

United States Vintage Model Yacht Group

Skipjack 48 Class Rules

Radio Controlled Skipjack 48 Model Class Rating Rules for Competition Racing

Purposes:

The United State Vintage Model Yacht Group (US VMYG) hereby establishes the ***Skipjack 48 Model Racing Class*** for the following purposes:

- To preserve the heritage of the oyster dredging skipjacks of the Chesapeake Bay.
- To construct scale model representations of the Chesapeake Bay Skipjacks based on a common design.
- To race the models for public and personal entertainment in accordance with these rules.
- To demonstrate a level of individual craftsmanship in the construction of the models in accordance with these rules.
- To encourage as many individuals as possible to participate in US VMYG events.

Class Rating Rules:

All model skipjacks participating in racing competition sponsored by US VMYG must comply with these class-rating rules. A small committee led by the class coordinator or his/her designated representative(s) will determine compliance with these rules at appropriate events. It is the responsibility of each skipper to prepare his boat in accordance with the Rules and Specifications referenced or included in this document. The intent of the US VMYG is to encourage participation and to simplify any certification or measurement processes as much as is consistent with fair racing.

It is reasonable to expect that the class rules or plans may evolve with time to improve clarity, correct unforeseen problems, or embrace advancing R/C technology. It is the intent of the class that any potential changes not disqualify existing boats. Therefore, it is understood that boats built in good faith according to the rules and plans in effect at the time of their construction will be “grandfathered”.

Class Standards:

The official plans of the Skipjack 48 published by Solomon’s Island Model Boat Club (SIMBC) and dated January 2002, as updated, are the official standards with respect to hull, spars, sails, keel, et cetera, related to the complete configuration of the boat.

Hull: The hull measurements and configuration shall be:

- Exterior dimensions in accordance with plan dimensions within +/- 0.5”. Wooden keel, skag and other bottom shapes shaped and placed per the plans, within +/- 0.25”.
- Hatches may be configured at the builder’s discretion, consistent with water tightness and reasonable access to radio gear.
- Center of the mast step should be at the centerline and 11” aft of the aft edge of the outside stem at deck level (with a 2” fore and aft adjustment).

Lead Keel: The keel measurements and configuration shall be:

- Keel shape and location must conform to plans and be made of lead.
- Keel displacement is 10 pounds maximum. No minimum.

- Only changes in keel profile allowed are fairing of the top to conform to the wooden keel. The boat builder may reshape the keel to a tapered trailing edge, or any other cross-sectional shape desired, as long as the triangular profile is maintained. The minimum weight of the boat must be preserved.
- The keel must be within $\pm .25''$ of plan measurement from the hull at the keelson.

Radio Controls: The radio control components shall be:

- Radio control units shall use only two (2) channels for control of the skipjack models.
- The use of 2.4 GHz radio technology is encouraged.

Rudder: The rudder measurements and configuration shall be:

- Rudder shape shall conform to that indicated on the plans, but area may be increased by 25% if desired; however, the general shape must be retained.

Mast: The mast measurements and configuration shall be:

- The mast is to be a non-rotating mast.
- Mast and booms are to be constructed of wood.
- Mast angle of at least 12 degrees, referenced to vertical.

Sails: The sail measurements and configuration shall be:

- Luff, foot and leach dimensions must be within $\pm 0.25''$ of the plans.
- The sails must be attached to the mast per the plans. The attachment point for the head of the main sail may be no higher than 50'' above the deck.
- Sails must be attached to the mast and booms at three locations: head, tack, and clue.
- The main and jib may be loose footed.
- Sail numbers 3 inches in height is recommended while 3 ½ inches is strongly encouraged.
- Smaller rigs are not permitted, i.e. no "B" rigs.

Rigging: The rigging and configuration shall be:

- Shrouds may be attached to the chain plates by various means: a turnbuckle, clevis, or deadeyes and lanyard.
- Head stay may use a "fishing tackle type clip" or turnbuckle.
- No adjustments to the stays or mast are allowed while under sail (no mechanical or electrical adjustable backstays or jib twitchers).
- Balanced jibs are not allowed. The jib must be attached to the jib rack at the tack only.

Displacement: The displacement shall be:

- Minimum displacement of boat with sails, mast, booms, rigging and complete radio control equipment ready for racing: 22.5 pounds.

Authenticity (optional, but desirable, features): Skipjacks are unique traditional water craft and a certain amount of authenticity should be maintained. Suggestions to do that are:

- Mast rings are optional, but are encouraged to maintain the scale appearance of the models.
- Sail material and colors are optional. Since these are models of workboats, some restraint

in colors, markings, etc. is encouraged.

- Boats should be painted per working skipjacks: gray, white or light brown. To preserve the Chesapeake waterman's superstition, the use of blue on the hull is discouraged.
- Names are optional, but the use of the name of an existing or former skipjack is encouraged.
- Trail boards are optional, but encouraged.
- Deck houses and rails that emulate prototype configurations are encouraged.

Award: One award may be given for craftsmanship at the national championship regatta. The selection of the award winner will be by those participating in the event.

The Earl Boebert Craftsmanship Award – This is awarded to the builder/owner's boat that is the most, well-crafted boat at the event. If the owner is not the builder the boat is ineligible for this award.

Enforcement of These Rules: In the event of protests or egregious departures from these Rules, necessarily simplified measurements will be made (enforced) by the compliance committee. These include:

- Overall length on deck (LOA): 48" +/- 0.5" (excluding bowsprit).
- Depth of lead keel below bottom planking adjacent to keel: 5" +/- 0.25".
- Total weight: 22.5 pounds minimum.
- Sail dimensions: +/- .25" of plan measurements.
- Head of mainsail attachment point: 50" above deck.

NOTES:

1. Adapted from the Solomon's Island Model Boat Club Rules - Version III May 2002.
2. Parts and materials for the construction of a Skipjack 48 Model are available from the Solomon's Island Model Boat Club. Information is available on the club website: <https://sites.google.com/site/simbclub/home>