



# Etchells



## 2025 ETHELLES WESTERN AUSTRALIAN AND AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

### INFORMATION FOR COMPETITORS

#### VAKAROS RACESENSE

The Organising Authority for the 2025 Etchells Western Australian and Australian Championship intend that the Vakaros RaceSense system will be used by the Race Committee for both events.

This will be on the basis of an approved Class Rule change from World Sailing or by written permission from Australian Sailing to amend Class Rule C.5.1(b) in accordance with RRS 87.

When one of these approvals is given, then a respective Notice of Race change will be posted to the Notice Board.

Information in this document has been prepared to assist competitors and in no way should be read as taking precedence over the Sailing Instructions or the Racing Rules of Sailing.

#### Introduction:

Atlas devices when connected to the Vakaros RaceSense network provide various functions to assist competitors with their starting strategies. The network itself is also a valuable tool to assist the Race Committee manage race starts and to assist in recording the finish.

Before the Regatta competitors must ensure:

- you have a working Atlas 2 unit – either owned or provided by the Organising Authority. For a loan/hire unit please contact the Regatta Office.
- your unit has been updated to firmware version **0.28.1** via the Vakaros Connect App. For a video on how to update your firmware, see here: [Atlas 2 Firmware Update Tutorial](#). 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.
- you have calibrated the compass in your unit by following these steps: [Atlas Compass Calibration](#).
- your unit is fully charged.

- your Atlas 2 device has been linked to your boat by the Race Committee. Detailed instructions on RaceSense registration will be provided on the event notice board and/or by WhatsApp and will likely include one or both of;
  - switching on your unit and taking a photo of the initial screen with the QR code and then posting this photo together with your boat name and sail number on the WhatsApp Group set up for the regatta.
  - presenting your unit with the above screen showing to the registration desk for the regatta.

### **During the Regatta:**

- Your Atlas 2 unit **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](#).
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.