

**REPORTING COMMITTEE - MULTIHULL  
OTHER COMMITTEE - OFFSHORE, SAILING**

**Small Catamaran Handicap Rating System**

**A submission from the chairman of the Multihull Committee**

**PROPOSAL:**

To remove the carbon mast penalty in the small catamaran handicap rating system.

**CURRENT POSITION:**

Rule 3.3 of the C Section of the SCHRS includes a 1% penalty when computing the rating when a carbon fibre mast is used.

**REASON:**

As a result of many representations received by the SCHRS working party, the Carbon Mast Penalty was talked about at length during the early months of 2003, and the working party voted to lodge a submission to the Federation (ISAF) to remove the CMP for the following reasons:

1. The penalty was originally included in the rule in the early nineties because it was thought these masts gave a performance advantage over metal masts, and a rating penalty of 1% should be applied to compensate catamarans not so equipped.
2. This conceived improvement in performance was never proven, and there are even now only eleven classes using these masts listed in the rating tables. Of these only four are active in significant numbers. It is unlikely that the CMP has been a controlling factor in the use of these masts. They are still both expensive to buy, and also replace when they break, the level of which seems significant. Class rules have also been a limiting factor, and the perceived performance advantage has been dubious, and unlike the other data that goes into the rating, cannot be measured. The Formula 20 Class allows the use of both types of mast without penalty.
3. Catamarans equipped with carbon fibre masts are already penalised in the SCHRS Rule because they are lighter. It is also felt that Catamarans equipped with these masts are safer because they are easier to right after capsize, and the SCHRS Rule shouldn't penalise their use.

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