Class Rules Sub-committee Minutes

The Class Rules Sub-committee meet at 14:30 – 18:00 hours on Saturday 7 November 2015 at the Kempinski Hotel, Haitang Bay, Sanya, China.

Please refer to the ISAF website www.sailing.org for the details of the submissions and supporting papers on this agenda

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SP = Supporting Paper
CM = Paper circulated to Committee Members only
TBC = To Be Circulated

Please refer to the ISAF Council minutes of 13 & 14 November 2015 for the final Council decision on all recommendations and opinions contained within these minutes

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<tr>
<td>Bill Abbott (CAN) - Chairman</td>
<td>Renee Mehl (Special Regulations Rep)</td>
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<td>Agnes Lil (EST) - Vice Chairman</td>
<td>Jan Dejmo (Equipment Control SC Rep)</td>
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<td>James Dadd (GBR)</td>
<td>David Staley (AUS) – ISAF Classes Rep (in part)</td>
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<td>Janet Grosvenor (GBR) - Oceanic and Offshore Rep</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jason Smithwick (ISAF Head of Technical &amp; Offshore)</td>
<td>Rob Taylor (ISAF Technical Co-ordinator)</td>
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<td>Norbert Marin (ISAF Technical Co-ordinator)</td>
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1. Opening of the Meeting

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed Committee members

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

(a) Minutes

The minutes of the Class Rules Sub-Committee meeting of 1 November 2014 (circulated and approved after the meeting) were signed as a true record by the Chairman. The minutes can be downloaded at www.sailing.org/meetings

(b) Minutes Matters Arising

Bas Edmonds reported on the progress made by the modification, maintenance and repair standard class rules working party. It was suggested to inform these classes that are using this section in their class rules and suggest the appropriate changes.

3. ISAF Classes Development
(a) ISAF Class Review

A report was presented from the Secretariat regarding technical and contractual issues on some ISAF Classes with regards to ISAF Regulation 10.

It was agreed by the Committee that action needs to be taken against some classes that repeatedly fail to comply with ISAF Regulation 10 and contract requirements despite warnings from the Secretariat. It was recommended that a strong letter should be send to these classes explaining the consequences of breaching ISAF Regulations. It was suggested to act in consequence and cut off privileges to these classes i.e. not approving Class Rule changes to these classes not paying plaque fees or class subscription fees.

The Committee recommends taking special care in making sure that the letter reaches the appropriate person or persons within the Class Association.

4. Submissions

**ISAF Committees**

(a) Submission 019-15 from the Executive Committee regarding Changes to the Committee Structure for 2017-2012 was noted.

The Committee discussed the pros and cons of the submission. It was agreed that this move could be beneficial for ISAF as a whole, it could improve its efficiency and it would also get ISAF in line with the IOC recommendations to reduce unwieldy governance; however it was agreed that there is a risk that some of the Terms of Reference could be lost in the transition. There were also concerns about expertise being diluted with this change and that the work the committee engages with non-Olympic classes may be in jeopardy

**Opinion:** Approve

**Vote:** Unanimous

(b) Submission 020-15 from the Executive Committee regarding Sub-committee Recommendations to Council was noted.

Janet Grosvenor noted that this could overcomplicate things and questioned the usefulness of this submission, furthermore, when this committee may be eventually disbanded.

David Staley commented that it is important to have the endorsement of the parent Committee on any recommendation to the Council.

Bill Abbot opined that this move would undermine this committee’s work and that the Equipment Committee should consider any action that the Class Rules Sub-committee wants to engage to.

Jason Smithwick commented that even though some of the Sub-committee discussions pass over the parent committee without being noticed, it would be preferable to sort out any possible disagreement between Sub-committee and parent Committee before Council.

**Opinion:** Approve

**Vote:** Unanimous

(c) Submission 027-15 from the Executive Committee regarding Equipment Control and Class Rules Sub-committee was noted.
James Dadd raised concerns about losing expertise that currently exists around the table.

Bill Abbott sees an advantage to have this Committee and Equipment Control Terms of Reference merged together as dealing with Class Rule changes have now being taken over by ISAF technical Staff.

David Staley emphasized that if the two committees merged together then choosing the right person becomes more important.

The required size of the new proposed Committee and its manageability was discussed along with the advantages and disadvantages of having such a committee.

The Committee agreed that some Terms of Reference like 6.5.6.5 (c) should stay regardless of the outcome.

**Opinion:** Approve with the following amendments:

The Equipment Rules sub-committee should have sufficient core members who are not cross-representatives.

6.5.5 Equipment_Rules Sub-committee

**Constituting the committee**

6.5.5.1 Equipment_Rules Sub-committee has been established as a Sub-committee of the Equipment Committee by the Council pursuant to Article 42.

In appointing committee members the following experience and competencies shall be properly represented: centreboard boats, keelboats, multihulls, offshore and windsurfing.

6.5.5.2 The Equipment_Rules Sub-committee shall consist of:

(a) a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman and the number of members that shall be appointed by the Council from time to time as provided by Article 42.

(b) In addition, specialist expertise will be represented as follows:

(i) a representative of the International Measurers Sub-Committee;

(ii) a representative of the Disabled Sailing Committee;

(iii) a representative of the Special Regulations Sub-committee;

(iv) a representative of the ISAF Classes Committee.

(v) a representative of the Racing Rules Committee

6.5.5.3 The Chairman of the Equipment Rules Sub-committee may, for the purposes of liaison, appoint himself/herself or another member of the committee as an ex-officio, non-voting member of the International Measurers Sub-committee.

6.5.5.4 The Chairman of the Equipment Rules Sub-committee shall appoint the members and chairman of the ERS Working Party.
Terms of reference

6.5.5.5 The Equipment Rules Sub-committee shall:

(a) ensure uniformity of rules for equipment control for all ISAF classes recommending in particular:
   (i) uniform certification control procedures and methods;
   (ii) uniform format and working of class rules;
(b) establish, maintain and publish the policies for the approval process of proposed class rules changes referred to in Regulation 10.11.4;
(c) review class rules change applications referred to it in accordance with Regulation 10.11.5;
(d) give interpretations of class rules of ISAF Classes in accordance with Regulation 10.12;
(e) formulate, revise and publish the Equipment Rules of Sailing (ERS) every four years after approval by the Council, in accordance with Regulations 29.1 and 29.2;
(f) approve and publish interpretations of the ERS submitted in accordance with Regulation 29.3;
(g) keep under constant review:
   (i) the ISAF Guide to Equipment Control;
   (ii) the ISAF Standard Class Rules;
   (iii) ISAF Event Equipment Regulations.
(h) keep building processes under review and through inspection of licensed builder's premises maintain standards of construction;
(i) liaise with relevant ISAF committees in all matters affecting equipment control, and with ISAF Technical Department to support the management of effective equipment control schemes by ISAF Classes.

Vote: Unanimous

ISAF Regulations

(d) Regulation 7.5.3

Submission 054-15 from the International 49er Class Association regarding Voting on ISAF Committees was noted.

The Committee was keen to keep the possibility of an abstention vote as it is just a position of being undecided. It was also considered to be an important vote which in certain circumstances could be more effective than voting “reject”. It was not clear to the Committee the basis to this submission

It was also noted that the Committee Chairman have got some responsibility to ensure that any issue that is voted for is clear enough to everybody and abstentions are minimized.
Opinion: Reject
Vote: Unanimous

**Equipment Rules of Sailing**

(e) C.6.3(b) Measurement Trim
Submission 066-15 from the Chairman of the Equipment Committee regarding the Equipment Rules of Sailing was noted.

Opinion: Approve
Vote: Unanimous

(f) C.6.3(c) Waterline
Submission 067-15 from the Chairman of the Equipment Committee regarding Equipment Rules of Sailing was noted.

Opinion: Approve subject to approval of Submission 068-15
Vote: Unanimous

(g) H.2.1 Equipment Inspection
Submission 092-15 from the Chairman of the Equipment Committee regarding Equipment Rules of sailing was noted.

Opinion: Approve
Vote: Unanimous

**Racing Rules of Sailing**

(h) Terminology - New Definition of Boat
Submission 162-15 from Koninklijk Nederlands Watersport Verbond regarding a new definition of boat was noted.

Opinion: No opinion. Refer to the Racing Rules of Sailing Working Party

(i) Terminology - Definition of Competitor
Submission 163-15 from Koninklijk Nederlands Watersport Verbond regarding changes to Rules was noted.

Opinion: No opinion. Refer to the Racing Rules of Sailing Working Party

(j) Terminology - New Definition of Vessel
Submission 167-15 from Koninklijk Nederlands Watersport Verbond regarding changes to Rules was noted.


(k) New Rule 85, rule 89.2 and related changes
Submission 213-15 from US Sailing regarding changes to Rules was noted.


5. **Class Rules of New Classes Applying for ISAF Status**
To make a recommendation to the Equipment Committee on new ISAF Classes’ compliance with ISAF Regulation 10 in regards to the class rules.

(a) VX one
   The Class deferred the class application until ISAF Regulation 10.2.1(d) is complied with.

(b) RS Aero
   **Opinion:** Approve subject to final wordsmithing of class rules with ISAF Technical Department

(c) Far East 28R
   **Opinion:** Approve

(d) Volvo Ocean 65
   **Opinion:** Approve subject to the addition of ISAF Technical Department to the VCA in Class Rule A.3.2

(e) Twin Tip Freestyle Kiteboard
   **Opinion:** Approve

(f) Kite Foil
   **Opinion:** Approve

(g) M32 catamaran
   **Opinion:** Approve subject to final wordsmithing of class rules with ISAF Technical Department

(h) Nacra F20 Carbon
   **Opinion:** Approve subject to final wordsmithing of class rules with ISAF Technical Department

6. **Class Rule Change Procedure and Developments**

(a) General Discussion
   The Committee briefly discussed the current procedure of class rule changes and interpretations made during the current year.

(b) Development of Example Class Rules
   The Committee discussed the terms “Optional for use” and “Optional not for use” within the standard class rules and the meaning of these terms. Using a VHF radio as an example, the class rules should be clear on whether the VHF may be used during the race or only before and after. The Committee also discussed whether a VHF can be considered to be “being used” as soon as it is switched on or as soon as you talk through it. It was agreed that the rules should be more descriptive on what the class wants

7. **Equipment Control Sub-committee**

(a) Standard Class Rules
   Bas Edmonds spoke about the current work of the Standard Class Rules
Working Party which is now looking into two different ideas to develop:

The first idea is looking into allowing Class Rules to decide, when a class rule has been breached, which discretionary penalty band has to be applied; this would help classes to be more in control and also would help to give a guidance to the Jury.

Jason Smithwick agreed that there is a need for this since at the moment there appear to be problems with consistency among the juries; however he expressed concerns in regattas like in the Sailing World Cup where we can end up with different levels of discretionary penalties for the same infringement for different classes. Ideally this should be avoided and the penalties homogenized.

The second idea is to make the current Standard class rules template more clear and simplified by having only three sections as follows:

1) Sailor rules, 2) Admin rules and 3) Manufacturers rules

(b) ERS Working Party

Jan Dejmo informed about the progress made by the ERS Working Party and noted that this is the last year for submission to change the ERS

8. Reports & Opinions from Committees Members with Cross Representation

Special Regulations Sub-committee:

Rene Mehl explained that there were several Special Regulations submissions this year and the rewriting of the Special Regulations is ongoing.

Equipment Control Sub-committee:

Jan Dejmo explained that there is a submission aiming to join the ERS and the RRS under one single book.

Oceanic and Offshore Committee:

The submission form the IRC to amend the current restrictions on World Championships was discussed.

ISAF Classes Committee:

David Staley gave a short report on the ISAF Classes Committee

9. Any other Business

Bill Abbott expressed his views about the current service that this committee is doing to the classes and how it could be improved by auditing them and looking into what improvements they can make.

Another discussion was held about life jackets and how much of the responsibility of its correct use lies with the competitor and how much lies within the Equipment Inspection. It was agreed that the final responsibility should lie with the competitor.

Mike Urwin as an observer compared the problem with offshore life jackets and the fact that even though they are checked for compliance by the equipment Inspector before the race, things like the correct functioning of hydrostatic valves are not, as they are considered to be the crew's responsibility.

There being no further business the meeting finished at 18:00.