

Report from the Chairman of the OKDIA Technical Committee

It has been quite a while since the last AGM and the class has gone through two sets of class rule changes in that time.

It is important to note that all class rule changes are purely the decision of the members of OKDIA, using the voting system as defined in the constitution. All rule changes also need a two thirds majority to be passed. The task of the Technical Committee in these matters is simply to make sure that the rule is worded correctly and does not have any unintended consequences. In no way does the TC or OKDIA push through rules that the members do not vote for.

Sometimes a consequence of a rule change only comes to light when the rule is used by measurers and then the TC can discuss again and propose some amendments. Members also have the right to propose amendments to proposals.

In June 2024, a class rule change was approved that permitted mobile phones to be carried in a sealed tank while racing, although not used, and permitted some limited wearable technology to be carried by the sailor that monitors the health of the sailor. Professional sailors often wear heart rate monitors for training purposes whereas the average OK sailor may use it for different purposes.

The class also introduced a new rule to prevent the sail being hoisted above the limit mark on the mast. The “device” that is required under the new rule can be anything that does the job and does need to be a specific fitting. A longer shackle, a stop in the track or a bolt through the crane all achieve what the rule intends.

The rule to permit the manufacture of laminated sails for the purposes of testing was removed from the rules. It was the opinion of most sailmakers that the supply of Dacron was not a problem and that the continued use of laminated sails and making them fully class legal may introduce unintended consequences of cost and performance.

At the end of 2024 World Sailing published a new Equipment Rules of Sailing (ERS) for the new four year cycle (2025-28) along with all the new governance documents. The governance work has some major changes in how WS will operate. Its aim was to speed up the submissions process (now called proposals) and to separate policy from rules. This has resulted in a vastly shorter Constitution and Regulations and a set of separate policy documents.

Part of TC work has been to update the Class Rules in line with these changes. There is nothing major to report on this and the changes should appear in our class rules later this year. Some ERS definitions have been changed or introduced and the Regulations have changed numbering and titles. For example Reg 20 is now called the WS Advertising Code.

There have been no changes to the Technical Committee.

Alistair Deaves
Chair - OKDIA Technical Committee
August 2025