
 North American Model Boat Association Official Rule Book – Update	Update #	2023-1
	Date	3/31/23

Enclosed you will find the latest Rule Book updates. To keep your Rule Book current and up to date, please make the page replacements listed below. If you feel that you have missed any updates please call the Executive Secretary to get an additional copy and/or for clarification of current revisions. Proposals

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Remove pages:	1 - 2 (<i>dated 6/30/19</i>)	Updates needed for below changes
Insert pages:	1 - 2 (<i>dated 3/31/23</i>)	
6 - Nationals		
Remove pages:	1 - 2 (<i>dated 2/6/22</i>)	Board of Directors passed proposal:
Insert pages:	1 - 2 (<i>dated 3/31/23</i>)	- Removal of rule re: single event payments now handled via portal (Rule C.1.a)
7 - Rule Changes		
Remove pages:	1 - 3 (<i>dated 6/30/18</i>)	Board of Directors passed proposal:
Insert pages:	1 - 3 (<i>dated 3/31/23</i>)	- Addition and modification of rules for how proposals are handled from the Rules Committee (Rule A.2)
8 - Safety		
Remove pages:	1 - 4 (<i>dated 6/5/21</i>)	Board of Directors passed proposals:
Insert pages:	1 - 4 (<i>dated 3/31/23</i>)	- Clarification of types of shoes to be worn (Rule A.5)
		- Reorganization of existing rules and addition of new rules around the retrieval of boats (orig Rules A.11 & B.6 - now Rules C.1-C.5)
9 - Insurance		
Remove pages:	1 - 2 (<i>dated 1/18/16</i>)	Board of Directors passed proposal:
Insert pages:	1 - 2 (<i>dated 3/31/23</i>)	- Rules around new Arrive & Drive program (Rule A.4)


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A. GENERAL

1. There will be a NAMBA Nationals held each calendar year. It will be a minimum of six-day to a maximum of eight-day meet and offer four rounds per class.
2. An additional NAMBA Electric Nationals can also be held each calendar year, where only electric classes are offered. When held it will be a minimum of three-day to maximum of four-day meet and offer four rounds per class.
 - a. This event will be separated from the NAMBA Nationals by 30 calendar days, unless both event CD's and a majority consensus of the Executive Board decide otherwise.
 - b. When a separate NAMBA Electric Nationals is held, any electric classes offered at the NAMBA Nationals that year will be considered as exhibition only and the winner not be recorded as a National Champion
3. Overall CD, Assistant CD, and all individual event CDs will meet the minimum requirements for a CD as set forth in Section 16 whenever possible. In addition, the District Director for the club or district holding the annual Nationals will certify that these persons are capable of performing the required duties.
4. To be classified as a Nationals a diversified selection of classes will be presented, which will adequately offer as many nationally approved classes that can be run during the event. Emphasis will be made on the classes which are popular in the area/district in which that Nationals is held.
5. Milling procedures will be advertised on the entry form and will be half mill, full mill, or both. One-quarter mill will not be allowed.
6. In case of any controversy involving the Nationals, the Contest Director or President will have the final authority in its disposition.
7. All events, etc. associated with the Nationals will meet all NAMBA requirements.
8. Vendors are not permitted to sell or advertise without the approval of the hosting club/district and payment of the appropriate fee.
9. There must be a minimum of five prepaid entries to make a class, if there are less the class can still be run at the discretion of the host club as exhibition only. In addition to be considered for a national championship there must be at least five boats that attempt to run in round 1 of the class, if less it will be an exhibition class.

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B. BIDS

1. Bids for the next annual Nationals should be received by the President no later than the start of the current year's Nationals.
2. Clubs/districts bidding for the annual Nationals who have never hosted a Nationals should receive preferential consideration.
3. The next NAMBA Nationals will be announced at the current awards banquet whenever possible.


C. FINANCES

1. General

- a. Any racer who does not provide adequate funds for payment of entries or fees will be held financially liable and not allowed to compete in any future NAMBA event, district or national, until such debt is paid. This includes bank fees, interest, and any applicable late charges.

2. Loan

- a. NAMBA will provide an interest free loan to the hosting club/district of \$3,000 for use in preparing for the NAMBA Nationals.
- b. Every hosting club/district that accepts the Nationals loan will pay one half back to the NAMBA office prior to the start of the event.
- c. Every hosting club/district that accepts the Nationals loan will pay the balance back to the NAMBA office within 30 days of the end of the event.
- d. If the hosting club/district is unable to repay the loan, they must provide a comprehensive expense report to the NAMBA office within 90 days of the end of the Nationals, to show why they are unable to do so.

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A. RULE MODIFICATIONS

1. Non-Racing Rules and Safety Regulations

- a. May be amended by the Board of Directors as deemed necessary to provide for the smooth operation of NAMBA and for the safety of its members as well as compliance with current insurance guidelines.
- b. This action by the Board of Directors can be accomplished by a vote by phone, mail, or email, and may occur at any time during the year.
- c. All board members must be notified of any proposed changes prior to a vote, and must be given ample opportunity to cast their vote. Proposals will be approved by a simple majority of the Board.
- d. Should the Board decide that the change under contemplation has a significant effect on the day to day boating of the members, they may elect to place the item before the membership for a general vote.

2. Racing Rule Additions, Deletions, or Changes

- a. The NAMBA General Membership shall vote by ballot on proposals regarding Racing, Racing related issues, or Competition topics.
- b. For proposed rule changes from an individual member:
 - i) Proposed rule changes must be submitted to the District Director in the district in which the submitting member resides.
 - ii) Upon receipt of said proposal, the District Director will put the matter to a vote within his district. This vote can occur at any time during the year as deemed appropriate by the Director but should be handled in a timely manner. The exact method of said vote can be handled in whatever manner is normally followed for voting within that particular district.
 - iii) Upon successful passage of the proposal within the district, the district director will forward the proposal to the NAMBA office along with a statement by the District Director that the proposal has passed within his district and that the district desires to have the proposal sent to the general membership for voting.

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- c. For proposed rule changes from the Rules Committee:
 - i) Upon successful passage of the proposal within the Rules Committee, the proposal will be forwarded directly to the NAMBA office without having to be submitted through a District as a rule from an individual member would.
 - ii) The proposed rule change will be processed exactly as a proposal from a District, following all the additional reviews and steps noted below.
- d. Proposals may be submitted to the NAMBA office at any time during the year as long as the steps noted in Rule A.2.b or A.2.c above have been adhered to.
- e. After receipt of a proposal by the NAMBA office, it will be sent to the NAMBA Board of Directors. The Board will review the proposal to insure proper wording and consistency with other already existing rules.
- f. Once the NAMBA Board of Directors has reviewed and approved the proposal, the Executive Secretary will send a copy of that proposal to the appropriate Class Chairman/Chairmen for further review.
 - i) The Class Chairman/Chairmen will review the proposal and determine if it is proper in scope as to being verified and enforced capably.
 - ii) Once the Class Chairman/Chairmen has reviewed the proposal he/they will file a report to the Executive Secretary.
 - (a) If the report supports the rule, the Executive Secretary will send it to the membership for a vote via process described in rule A.2.h below.
 - (b) If the report finds that the proposal cannot be properly verified or enforced, the original proposal along with the report will be sent to the NAMBA Board of Directors for further review. The rule may be then returned to the District proposing the rule change and that District will have the opportunity to revise the proposal and make it workable.
- g. After the Board of Directors and Class Chariman/Chairmen have reviewed the proposal the NAMBA office will send out the proposal to the membership for voting. The proposal will normally be sent out with the next regular mailing of the newsletter, but special mailings may be utilized if deemed necessary. In addition, the proposals and ballots may be made available to the membership by publication on the NAMBA web page.

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- h. Members will be given adequate time to receive the ballot, consider the propositions, and cast their votes. Normally a period of 45 days from the date mailed would be considered ample time for this to take place.
- i. Only members in good standing at the time of the vote will be permitted to vote. All classifications of members will be permitted to vote, including adult members, family members, and junior members.
- j. Members will be permitted to return their votes to the NAMBA office by mail, fax, or email as long as it is able to be adequately determined that the vote is coming from a member in good standing and as long as the vote is received by the voting deadline.
- k. The NAMBA office will receive and compile the votes. The NAMBA office may designate another entity to receive and compile the votes should this be deemed necessary.


B. MEMBER NOTIFICATIONS

- 1. The NAMBA office will inform the membership of the result of the vote by publication in the next newsletter and by publication on the NAMBA web page.
- 2. Updated rules will be posted on the NAMBA web page and updated pages of the rule book will be sent as defined in Section 5 - rule A.2.

C. EFFECTIVE DATES

- 1. Proposals which have been approved will take effect immediately after they are published by NAMBA on the web page or in the Propwash, unless it is deemed by the Board of Directors that such immediate action will have an unfair effect on the members. In such cases, ample time will be given before implementation for the members to comply with the new requirements.
- 2. New classes will be eligible for inclusion in district and national events as soon as they have been approved by the membership and published by NAMBA. All categories of NAMBA records may be set in these new classes as soon as the rules have officially been implemented.

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A. GENERAL SAFETY REGULATIONS

1. NAMBA members must have their NAMBA numbers on their boats and their backs for easy identification. Minimum number sizes will be 1-1/2" on the back and 1" on the boat, except where noted in specific class rules. R/C Combat ships do not require numbers on boats or members.
2. Every contestant entering NAMBA competition must show proper evidence of current NAMBA membership.
3. Every driver must have a pit person at all times, whether in practice or during a contest, who is also a NAMBA member and who is aware of all course conditions and NAMBA regulations. R/C Combat ships do not require a pit person or separate observer.
4. Only NAMBA members are allowed in the hot pit area. No persons other than those running a boat, those assisting with the running of a boat, or contest officials will be permitted in the pit area. For R/C Combat the pit is defined as the shoreline of the pond/lake. Other specific crowd control requirements are contained in the specific R/C Combat rules listed below.
5. All persons in the hot pit area, those driving a boat, or those launching or retrieving a boat, must at all times wear shoes which cover the entire foot with no voids. Tennis shoes and shoes or boots that rise to cover the ankle or lower leg are preferred. Footwear such as clogs or crocs that have holes allowing the footwear to breathe or have a strap across the back to hold them on which don't cover the entire back of the foot are not acceptable. Water socks, water shoes, or shoes with mesh material are not allowed.
6. At NAMBA events, no smoking will be allowed in the drivers stand area or hot pit area. The hot pit area is defined as the area where boats are started and launched.
7. At NAMBA events, the host club will provide a fire extinguisher in the hot pit area. The hot pit area is defined as the area where boats are started and launched. It is the Contest Director's responsibility to ensure that the fire extinguisher is in place, readily available, and meets the following requirements. The fire extinguisher must be at a minimum BC rated and legally operational.
8. No alcoholic beverage consumption or illegal drug use is permitted while a NAMBA member is operating or assisting in the operation of a model boat, whether in practice or during a contest. Use of these substances by contest officials is also strictly prohibited.

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9. Reasonable and proper provisions will be made for crowd control and for the safety of other members and spectators. Model boats will not be operated when anyone is in the water, except for those members who may be in the launch area in the hot pit area to launch or retrieve a boat. R/C Combat members may be in the water under certain circumstances. See specific rules regarding this in the specific R/C Combat rules listed below.
 - a. Anyone operating a radio controlled model boat in an area designated for swimming (such as a swimming pool, wading pool, and/or public beach) when people and/or animals are in the water (except as noted above) will forfeit NAMBA membership and will be barred from rejoining NAMBA for a period of 60 months.
10. No buoys will be set on the course closer than 50 feet to any shoreline. This may be reduced to 30 feet when the adjacent shoreline is such that a boat cannot travel more than its own length out of the water. This rule does not apply to R/C Combat.
11. Canopies and other sunshine prevention devices must be securely held in place. Depending upon local requirements, the members may use stakes, rope tie downs, weights, or other means to reduce the chance that canopies or other devices are blown loose.
12. All rules, laws, ordinances, and regulations of any federal, state, county, and/or municipality will be observed at all times.

B. BOAT/RADIO OPERATION SAFETY REGULATIONS

1. No boat which has been run aground will be permitted to re-enter the water until the driver has demonstrated to the contest officials that the boat has not been damaged to the point where it might not operate safely. This rule does not apply to R/C Combat.
2. No boats will be started on tables or in the working pits with prop attached, unless it is properly shrouded and protected from accidental contact. No boats will be started in the working pits and then carried to the launching area.
3. Method of propulsion will be of the type that functions by propeller contact with the water or air. Air prop driven boats will be limited to "1/2 A" or "A" class engines only, see Section 10 – rule A.1. Boats propelled with air props must have the prop shrouded, and must have an underwater rudder or skeg of at least one inch square. Inertia reaction devices such as rockets or jets are prohibited.
4. A positive means of engine shut-off and/or positive throttle control is required of all boats.
5. Radio on/off switches will be positioned in such a manner as to prevent accidental shut off if bumped during handling, launching, or running.

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6. Boats will have some means of positive buoyancy when open compartments are filled with water. R/C Combat boats are designed to sink and must not have positive buoyancy.
7. The maximum size of boat will be 60". R/C Combat ships are not restricted in size.
8. The maximum allowable weight for any boat shall not exceed 35 pounds. Any class may have its own maximum or minimum weight requirements as long as the maximum weight does not exceed 35 pounds. The 35 pound weight limit is “ready to run” before fuel or gas is added. This weight limit applies to all boats except legal R/C Combat classes. A boat can be weighed at the discretion of a club official, contest official or through the protest process already defined by NAMBA rules in Section 16 - rule G.
9. A frequency board will be provided if any contestant has entered an event using a frequency other than non frequency determinate radios (such as 2.4GHz radios). All frequency determinate transmitters will have the appropriate pin attached any time they are transmitting. During practice running, members are responsible for the safe operation of their radio equipment, including checking for conflicting frequencies before turning on transmitters

C. BOAT RETRIEVAL

1. Boats should only be retrieved by means of a retrieve boat (manned or RC) or use of a retrieve ball or pole.
2. Under no circumstances should a person swim or dive to retrieve a boat; if a member does, they will forfeit their NAMBA membership and will be barred from rejoining NAMBA for a period of 12 months. The only exception to this would be for a certified diver that would be attempting to retrieve a sunken boat.
3. Manned retrieve boats must be hard sided, NO inflatable boat/raft can ever be used.
4. A retrieve boat must be secured along the shoreline and unoccupied when a model boat is running in the water.
5. For R/C Combat, all other combat ships must stop and/or clear the area while another ship is being retrieved. They do not need to be removed from the water.

D. R/C COMBAT SPECIFIC SAFETY REGULATIONS


1. Safety shields and/or safety glasses are required for all combatants and guests.
2. Gun safety devices (such as barrel pins or shut-off valves/switches) are required to render the guns inoperative when they are in the working pit area or otherwise not engaged in combat or combat preparation.

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3. The primary (unregulated) CO₂, HPA or Nitrogen supply vessel, whether refillable bottle or disposable cartridge, and any components between the CO₂, HPA or Nitrogen supply and the regulator, as well as the regulator that controls the pressure from the primary CO₂, HPA or Nitrogen supply vessel, must be commercially manufactured. In addition, if any part of the gas system after the regulator exceeds 200 psi, then those components must be commercially manufactured also.
4. The combat area (pond) and some area (dependant upon terrain features) around it should be sectioned off so that spectators can be controlled and kept within safe areas.
5. The by-laws and constitution of the specific club involved in the event may apply additional safety requirements as required.

E. DISREGARD OF SAFETY REGULATIONS

1. Disregard of these safety regulations will cause the loss of insurance eligibility for the member should an accident occur. Disregard of these safety regulations can also result in the member being ejected from an event by the contest officials, or can cause the member to lose use of a particular racing site.

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A. GENERAL

1. NAMBA insurance is provided to members upon payment of the appropriate fees.
2. NAMBA membership provides coverage for the calendar year. It is not prorated.
3. Single event members are covered to the same extent as full members during the event for which they have paid the single event membership fee.
4. NAMBA provides an “Arrive and Drive” program that provides insurance for non NAMBA members to operate a model boat at a specific event.
 - a) A club or district must apply for authorization of the “Arrive and Drive” program before their event. Contact the NAMBA office for specifics.
 - b) The prospective model boater must provide needed demographic information and acknowledge the rules of the program prior to being able to operate a model boat at the event.
 - c) The prospective model boater is covered to the same extent as full members during the event for which they have paid the “Arrive and Drive” event membership fee

B. LIABILITY AND PROPERTY DAMAGE INSURANCE

1. NAMBA insurance provides the member with \$1,000,000 per occurrence/\$2,000,000 aggregate in liability and property damage coverage in the event that they should be involved in an accident in which a spectator is injured or damage is done to a NAMBA insured site. NAMBA insurance also includes a \$1,000,000 umbrella policy to provide additional coverage per occurrence.
2. NAMBA property damage insurance does not cover damage done to another model boat in the normal course of running.
3. NAMBA liability insurance is primary coverage.
4. NAMBA liability insurance is for both the individual member and the owner of insured sites. To ensure coverage, NAMBA members may only participate in running boats at NAMBA insured sites.
5. NAMBA liability/property damage insurance is in effect any time a member is running a boat at a NAMBA insured site, not just during sanctioned events, as long as the member is observing all the NAMBA safety rules.
6. A member is not covered under NAMBA insurance when participating in an event which is sanctioned by another organization which also provides liability and

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property damage insurance for its members. This restriction applies whether this other insurance is of a primary or secondary nature.

7. NAMBA liability/property damage insurance has a \$500 deductible. This deductible may be paid by NAMBA.

C. PERSONAL ACCIDENT INSURANCE

1. NAMBA personal accident insurance provides a member with a \$500,000 personal accident policy which covers injuries which may occur while running a boat or while assisting someone else with their boat.
2. NAMBA personal accident insurance is secondary insurance. The member must utilize any other health or accident insurance that they have available before the NAMBA insurance can be accessed.
3. NAMBA personal accident insurance has a \$100 deductible. This deductible may be paid by NAMBA.

D. SITE INSURANCE

1. Additional site insurance is available to protect the owner of the running site with the same coverage as is afforded the individual member under the liability/property damage policy.
2. NAMBA site insurance provides insurance for, and names as an additional insured, the site owner only when the accident involves a NAMBA member.
3. Site insurance may be obtained by a registered NAMBA club by completing the appropriate form and sending it with the applicable fee to the NAMBA office.