December 11, 2023

Shields Fleet #10 - Race Committee
c/o Beverly Yacht Club
99 Water Street
Marion, Massachusetts, 02738

To: Beverly Yacht Club Race Committee

Per the Racing Rules of Sailing *Rule 87 Change to Class Rules* of and Shields Class Rules *§III-4.0 Basic Rules Governing Deviations from the Specifications* approval is granted for Shields Fleet #10, Marion, Massachusetts for the 2024 season, fleet races only, to deviate or experiment with the following:

1. **Loose footed mainsail**
    a. The Shields mainsail may be used loose footed (leaving the foot bolt-rope out of the boom groove) in local fleet races.
    b. Use of a clew strap is also allowed.

2. **Small spinnaker**
    a. The small spinnaker shall have dimension less than the Class Rules specified minimums.
    b. The use or acquisition of the small spinnaker shall not be required of any registered yacht and shall remain strictly optional.
    c. The acquisition or use of a small spinnaker shall not change or be counted as to sail "credits".

d. The requirements for qualification of a registered yacht, skipper, and sails is unchanged in that the normal spinnaker must be raced in 10 races for it to be qualified for the National regatta.
e. The specifications for the small spinnaker shall be open to experimentation. The small spinnaker is not required to include sail numbers.

3. **Carbon fiber spinnaker pole**
    a. The specification for use of material aluminum can be ignored and carbon fiber can be used.
    b. The specification for diameter and tapering can be ignored.

Yachts experimenting with a loose-footed mainsail, small spinnaker or carbon fiber spinnaker pole shall be scored is if the yacht was in full compliance with Class Rules as to these items.

Skippers shall report to the Fleet Captain at the end of season as to the use and recommendations related to these experiments. This information shall be passed on to the Class Measurer and Technical Committee.

Sincerely Yours,

Kenneth Deyett

Kenneth Deyett, National Measurer