



Oakcliff Shorthanded Sailing Safety Protocol

Version 2

This document details the safety requirements of boats racing in shorthanded sailing events hosted by Oakcliff Sailing namely, the Double Handed Melges 24 Distance Race.

1. All boats must:
 - a. Have Jacklines securely attached that:
 - i. Have a breaking strength of 2040kg
 - ii. enable a crewmember to move readily between the working areas on deck and the cockpit with a minimum of clipping and unclipping
 - iii. enable a crew member to clip on before coming on deck and unclip after going below
 - b. Have lifelines run at chest level aft of the mast
 - c. Short Handed Melges 24 Sail Package (Provided by the OA)
 - i. Main- Reduced area Dacron main with reef point(s)
 - ii. Jib- Class Jibs may be used and reefed using the roller furling
 - iii. Spinnakers- Melges 20 Spinnakers are to be used as provided by the OA
 - d. Have navigation lights installed
 - e. Have a VHF radio antenna installed for VHF radio and AIS transceivers
 - f. Have required electronics in section 4 installed in and in proper working order.
2. Emergency Equipment provided by the OA. Competitors must keep all on the boat in working order at all times:
 - a. Electronic Flare
 - b. Daytime visual distress signal
 - c. Whistle or other noise making device
 - d. Handheld waterproof VHF radio
 - e. Spare set of Navigation Lights
 - f. One flashlight for each person on board with spare batteries
 - g. One Chemical Fire Extinguisher must be carried on board
 - h. Man Overboard Unit or other Type IV Throwable PFD
 - i. Anchor
 - j. Manual Bilge Pump
 - k. 2 Buckets with lanyards attached
 - l. sponge
 - m. First Aid Kit
 - n. One cold water immersion suit per person on board
 - o. One life jacket with safety harness and tether for each person on board equipped with:

- i. Water activated light
 - ii. Automatically activating personal AIS signaling device
 - iii. Whistle attached
3. Safety Practices
 - a. Life jackets shall be worn at all times while in the cockpit or on deck with the exception of brief periods to add or remove clothing.
 - b. All persons on board shall be clipped in at all times while in the cockpit or on deck.
 - c. Sailors shall not go forward of the mast, except for brief periods to clear fouled lines or make minor repairs.
 - d. Competitors observed by Race HQ, the RC or PC, including through live streaming media devices and recordings of on-board streams, not complying with Part 3: Safety Practices of the Oakcliff Shorthanded Safety Protocol may be disqualified from the Race without a hearing. Boats disqualified under this instruction shall immediately stop racing and return to Oakcliff Base. This changes RRS 63.1 and A5.
4. Electronics and Communications
 - a. VHF radios capable of transmitting and receiving on US frequencies shall be monitored at all times during the race
 - b. All boats shall carry devices capable of transmitting and receiving AIS information at all times
 - i. At no time shall a boat stop transmission or disable their AIS Device
 - ii. If the crew becomes aware of an equipment malfunction causing an error in the transmission of their position, they shall immediately inform the RC and/or Race HQ
 - c. Navigation lights shall be on from dusk until dawn. At no time shall a competitor turn off or disable navigation lights when they are required to be on
 - d. Autopilots powered by an energy source other than manual force to steer to compass bearing may be used. This changes RRS 52.
 - e. Cell Phones active on US networks must be provided by each competitor with their numbers registered with the RC. They may be used for direct communications with the RC and PC for safety and protest matters. They may also be used for navigational and weather forecast purposes accessing information that is freely available to all competitors
 - f. Race tracking devices, either supplied by the OA or on competitor cell phones, shall be transmitting at all times between leaving the mooring field to returning to the mooring field.
5. Engines
 - a. Engines shall be carried on board while racing
 - b. Engines shall have their on board fuel tanks filled
6. Provisioning
 - a. Open flame stoves (including JetBoils) shall not be used
 - b. Chemical "MRE" style heaters may be used
 - c. A minimum of 5 Gallons of potable water shall be carried on each boat at the start of the race

7. Sailing Conditions- Great care should be given when choosing a weather window for shorthanded sailing based on equipment, skill level, and nearby resources.
 - a. The OA can determine a boat shall not race or add a safety officer at its discretion when it believes conditions are not suitable for those sailors.
 - b. Racing shall not be started when average wind speeds exceed 18 knots.
 - c. The RC with consultation of the OA may postpone, abandon, or shorten racing, or limit the sail plan allowable as provided in the sailing instructions at its discretion at any time before or during racing.

8. Support Vessel(s)
 - a. A support vessel staffed by the OA and/or RC shall remain in the vicinity of the fleet at all times while on the water.
 - b. The support vessel may make periodic VHF radio transmissions or phone calls to check on vessels for safety. This will not be considered outside assistance.

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