



Etchells



2026 INTERNATIONAL ETHELLES CLASS WESTERN AUSTRALIAN and AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Announcement

Vakaros and Vakaros RaceSense

Introduction

The NOR has said the Vakaros RaceSense system will be used for both events.

It is on the basis of a permission in the Class Rules.

This Announcement is intended to assist competitors and does not form part of the NOR, SI's or RRS.

Vakaros RaceSense

Vakaros RaceSense is a networked IT systems employed by race management to communicate with and live track competitors during starts, through the races and at finishing.

Before the Regatta

Competitors must install a Vakaros Atlas2 device and enable connection to race management's Vakaros RaceSense network. See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HvEbhODYJIU>

Before the Regatta competitors must ensure:

- You have installed a working Vakaros Atlas2 device as required by the NOR and SI's. Competitors may either use their own devices or ones will be provided by the Organising Authority on a free loan basis. (If you do not have one, contact the Regatta Office prior to official Registration).
- Your unit has been updated to firmware version 0.28.4 (and GPS v1.6.0) via the Vakaros Connect App. Once this update has been installed do not initiate any further updates unless specifically instructed to do so by the Race Committee. It is important for the correct functioning of RaceSense that all units are operating with the same version of the firmware. To update your firmware open the Vakaros App on your phone, turn on the Atlas 2 device, keep both together and authorise an update on the App. When complete your App will notify you. The process takes about 2 minutes.
- DO NOT run a firmware update during the regatta.
- You have calibrated the compass in your unit by following the steps in Atlas Compass Calibration.
- Your unit is fully charged.
- Your Atlas 2 device has been linked to your boat by the Race Committee.
- You have registered your device with the event RaceSense system:
 1. Switching on your unit and taking a photo of the initial screen with the QR code; then

2. Send a photo to the WhatsApp regatta chat group of the opening screen of your unit with the QR code and Serial Number visible. Please include your boat name and sail number in the message.

During the Regatta

- Competitors must use and maintain their Vakaros Atlas2 devices.
- Your Atlas 2 device MUST be mounted on the mast with the screen facing aft. If your boat has other instruments on the mast, the Atlas unit MUST be mounted above and well clear to avoid magnetic or GPS interference. The Race Committee may inspect boats to ensure compliance. Some tips on mounting are available here <https://www.vakaros.com/blogs/news/mount-it-right-how-to-avoid-killing-your-atlas-accuracy-in-racesense> .
- Your Atlas 2 unit must be switched off after each day's racing and switched on before the next day – a new network will be established by the Race Committee for each day.
- It is advisable to recharge your unit each night to ensure full power although battery life is noted as several days.
- On the water, ensure your unit is turned on and mounted correctly.

Sailing Instructions

- You will only turn off your unit if requested to do so by the Race Committee. If Code Flag K is displayed all competitors must turn their Atlas unit off and then on again to assist in reestablishing the network.
- If the Race Committee decides it is unable to use RaceSense for a particular race it will display Flag G and OCS boats at race start will be called in the traditional manner by the PRO.

Q&A

Q: What functions will RaceSense perform automatically?

A: RaceSense will automatically start your timer, display DTL without pinging and provide notification, within a second after the start, if you are OCS or not.

Q: Will RaceSense clear the start line?

A: Yes! When you've cleared the line, or an infinite extension of the line, the device will show green lights and say "clear". It is still your responsibility to restart, as per the rules, if you clear the extension of the line beyond the RC Signal or Pin boat. For boats that have not yet cleared their OCS, the Atlas 2 will display "OCS" for 4 minutes, after which point, clearing is no longer an option.