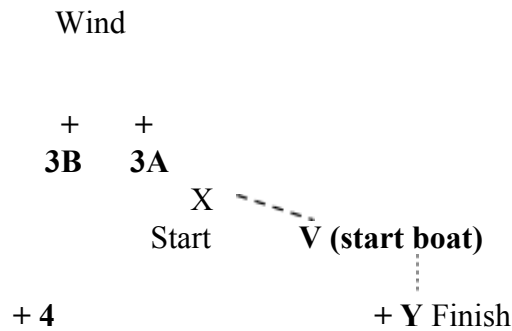
- 6.1** Notices to Competitors including any changes to the Schedule of Races or the Sailing Instructions shall be made on an official notice board located near the Host Club.
- 6.2** Signals made ashore will be displayed on a flagstaff located near the Host Club.
- 6.3** Any changes to the Sailing Instructions shall be posted before 09:00 hours on the day that they take effect except any change to the Schedule of Races shall be posted prior to 20:00 hours on the day before it will take effect.

## **7.0 The Course**

- 7.1** The Taipan Championship Course is shown in Appendix 3.
- 7.2** The Sequence of mark roundings for the Taipan Championship Course shall be: Start – 1 – 2 – 3A/3B – 1 – 2 – 3A/3B – 1 – 2 – 3A – 4(Finish)
- 7.3** The windward marks 1 and 2 shall be rounded to port.
- 7.4** The leeward marks 3A and 3B shall be set as a gate. All boats shall pass through the gate entering from the direction of Mark 2 before rounding Mark 3A to port or 3B to starboard.
- 7.5** The course length shall normally be set so the race will last approximately 40-60 minutes in the anticipated wind conditions. A race time outside this shall not be grounds for redress.
- 7.6** The starting line should be the length in metres approximately 2.5 times the number of boats starting. Eg: 50 Boats in largest division, Start line 125 metres (50\*2.5)
- 7.7** The leeward gate should be 6 boat lengths apart. For large fleets (50 or greater) this distance may be extended to 8 boat lengths if necessary.
- 7.8** A change of course after the start will be signaled before the leading boat has begun the leg, although the new mark may not yet be in position. Any mark to be rounded after rounding the new mark may be relocated to maintain the original configuration. When in a subsequent change of course a new mark is replaced, it will be replaced with the original mark.
- 7.9** A change of course will be signaled by the Race Committee boat, which will display code flag "C" to indicate the next mark has been shifted. Sound signals will be made to alert competitors.
- 7.10** Courses shall not be shortened but can be abandoned in accordance with RRS 32.

## **8.0 The Start/Finish**





- 1** Windward Mark
- 1 2** Reaching Mark
- 3A** Leeward Port Rounding Buoy
- 3B** Leeward Starboard Rounding Buoy
- V** Race Committee Vessel
- X** Start Buoy
- 4** ID Mark
- Y** Finish Mark

The Sequence of mark roundings for the Taipan Championship Course shall be:

**Start (X-V) – 1 – 2 – 3A/3B – 1 – 2 – 3A/3B – 1 – 2 – 4 – Finish (V-Y)**

The windward marks **1** and **2** shall be rounded to port.

The leeward marks **3A** and **3B** shall be set as a gate. All boats shall pass through the gate entering from the direction of mark **2** before rounding Mark **3A** to port or **3B** to starboard.

When finishing mark **4** must be taken to port.

The Finish Line shall be between The Start Boat and mark **Y**.

**15.0 Recommendations to Organising & Race Committees**

- 15.1** *The primary purpose of the Taipan Championship Rules is to simplify the Sailing Instructions for each event. In summary, the only points that should be required for the Sailing Instructions are:-*
- *The Venue, Host Club Name and National Authority organising the event.*
  - *The colour of the original course and altered course marks.*
  - *The Start/Finish mark.*
  - *The dates and schedule of races.*
  - *The social calendar.*
- 15.2** *The Windward-Leeward distance should vary between 0.6nm for light wind and 1-1.2nm in strong wind. This distance can also vary depending on fleet size.*
- 15.3** *When greater than 2 races per day are being sailed the target time for the race should be closer to 40 minutes than 60 minutes.*
- 15.4** *The wind strength shall be measured and recorded at regular intervals using a wind meter when the lower and upper limits may be in question as described in the Championship Rules. These readings should be made available to the Association if required.*
- 15.5** *In relation to Championship Rule 9.0 apart from the Flags/Signals used for racing, no other flags shall be flown from the Start/Finish Vessel without prior permission of the Association.*