

IFDS Measurement/Classes Committee, Gene Hinkel

The year was a busy one as we are all gearing up for the 2012 Paralympic Sailing Competition. The IFDS Worlds in Weymouth were a bit disorganized as they were not yet using the setup they will use for the games.

We worked with a new International Measurer (IM), Leo Sanchez, (ESP) who will be measuring the SKUD18's next year and comes from the Olympic Classes. I asked him to join the Committee as he can add valuable information.

The measurement at Weymouth presented some difficulties as there was a lack of communication between the organizers and IFDS as to the involvement of the RYA in the measurement process. Following a delay to sort out the issues, we were able to proceed. Initially, there was a shortage of assistance, but we were able to complete measurement of all three classes in time.

For the Worlds next year it would be helpful if the measurers arrive a day earlier in order to allow sufficient time to set up measurement procedures and gather and set up the equipment needed.

Three-Person Keelboat, Sonar

New changes refer primarily to measurement but the class has defined that spinnaker pole fittings are metal and must meet a minimum size.

Two-Person Keelboat, SKUD18

The Measurement Certificate used collected most of the data needed but because of time constraints in Weymouth, the Equipment Inspectors were unable to put program in place. Despite working on the limits over the past year, I had to verify a couple spreader measurements at first so Leo and I checked five boats before we could really measure masts.

The question of old boats versus new boats should be put to rest as results were mixed with new boat, old boat with Selden rig, new boat, old boat with Selden rig and modified rails. It was noted in the Class AGM that probably only one boat next year will have the old rig.

One-Person Keelboat, 2.4mR

I went to the Worlds in Alesund, Norway and picked up the new One Design (OD) Templates from Peter Norlin. With the rest of the Technical Committee, we verified four boats from the 1993-2005 boats as meeting the limits and being One Design. The OD has merged with the 2.4mR Class so have the same officers and a major step forward.

I brought the templates back and measured the boats at the US National Championships with boats ranging in age from 1989 – 2010. All were within the limits, again verifying the consistency of measurements leading to the One Design. I made up a measurement jig to establish measurement points on all boats to be uniform.

The 2012 IFDS Worlds in Charlotte Harbor are coming together very well with all the floating docks have been built and will be in place in early December. As Event Manager I

am working with the teams on transport, loading, unloading and thanks to the organizing authority there will be free storage. Henry Sleutel and I met in Weymouth and made a list of concerns which now have been covered. I know all the people involved are looking forward to this event and welcome us.