

## STATEMENT OF INTENT: ILCA Electronics Policy Revision

The ILCA has undertaken a new initiative to update its electronics policy to better reflect modern technology and practices already taking place on the water. This policy revision creates a more enforceable, digital-friendly rule which should not have significant impact on the spirit of racing.

The high-level improvements are as follows:

- Allow action cameras and other photographic equipment, such as GoPro, which have previously been illegal.
- Allow for GPS and other data logging functions and devices, provided those devices do not display a readout on the water.
- Allow for additional devices that have digital compass functions, but may be locked down to not display said functions on water: i.e., Velocitek Prostart V2 or Vakaros Atlas 2
- Allow speakers, which have previously been illegal
- Allow for smart watches on the water as data loggers, presuming they are not used contrary to i.1.A

NOTE: Items that are ~~strike through~~ are deletions. Items that are underlined are additions. Differences from the current bylaws are highlighted in yellow. Rationales offered by the are highlighted in green.

## International Lightning Class Association By-Laws

### Article VIII – Racing Restrictions

1)–4)...

#### 5) Portable Equipment

a)...

#### b) Optional

i) Electronic Equipment – only the following electronic devices may be used aboard a Lightning while competing:

##### 1) ~~battery powered~~ One or more timers:

A) For all sanctioned and non-sanctioned regattas and for fleet racing, while on the water, the use of timers shall be limited to the telling of time, the monitoring of the countdown timing sequence for the start of a race, or the monitoring of the count-up sequence for a race's time limit.

Rationale: Watches and other timers are not to be used outside of timing. Expanded upon in B.

B) While on the water except for emergencies, the use of any watch application, or function, which allows a competitor to gain any advantage by determining a competitor's position relative to a starting line or other competitors on the race course, marking waypoints, tracking wind shifts, receiving or sending SMS or email communications, or otherwise locating GPS coordinates shall be grounds for disqualification from a race or races.

**Rationale:** Watches and timers may be used for timing, but may not display any smart-sailing apps, such as those allowing GPS speed, line pinging, GPS COG, etc... The watch may log these functions in the background.

2) An electronic digital compass with chronograph (timer and/or clock). The compass must be entirely self-contained with either an internal battery and/or solar power. While on the water, only the current magnetic bearing compass function and timer function may be used. The compass shall have no external connection and shall neither provide wind or boat speed nor compute correlations between time and distance.

**Rationale:** This Section is revised slightly to allow for more devices in a "locked down" mode. All existing devices are legal, but the new rule now allows an avenue to use the Velocitek Prostart V2 or Vakaros Atlas 2 while racing, provided the device is configured to a mode only allowing magnetic heading and timer.

3) Other hand-held navigational devices. Use while racing is not permitted except for emergencies.

**Rationale:** Covered in other sections of proposed revision.

34) Hand-held communication devices (cell phones, pagers, radios, etc.) with the following restrictions:

A) For all sanctioned regattas and non-sanctioned regattas, use of such devices is not permitted while racing except for emergencies. This restriction does not apply to VHF radio communication to or from the Race Committee and from competitors on a predetermined radio channel.

**Rationale:** This Section remains largely unchanged, but renumbered for formatting. The committee deemed it outside of their initial purview to require VHF radios, but they remain encouraged, and will be a standard practice at most regattas. This change will allow use of VHF radios at regattas without an amendment to NOR or S.I.'s. Further, it is the recommendation of this committee that VHF radios become part of the safety equipment.

~~B) For non-sanctioned regattas use is not permitted while racing except for emergencies. This restriction may be modified to allow communication from the Race Committee to competitors on a predetermined channel if so stated in both the Notice of Race and the Sailing Instructions.~~

4) Photographic equipment shall be limited to self-contained cameras (including cameras built into cellular telephones):

A) Such cameras may record still images or video images with or without audio.

95 B) Data that is recorded onto the camera storage media or uploaded  
96 to cloud in real time may only be reviewed on shore after racing.

97 C) Competitors who use recording devices while sailing Lightnings  
98 are encouraged to upload photos and videos to the ILCA social media sites  
99 and to their own sites, tagging the ILCA.

100 D) Ownership of such images or audio shall be retained by the  
101 respective ILCA members.

102  
103 Rationale: This Section is new: photographic equipment onboard  
104 while racing has been illegal. Cameras may be used to record photos  
105 and video during racing. This change is in response to the  
106 widespread availability of action cameras, as well as the ILCA's  
107 mission to increase its marketing visibility of the Lightning Class.

108  
109 5) Personal medical devices, attached to an individual, required for a  
110 person's wellbeing are allowed if they are medically necessary.

111 6)A portable music/radio entertainment system may be used while on the  
112 water.

113  
114 Rationale: This change allows for the use of speakers. These have  
115 previously been illegal due to their not being explicitly included in this  
116 closed rule.

117  
118 7) The proscriptions in this Section notwithstanding, a competitor may  
119 collect data in real time to be used while not on the water.

120  
121 Rationale: Competitors may use data logging devices to log boat  
122 information other than HDG and timer, provided these data streams are not  
123 accessible on the water. Potential options to record are SOG, COG, heel  
124 and trim angle. These data may be recorded on a smart watch, mast  
125 mounted device, GoPro, or other platform capable of recording but not  
126 displaying.

127  
128 8) In all cases where the use of electronic devices is not permitted, a  
129 competitor's use of an electronic device in a manner proscribed in this  
130 Section shall require the competitor's withdrawal from the race unless the  
131 Race Committee deems that the use was for emergency reasons.