



# Great Lakes Fleet

## Exceptions to Class Rules April, 2024

All rules not mentioned here shall comply with the national rules as posted at the [www.j120.org](http://www.j120.org) website.

1.0 Each boat must abide by the J120 national class rule and the latest J120 Great Lakes Fleet Exceptions to Class Rules, including those regarding sail limitations. The Great Lakes Fleet sail limitations are as follows:

- a. One #3 up to 105% that must be furlable and can have up to 4 battens
- b. One AP #1 up to 155% that also must be furlable.
- c. One main, up to 5 battens allowed. The tack ring of the mainsail may be affixed in the standard tack fitting.
- d. Three kites, where one of the large asymmetric spinnakers shall be made of at least 32 grams per meter material, one of the large asymmetric spinnakers shall be made of at least 40 grams per square meter material, and the small asymmetric spinnaker made of at least 66 grams per square meter material. The small asymmetric spinnaker shall be constructed of nylon, polyester, aramid, or spectra materials; or laminates containing these materials solely or in blends. Carbon fiber is not permitted for use as a spinnaker material in any form. The large asymmetric spinnakers shall have a minimum size of 150 and a maximum size of 165 square meters. The larger spinnakers built in 2013 or earlier may have a measured area smaller than 150 square meters. All spinnakers built after that year must measure an area of at least 150 square meters. The small asymmetric spinnaker shall have a maximum size of 120 square meters.

Sails cannot be changed on any one day during a regatta.

For any of the long-distance races, specifically the Windsor Overnight, Bayview Long Distance, Bayview Mackinac, Chicago Mackinac, Lake Erie Interclub Cruise, and Mills Race there are no limitations to the number of sails (within restrictions of the rating rule used in the regatta), but the headsails must be capable of being furlable.

2.0 We will enforce the use of roller furling, i.e., all headsails must be attached to the roller furling attaching points. In all races the tack of the headsail shall be attached to the top of the furling drum and the head of the sail shall be attached to the furling swivel.

3.0 All sails must be measured and tagged by a class approved measurer. The measurer and/or owner shall have the sail measurement certificates on file.

- 4.0 New sail purchases are limited to two (2) of any type sail in any calendar year. Used sails may be purchased, but must be older than 12 months from the original measurement certificate date and must be approved by the class.
- 5.0 All helmsmen shall be an owner or an ISAF defined category 1 sailor. Exceptions to this rule must be approved by the class.
- 6.0 Dodger is optional for all races.
- 7.0 Light spinnaker sheets are allowed for long distance races.
- 8.0 Removal of table, three doors & cushions are optional ahead of the mast.
- 9.0 Except where variations are specifically permitted by these rules, J/120's shall comply with standard specifications published by J Boats, Inc. and these class rules and shall be as delivered from authorized builders in hull, deck, keel, rudder and spar construction, weight and weight distribution, sail plan, equipment, and interior furnishings. Furnishings shall include but not be limited to floor boards, cabinet doors, access plates and plumbing fixtures. The location of the mast in the cabin house opening shall be fixed before any regatta. This section does not supersede rule 8.0.
- 10.0 Unlimited crew allowed.
- 11.0 Extending the sprit at the windward mark. When not in the process of setting, flying or taking down the spinnaker, the bowsprit shall be retracted so that the sprit is in its aft position. Approaching a windward mark without the spinnaker set, the bowsprit shall not be extended until the boat is within the 3-boat length zone of the mark. The bowsprit shall be retracted at the first reasonable opportunity after taking the spinnaker down. Penalty for noncompliance shall be a 360 degree turn prior to the finish of the race.
- 12.0 Only spinnaker sails may be attached to the sprit. A spinnaker is defined as a sail with a midgirth (half width) measurement that's at least 75% of the foot length. The ISAF Equipment Rules of Sailing shall be used as the method measuring all sails.
- 13.0 There is no requirement that float lines installed and shall have their weight equalized unless prescribed in the Notice of Race for any regatta.
- 14.0 The first three sentences of RRS 44.1 are changed to: "A boat may take a One-Turn Penalty when she may have broken one or more rules of Part 2 or rule 31 in an incident while racing. However, she may take a Two-Turns Penalty when she may have broken a rule of Part 2 in the zone around a mark (other than starting mark)."
- 15.0 A bobstay may be attached from the end of the spinnaker pole to a point anywhere above the waterline.

16.0 The water heater may be removed from a boat that it was installed in.