A request for an Interpretation in accordance with Regulation 10.12.1(a) was received from the Royal Yachting Association.

The following interpretation has been made in accordance with Regulation 10.12.1(d) on the 20th June 2011 and is effective until the 31st December 2012 or until the next edition of the class rules whichever is sooner.

Question:
Is a bowsprit prohibited by the class rules?

Answer:
Yes a bowsprit may not be fitted.

Comment:
The 2.4 Metre Class Rules are defined as open class rules which means that “anything not specifically prohibited by the class rules is permitted”.

However Section F in the class rules dealing with the Rig lists in F.1.1 which spars a boat shall have and in F.1.2 which spar a boat may have. None of these rules mentions a bowsprit.

As the class rules dealing with spars specifically states which spars are mandatory and which spar is optional the class rules are interpreted as a bowsprit may not be fitted.

It is accepted by all parties that the presentation of the class rules, and thereby the interpretation, is not ideal and the International Sailing Federation is working with the Class on a number of potential class rule changes.