

CUP BOAT ☞ One-design Class Rules and DEED OF GIFT

Hallowed History of the Cup Boat Class

The first Cup Boat Regatta was held in John and Joan Poimiroo's swimming pool (also known as The Straits of El Dorado) on June 27, 1999. Participating were about 20 boats, constructed by members of Banshee Fleet #1, Sacramento. No awards were given, though everyone had a good time. At the end of the evening, an honored tradition of Cup Boat racing was begun as all competing boats were thrown into a trash can. No Cup Boat has ever been displayed in an airport lobby, yacht club bar or trophy case and none ever will be.

Rule #1 – Construction of the Boat

- A. The only materials that can be used to build a Cup Boat are:
 - i. One styrofoam coffee cup
 - ii. Plastic drinking straws
 - iii. One plastic, paper or cardboard sail not to exceed 4" x 8"
 - iv. Plastic shipping tape (clear – as much as you like – tape cannot be used to increase sail area)
 - v. Ballast (pennies and/or water... as many/much as you like)
 - vi. The boat may be decorated with ink markers of any color
 - vii. A clearly legible sail number must appear on the Cup Boat's sail
 - viii. The Cup Boat symbol (the outline of a styrofoam coffee cup) must appear on the sail.
- B. Cup Boats must be constructed on race day, from materials supplied by the Race Committee. Any boat made in advance or from materials other than those supplied by the Race Committee is ineligible to compete in a Cup Boat race.
- C. A competitor may enter only one boat, but may construct more than one boat and test them prior to first shape. The race committee reserves the right to restrict each competitor to one sail, in order that all who wish to race may do so.
- D. Scissors, a hole punch and a knife are provided to assist in manufacturing your Cup Boat. The cup, sail and mast may be cut and modified into any design and used any way desired. Plastic tape may be used on the boat in any way desired.
- E. Prior to racing all Cup Boats shall be placed on a display table to be judged in order to satisfy Rules #7 c i. ii. iii..

Rule # 2 – Number of Races

A Cup Boat Regatta includes five races, three of which must be finished without any physical aid of a skipper. One of the races shall count as a throw-out. As this is one-design racing, finish position shall provide the points to each finishing boat. In the event a starting boat cannot finish, it shall receive the last place points plus one.

Rule #3 -- Non-interference

- A. When sailing, a Cup Boat may be righted if it capsizes. It may also be emptied of water, but it cannot be propelled forward by throwing, pushing, wave action or

- individual application of artificial air (fans) other than artificial air inherent to the Straits of El Dorado. A Cup Boat's direction cannot be purposefully changed by touching the boat. The Straits of El Dorado, the traditional sailing venue for the Cup Boat Regatta, has a peculiar wind condition that is shop-fan-aided; the addition of shop fans that benefit all competitors is acceptable within Rule #3 A.
- B. In races 3 and 4, the boat's motion can be propelled by blowing, fanning or wave action, if the race committee authorizes before the start. In the event no wind (breeze) exists in races 1, 2 or 5, the Race Committee can allow blowing or fanning as long as it is announced prior to the one-minute preparatory whistle in advance of the start.

Rule #4 -- Race Committee

- A. The Race Committee shall be comprised of all people attending a Cup Boat regatta who are not wearing swim suits and who do not captaining a boat in the regatta. This includes people who know nothing about sailing and perhaps have never set foot in a sailboat before.
- B. The Race Committee chairperson shall be selected from the general membership of the Race Committee by general acclamation. Every effort should be taken by the Race Committee to select a person of sterling character and unquestioned honesty. Of course, since such people are not usually found attending Cup Boat Regattas, any person who appears to be otherwise coherent will do. The chairperson shall not be allowed to protest his/her election as chairperson, but shall be allowed to request an adult beverage.
- C. Prior to the first race, the Race Committee shall look at each boat and award Special awards as defined in Rule #7 C i. ii. and iii.
- D. The Race Committee, while judging Special Awards shall also determine if any boat violates any part of Rule #1. If so, that skipper shall be congratulated for his/her audacity and asked to correct the error before racing commences. A boat that does not comply with Rule #1 shall not be allowed to race.

Rule #5 – Races

- A. First boat to travel the length or width of the pool (predetermined prior to race, depending on wind direction) is the winner. All boats must move on their own power, using natural wind only (this includes artificial air inherent to the Straits of El Dorado). No blowing, fanning, wave action or pushing by a competitor or spectator are allowed. Boats are placed two feet from the edge of the pool and released at the start. No skipper shall be in the pool during these races. Skippers may not advance or interfere with any boat's progress, once the race has begun. Violation of this rule is cause for disqualification. The purpose of this race is to see which boat is fastest due to its design.

Rule #6 – Protests

- A. Protests are encouraged, as long as they are absurd, impassioned, humorous, not personal and brief.

- B. At the end of each race and prior to the beginning of the next race or final awards ceremonies, the Race Committee chairperson shall ask if there is any skipper who protests the conduct of any other boat in the preceding race. If there is, all witnesses will say collectively, "Ah come on now, we don't have all night," then they shall turn to the protested boat and say collectively, "Shame, Shame, Shame."
- C. The protesting boat shall be given one minute by the Race Committee to describe his or her protest. In the event that the protest lasts more than a minute, the protesting boat shall immediately lose the protest.
- D. After the protest has been heard, the protested boat's skipper shall defend him or herself and have one minute to do so. Again, should the protested boat take more than one minute, he or she shall immediately lose the protest.
- E. Any interference by anyone during the protest shall result in the interfering person being applied the penalty as if he or she lost the protest.
- F. After both parties have made their case, the race committee shall ask who disagrees with the protesting boat and who disagrees with the protested boat. Witnesses shall be as derisive as possible and the race committee shall select the boat that is criticized most for the penalty.
- G. If the protested boat loses the protest, it receives a five second delayed start in the next race. If the protesting boat loses, it starts last in the next race. In the event the protest occurs on the last race, the losing boat forfeits the race and any position that may result from it.

Rule #7 – Awards

- A. A styrofoam cup is awarded for first place in each race (this may not seem much, but remember, this is the equivalent of a brand new boat!).
- B. The sailor with the most first place finishes wins a cheap ceramic coffee cup (most likely decorated with tawdry advertising). There shall never be classy or valuable gifts for a Cup Boat regatta. Tacky, useless and inexpensive awards are most fitting the Cup Boat class.
- C. Special awards:
 - i. Most Original Design Award
 - ii. Most Beautiful Design Award
 - iii. It's Amazing it Didn't Sink Immediately Out of Sight Award (this award may be awarded to any boat, including a boat that sinks immediately out of sight)

DEED OF GIFT

If you read this far, you are in serious need of rest and recuperation. There is no DEED OF GIFT in Cup Boat racing. Get a life.