

Report from the Chair of the OKDIA Technical Committee

The aim of the Technical Committee, as always, is to create a set of rules that are simple to understand for sailor, builder and measurer while not increasing costs or changing the fundamental nature of the boat such that equipment becomes outdated. A strong class needs a stable set of rules.

Technical Committee work during 2020 (and 2021) was mainly concerned with work on clarifying some of the rules. There is a continual process to modify wordings to take into account different understandings, move rules into more appropriate sections and also to correct some historical errors that have crept in.

One of the major changes in 2020 was a rewrite of class rule A.4 which deals with the administration of the class and this work was carried out in conjunction with a rewrite of the Constitution. Pandemic lockdowns created a lot of time for this work. There were also some changes in definitions and wordings approved by the TC but also some rewording and addition of some ERS definitions as requested by the World Sailing Equipment Committee.

Over the last few years, probably due in part to budget and pandemic reasons, World Sailing has transferred some of the responsibility for approving class rule changes from their technical staff and onto the Equipment Committee and its Equipment Rules Sub-committee. Rule changes approved by classes now get reviewed by these committees before they are published. Our previous class technical specialist Hendrik Plate has left World Sailing and we have not been informed who the new specialist will be, but we suspect that most of the work will now be undertaken by these volunteer committees and WS will publish when approved. With the Tokyo Olympics finally taking place WS are in a better financial situation and there are promises of hiring more staff.

Further to this, plans are underway for rule changes submitted to World Sailing to be subject to a quarterly time scale. There will be four periods for the EQRSC to review class rule changes and deadlines to submit, which come with an expected publication date. So now rule changes can be submitted at any time of the year with the expectation that they will be reviewed in a time appropriate manner. With this in mind the next submission deadline is December 15th with an expected publication date of 1st March. The requirements for such submissions have been increased with a view to reducing the time needed for review and so consequently any missing items will lead to a longer review time and possibly a later publication date.

Over the course of 2021 I had a few requests from people keen to join the Technical Committee. In August I asked the group if they were keen to stay and to reply accordingly. Several people requested to leave either by replying or by their lack of reply. Therefore, I have to thank the following people who have given their time over the last few years but no longer wish to stay on the TC. Rory Barnes (GBR), Lars Edwall (SWE), Christian Hartman (GER), Tomasz Gaj (POL), Alex Scoles (GBR), Jesper Strandberg (DEN). (If I have this wrong please let me know ASAP.)

Alistair Deaves
7th November 2021