



THE PROTOCOL OF THE 36TH AMERICA'S CUP: KEY POINTS

Background:

The Protocol records the items of mutual consent under the America's Cup Deed of Gift agreed between the Defender, The Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron and the Challenger of Record Circolo Della Vela Sicilia and establishes the basis for a multi challenger event.

This document summarises the key points of the Protocol and outlines the baseline rules and structure of the 36th America's Cup.

1) THE AC75 CLASS:

- The boats will be a 75 foot, high performance monohull boats governed by the AC75 Class Rule
- The AC75 Class rule will be published 31st March 2018
- Initial concepts of the class will be released by the 30th of November 2017, which will provide further details.
- Included in the Protocol Appendix 1 is a list of objectives which the AC75 Class Rule will embody:
 - Suitable for head to head match racing and close competition
 - To permit technological development to spearhead the development of sailing and maintain the America's Cup as the world's premier sailing event
 - Relevance to the sport of sailing & connection to its community of sailors
 - For the yachts to be demanding to sail, rewarding top level skill for all sailors on the yacht
 - To provide competitive racing in light and stronger wind conditions
 - To provide safe position for a guest racer on board the yacht
 - To incorporate practical requirements for the launching, retrieval and transporting
 - To be sailed by a crew of approximately 10- 12 sailors

The Yacht Construction

- The requirement for a yacht to be constructed in the country of its yacht club is a fundamental principle of the Deed of Gift and this Protocol returns to the rule in previous America's Cup cycles requiring the lamination of the hulls of the race boats to be undertaken in the competitors own country.



- All other components including the decks, masts, appendages, fittings are free to be manufactured anywhere.
- Each competitor is limited to build two yachts.

Launch Dates

- The first boat is not allowed to be launched prior to the 31st March 2019
 - The second boat is not allowed to be launched before 1st February 2020
 - Each competitor is only permitted to sail one boat at a time with the exception being the Defender which is permitted to sail both boats simultaneously for the duration of The Challenger Selection Series.
 - The Competitors are not allowed to sail with each other except during official regattas or official practice racing.
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2) NATIONALITY:

- All sailing crew members who compete on the race boat must meet the nationality clause requirements which are:
- When racing, at least 20% or 3 sailors of the total crew (which ever is higher) must be true nationals. The remainder of the crew need to comply with the residency rules.
- True Nationals, i.e. a citizen of the country of the competing yacht club.
- Resident of the Country: The sailor must be physically present in the country of the yacht club for a minimum of 380 days in the 2 year period between the 1st September 2018 and 31st August 2020. Which equates to just over 6 months of each year.
- It still provides plenty of opportunities for internationals to sail for other teams, it just means they need to commit to living in the country of the yacht club their team represents,
- Note that the nationality rule only applies to the sailing crew on the race yacht during official racing, not designers or other team personnel.
- It also encourages countries to grow their own talent.



3) THE VENUE:

- It is intended that The Match venue and Challenger Selection Series be in Auckland, New Zealand in March 2021
 - The precise location of the America's Cup Match and the preceding Challenger Selection Series will be announced prior to the 30th August 2018.
 - If possible the announcement will be earlier dependant on the finalisation of host city arrangements.
 - The alternate venue, included in the Protocol, in the unlikely event that Auckland / New Zealand is unable to host the event, will be Italy.
 - The specific course area of the Challenger Selection Series and America's Cup Match will be announced by the 30th August 2018
 - The intention is to make the race course as spectator friendly as possible through land based, on water and technological viewing capabilities
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4) THE EVENTS:

- The precise dates of the Challenger Selection Series and America's Cup Match will also be announced prior by the 30th August 2018 at the latest.
- The Preliminary Regattas and the Challenger Selection Series will be organised by the Challenger of Record
- The America's Cup Match will be organised by the Defender
- While Commercial and Media rights will be vested with the relevant organiser, both entities will cooperate with regards to commercial issues such as sponsorship and broadcast rights for the 36th America's Cup as a whole.
- This format goes back to the traditions of the events with the Challengers working together to find the strongest team to race the defender in the America's Cup Match.
- The Defender will not compete in the Challenger Selection Series.



Preliminary Events

- Intended to be sailed the AC75 Class yachts.
- America's Cup World Series: - Two regattas in the second half of 2019
 - Three regattas in 2020
- America's Cup Christmas Race: 10th- 20th December 2020 to be raced at the venue of the Match with all participants racing including the Defender.

The Challenger Selection Series & America's Cup Match

- Challenger Selection Series: January / February 2021
 - America's Cup Match: March 2021
 - All teams must participate all preliminary events to qualify for the Challenger Selection Series and the America's Cup Match.
 - The results of all preliminary events count for seedings only for the Challenger Selection Series.
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5) THE CHALLENGERS

- There are important criteria for entry to the event for prospective challenging yacht clubs. They must meet the requirements of the Deed of Gift, have its annual regatta, been in existence for a minimum of five years, have a membership of at least 200 members, be financially supported by the majority of its membership, operate as a Yacht Club and be a member of the National Sailing Authority of their country.

Entries:

- Entries open 1st January 2018
- Entries close 30th June 2018
- Late entries are accepted up until 31st December 2018 (with an additional late entry fee)



Entry fees:

- 1 million USD at the moment of the acceptance of the challenge + 1 million USD to be paid no later than 30th of November 2018. The latter can be paid in four instalments;
 - Late entries: 1 million USD penalty;
 - Performance bond: 1 million USD
 - America's Cup World Series: 300,000 USD per each event;
 - AC Christmas Regatta: no entry fee will be due.
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6) RACE MANAGEMENT

- There will be an independent Regatta Director for both the Challenger Selection Series and the America's Cup Match running all racing including all preliminary regattas.
 - There will be an independent Measurement Committee to ensure AC36 Class rule measurement
 - The race Jury and Umpires will manage all on water disputes regarding the racing.
 - An Arbitration Panel (3 People) will oversee and deal with all Protocol disputes. The make up of the panel will be announced following their appointment.
 - We believe in full transparency of on water and off water disputes to maintain the integrity and sporting values of the event and management of them.
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7) RACE COURSE AND FORMAT

- The course for the Match and the preceding Challenger Selection Series will be a windward leeward configuration with an upwind start to ensure a conventional match race pre-start.
- The winner of the Match will be the first to win 7 races.
- The Challenger of Record is responsible for the format of the Challenger Selection Series which will consist of a tournament ladder board (seeded from the results of the Preliminary Regattas) with a repechage and the winner in each knockout series will be the first to win 5 races except for the final which will be the first to win 7 races.



- The Challenger of Record may alter the number of races in each phase depending upon the number of Challengers then eligible to race.

8) COST CONTAINMENT

- An ongoing objective has always been in containing costs for teams practically.
- This Protocol has taken cost containment into account as much as possible including:
 - Maximum two hulls for each competitor of which only one can be modified up to 25%
 - Incorporation of one- design and / or standard single manufacturer elements
 - Restrictions on materials and construction techniques
 - Prohibition of tank testing, wind tunnel testing and similar fluid dynamic testing.
 - Meteo ban on gathering weather information outside of a common program for all teams and existing public information that is readily available.

9) THE PRADA CUP

- Prada Group has acquired the rights to be the “Title and Naming Sponsor” of the Preliminary Regattas and of the Challenger Selection Series as well as the “Presenting Sponsor” for the 36th America’s Cup Match.
- The XXXVI America’s Cup presented by Prada
- The Exclusive naming rights for the Challenger Selection Series will have the Official Title: The PRADA CUP

* This paper is for convenience only and has no regulatory value.