**ETCHELLS FLEET 4 BY-LAWS**

# ARTICLE I NAME

The name of this Association shall be the UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL ETCHELLS CLASS ASSOCIATION – FLEET 4 (Fleet 4).

## ARTICLE II

The Charters and By-Laws of the United States International Etchells Class Association and the International Etchells Class Association are hereby made a part of this Charter, together with all of their subsequent modifications.

ARTICLE III PURPOSE

The object of the Fleet 4 By-Laws is to set forth the organizational structure and the regulations by which the Fleet shall be governed. In deciding any question of meaning, the intended meaning shall govern rather than any inconsistent technical constriction which might be derived from the wording.

The Etchells is a One-Design Class. The rules, official plans and specifications are intended to insure that yachts of this Class are as nearly as possible the same as regards the shape and weight of the hull, including the keel, rudder, spars and sails and that the equipment is simple, functional and dependable. It is the sense of Fleet 4 that it shall be faithful to this intent. The Fleet shall consist of yachts which conform in all ways to the specifications set forth in the International Etchells Class Rules.

ARTICLE IV REGULAR FLEET MEMBERSHIP

Voting membership in Fleet 4 shall be limited to yacht owners. Each yacht shall be entitled to one vote. Co-owners may not divide their vote. Owners must be members in good standing of the Marblehead Racing Association, Fleet 4, The United States Etchells Class Association and the International Etchells Class Association, possess valid measurement certificates for their yachts and sails, and have paid all dues and assessments in order to vote on Fleet and Class matters, to be recognized on the starting line, scored in any and all races and receive awards.

ARTICLE V DUES

Dues shall be collected annually prior to MRA registration by the Treasurer. All skippers and co-skippers shall be liable for full Fleet 4 dues. A non-voting category of membership, Fleet Associate, is available for crew members and other interested parties who would like to receive Fleet mailings and invitations to social gatherings. Dues for voting and non-voting categories will be collected in amounts as established by majority vote at the Spring business meeting.

ARTICLE VI FLEET MEETINGS

There shall be a minimum of two Fleet business meetings each year. A Fall meeting shall be held during November. Officers for the ensuing year shall be elected at this meeting. A Spring meeting shall be held in April or May, prior to the first race of the season. Additional meetings may be called by the Executive Committee as the situation requires. Any matter pertaining to the conduct of the Fleet, the U. S. Etchells Class or the International Etchells Class may be discussed and, if required, voted on at the duly called business meeting.

ARTICLE VII VOTING

Forty percent of the registered owners shall constitute a quorum at any business meeting. Owners may vote by appointed proxy if the secretary has been notified in writing prior to the meeting. The election of Fleet officers shall be by a simple majority of those present at the meeting or represented by proxy who are entitled to vote. Any changes to the Fleet By-Laws must be presented to the membership in writing seven (7) days prior to formal discussion. Passage of the change requires the approval of two-thirds of those present at the meeting or represented by proxy who are entitled to vote. On all other matters, on which a vote is sought by the Fleet Captain, a simple majority shall prevail.

ARTICLE VIII FLEET OFFICERS

The affairs of the Fleet shall be managed by the following elected officers: Fleet Captain, First Officer, Growth Officer, Treasurer, and Secretary. Together they shall constitute the Executive Committee. The general responsibility of the officers shall be the enforcement of Class and Fleet 4 regulations and one-design plans, cooperation with other Etchells Fleets and recognized yachting bodies and dedication to the continuing improvement of skippers, crew and the Etchells Class.

The Fleet Captain and Treasurer are the only members of the Fleet with the authority to obligate the Fleet financially and to pay such bills as may be rendered. The Fleet shall be managed on a non-profit basis and no member of the Fleet, excepting the Fleet Captain and Treasurer, shall be responsible for the financial obligations of the Fleet.

The following duties are assigned to the Officers:

Fleet Captain: Responsible for the conduct of all Fleet matters including, but not limited to, chairing all business meetings, interpreting and enforcing Fleet regulations, relations with MRA, the U. S. Etchells Class Association and the International Etchells Class Association, and preparing an annual Fleet event schedule for approval.

First Officer: Responsible for assisting the Fleet Captain and acting in his stead. This individual shall perform such tasks as the Fleet Captain assigns.

Growth Officer: Responsible for furthering the growth of the fleet and undertaking other related assignments as delegated by the Fleet Captain.

Treasurer: Responsible for collecting Fleet, MRA, U. S. Etchells Class Association and International Etchells Class Association dues, paying all properly incurred Fleet bills, publishing annually the financial status of the Fleet and preparing the annual budget in conjunction with the Fleet Captain.

Secretary: Responsible for maintaining the membership rolls of the Fleet, providing Fleet data required by the MRA, U. S. Etchells Class Association and the International Etchells Class Association, giving notice of all business meetings, keeping proper minutes thereupon and notifying the Fleet membership in writing of officially pertinent matters.

Committees may be formed as required, but the following provides a basic nucleus:

Sail Measurement: Responsible for measurement of all new or substantially altered sails, for keeping a record of each yacht’s sail purchases and for updating each yacht’s individual sail measurement form as required.

Yacht Measurer: Appointed by the U. S. Etchells Class Association. Responsible for maintaining the Fleet keel and rudder templates.

Technical Measurement: Consists of members of the Executive Committee. Responsible for the initial evaluations of questions arising over the legality of new equipment and gadgets, as well as ensuring that all Fleet members have up-to-date Measurement Certificates.

Event Chairmen: Responsible to the Executive Committee for the organization of the assigned event.

Scoring: Responsible for the scoring of all Fleet events and coordinating with the Secretary on dissemination of scores to the Fleet.

Entertainment: Responsible for the organization and management of Fleet social functions.

Publicity: Responsible for ensuring proper media coverage for Fleet events.

Awards: In consultation with the Treasurer, responsible for ensuring that proper awards are given for Fleet events.

Nominating Committee: Appointed by the Fleet Captain 30 days prior to the Fall business meeting, consisting of three Fleet members, one of whom shall have served the previous year. Responsible for promulgating a slate of officers for the following year and securing their willingness to serve if elected.

ARTICLE IX MEASUREMENT CERTIFICATES

Each yacht shall possess a valid measurement certificate issued by the U. S. Etchells Class Association. Such certificates shall be valid until accident, challenge, or change in ownership. The Executive Committee shall maintain a copy of the Certificate of each yacht in the Fleet. The Yacht Measurer is available to verify that yachts comply with measurement rules as promulgated in the International Etchells Class Association Rules. Fleet members are urged to consider the intent of Class and Fleet rules and consult with the Technical Measurement Committee prior to making any significant alteration to their yachts.

ARTICLE X SAIL MEASUREMENT CERTIFICATES

All new and substantially altered sails must be measured by the Fleet Sail Measurer prior to use. He will mark the sail with the Fleet stamp, date and his initials. He will update each yacht’s Sail Measurement Certificate, noting each new sail. A record of each yacht’s measured sail inventory will be maintained in a master file by the measurer.

ARTICLE XI RACING RULES

The International Yacht Racing Rules, as adopted by the United States Sailing Association and as modified by the Marblehead Racing Association, shall govern the races of Fleet 4. In all series of races allowing a throwout, unless otherwise specified, a disqualification may be used as a throwout. From time to time, the Fleet may adopt a limited penalty rule for a specific series in order to evaluate its use. Such special rules will be voted at scheduled business meetings and all Fleet members will be notified in writing.

ARTICLE XII HAULOUTS

As long as dry sailing is available to the members of the three yacht clubs comprising the Marblehead Racing Association, as well as non-members, specific haulout restrictions will not be in effect.

ARTICLE XIII GUEST SKIPPERS

Persons not regular members of Fleet 4 shall be permitted to skipper a registered Etchells no more than three (3) race days during the Fleet Championship season. Any person wishing to skipper more than three (3) race days shall be required to join the Fleet as an owner and shall comply with Article XIV below.

ARTICLE XIV CHARTERS

Persons who race as the skipper of record of any yacht, and who are not owners, may do so by chartering a yacht for one or more series, provided that such charter conforms to the Rules of the Fleet and the Marblehead Racing Association. The Executive Committee must be notified prior to the commencement of a charter. A bona fide charterer shall be liable for the same Fleet dues as any owner.

ARTICLE XV PERMANENT TROPHIES

A number of permanent trophies have been donated to the Fleet for specific events or championships. They shall remain the possession of Fleet 4, but may be kept by the recipient until a new winner has been determined.

ARTICLE XVI SPECIAL FLEET MEMBERSHIP

A special category of membership shall be available for boats which are not privately owner (e.g., owned by colleges, foundations, etc.). The provisions of Article IV and Article XIII shall not apply to this Special Membership. Dues shall be collected in amounts as established by majority vote at the Spring business meeting. Special Membership shall carry no voting privileges.

**ADOPTED BY FLEET 4: April 12, 1995**