



High Speed Rules Working Party Report to Racing Rules Committee November 2017

The working party was formed in November 2016 with the aim to standardize the rules that various Organizing Authorities request permission to change under RRS 86.2 that they use for regattas involving high speed boats. The goal set by John Doerr was that such a standard set of rules would be the only 86.2 requests he might consider for 2017. I am proud to say that the working party not only achieved the challenging goal but has continued to work with the aim to create a standard set of rules for Organising Authorities.

Successes

The working party's terms of reference:

	Function or Responsibility	Timeline
1.	Create list of RRS 86.2 rule changes required by fast boats for approval by World Sailing	End of February 2017 ✓
2.	Create a common set of RRS 86.1 rule changes required by fast boats for use by the Organisers of Fast Boat Regattas	End of April 2017 ✓
3.	Publish these rules in a common, document that can be used by all organisers	End of April 2017 ✓
4.	Receive feedback from uses of these rules	Ongoing
5.	Amend the draft language when appropriate. Try and maintain standard set for a 6 month period.	Ongoing
6.	Present a draft Appendix for consideration of inclusion into the RRS.	July 2019

The working party has achieved the goals within the timeframe set.

This process allows the working party to test the rules package and receive feedback from the sailors, officials and regatta organisers so that changes can be made to the trial rules and further tested.

With the interests of providing a user-friendly way to present the high speed rules to the sailors, the working party learnt from the discussions of the Racing Rules Committee and

created a version of the RRS as a book that included the standard changes. This provides a reference book that is easy to read.

The primary organisers that these high speed rules were created for are the: World Match Racing Tour, Extreme Sailing Series, and GC32 Championship. All three organisers have worked as an integral partner in the working party and are happy with the progress with the project. The working party acknowledges the work and commitment that these organisations have provided.

Challenges

The standard book currently covers fleet racing and match Racing as well as umpired and non-umpired racing. Experience and feedback suggests that the standard set of rules may be trying to cover too broad a field with this one version of a book. The working party is reviewing this issue at the moment.

High speed boats need an on-water penalty that is relatively safe to compete but what also has a "value" that is seen as a suitable penalty. The working party continues discussions with the organisers, officials and sailors to try and find an acceptable form of penalty.

As with any new set of rules, what is written may well not be what was meant. This is why the working party has a long testing time that allows the language to be modified after we have tested in regatta conditions.

The biggest challenge may well be success! There are other classes and organisers wanting to use these rules. The Flying Phantoms now use the rules as part of their involvement with the Extreme Sailing Series, additionally there is interest from the new Super Foiler Grand Prix in Australia. There has recently also been interest from the Nacra 17 class. While this interest has been positive, the working party has concerns over the implementation of the rules into these other classes. We feel that more sharing of ideas and issues between the working party and the new classes needs to occur so that the good ideas are not overshadowed by bad implementation. Such work may well be in excess of what the working party can achieve unless financial and other resources are found to assist in this process.

Future

The working party will review the lessons learned over the last 10 months and prepare modifications to the trial rules. This may include modifying the RRS86.2 rules that then require separate approval. These rule changes will then be explained to the sailors at the different events with the plan that v2 of the test rules are used in 2018.

The working party is interested discussing with the chairmen of the Racing Rules Committee and Race Officials Committee how the high speed rules can be implemented for the Nacra 17 Class and therefore other similar classes.



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