

Rules for the Starling Match Racing National Championship

October 2022

1. The event shall be known as “The [Sponsor] Starling Match Racing National Championship”.
2. All matters related to the event shall be administered by the Starling Class Association (SCA).
3. The event shall comply with the Yachting New Zealand regulations relating to National Championships.
4. The event shall be an inter-regional event with the regions and their boundaries set annually by the SCA. There shall be 12 regions with one being an overseas region if the SCA so requests. The New Zealand regions and their selection processes shall cover the entire country.
5. Each region shall have a person, agreed with SCA, who acts as the nominator for that region’s representative (the nominator).
6. The names and contact details of the nominators shall be included in the Notice of Race (NOR) for the championship.
7. Each region may organise their own selection process subject to Appendix A below. The selection process shall be approved by the nominator.
8. The SCA shall appoint the Organising Authority for the championship.
9. The SCA shall approve the NOR and Sailing Instructions (SIs) prior to their publication.
10. Subject to the weather conditions the event shall consist of one or more round robins between all representatives followed by a finals series. The Organising Authority may make any adjustments it considers appropriate in the circumstances at the time.
11. If a region fails to make a nomination by the required closing date as stated in the NOR, that region’s right to a place in the championship will be deemed to have expired for that year.
12. If there is a vacancy as a result of the failure to nominate a representative the SCA may in conjunction with the Organising Authority select or appoint a wildcard entry in order to maintain the number of entries at 12. The SCA may grant wildcard entry to a sailor that has participated in another region’s selection process, and such participation shall not be a reason to exclude a sailor under Appendix A.2.
13. The Organising Authority shall nominate a sailor or sailors, who, should a representative not attend the event or be taken ill and be unable to compete for the remainder of a day or the rest of the event, or retire from the event permanently, may take up the vacancy (emergency reserves).
14. A replacement sailor who takes up such a vacancy with the expectation of competing for the rest of the event shall have the same status as a wildcard entry. However, any points scored by the original competitor they are replacing shall not be awarded

to the replacement. Neither shall they be awarded to the opponent of the original sailor.

15. If a sailor becomes temporarily unable to sail and a replacement sailor sails some of their races, regardless of the outcome of the match the points shall be awarded to the opponent as in a sail over. This changes Rules C8.5 and C10.2 which shall be amended in the NOR and SIs. Points may be adjusted retrospectively if the status of the original sailor changes.
16. None of the provisions of 14 and 15 shall cause the postponement of the races concerned and if the races cannot be started on time Rule C8.5 shall apply.

Appendix A - Selection Process

- A1. Each region is responsible for organising their own selection process. The criteria shall be publicised at least 3 months prior to any selection so that all sailors who wish to do so may make themselves eligible for selection. In the absence of any new criteria, the criteria shall be taken as that prevailing in the previous year.
- A2. Any sailor who has participated in a set of trials, organised specifically to select a representative, is ineligible to be selected by another region. This does not prevent that sailor from participating in any selection event. If a sailor does not wish to be considered for selection as a result of a selection event, in order that they can compete in another region's selection event, they shall so declare on their entry form or make a written declaration to that event's Organising Authority. See also section 12 above.
- A3. As a result of A2, if a sailor participates in more than one selection process and they are found to have violated Rule 2 in such a way that influences the outcome of a selection process, other than by fair play and sportsmanship, they may be excluded from representing any region, following a hearing by SCA.
- A4. The Notice of Race of a region's selection process shall not exclude a sailor who has participated in another region's selection process from participating but may state that such a sailor will be ineligible for selection for their region.
- A5. The Notice of Race of a region's selection process may limit entry to a regional trial to 12 sailors. Entrants will be selected by the regional nominator based on performance in Starling class competitions (whether fleet racing or match racing). Sailors not wishing to be selected for the for the National Championship event or not eligible to be selected for the National Championship event (e.g. because they want to trial in another region) may apply for entry to a trial. However, if entry to a regional trial is restricted, then their application will be lower priority than competitors seeking selection and eligible for selection.

Note: A2 and A3 amount to the fact that a sailor cannot "shop around" and find a region to represent. On the other hand, they should not be prevented from sailing in a selection event if they wish. Once a sailor has sailed in one trial, they become ineligible for selection in another, unless they declared their ineligibility for the first in writing and before it started, in order to preserve their eligibility for the second.

An example of this might be that a sailor is eligible to sail for Waikato but wants to sail for Auckland. Auckland plans to have a trial but Waikato wants to select the best sailor over three regattas. Because the three regattas are not specifically organised to select a representative the sailor can compete in the Waikato regattas but remain eligible to be selected in Auckland.

On the other hand, if both Auckland and Waikato organise trials and the sailor wishes to sail in both they need to declare on the entry form of the Waikato trials that they do not wish to be considered for selection for Waikato.