

Report from the Chairman of the OKDIA Technical Committee

The class rule changes over the last year have been mainly on the administration rules. There were also some simple rule changes to tidy up wordings.

The administration rules changed to better align with common practice and to introduce the possibility of joining OKDIA as an individual member. There has been a difficulty for some years with small nations wanting to join. We will see if the new system works over time.

It is important to remember that although the OK Dinghy is a one design class that has rules with tolerances, our class rules are also closed. Which means that if the rules do not specifically permit something then it is not allowed. The method to permit changes to add something that is not permitted is through the process of a class rule change. All national associations have the right to propose rule changes for the Technical Committee to consider.

One of the possible changes being discussed in many classes is the use of GPS capable devices while racing. At the moment they may be carried afloat but have to be inside a sealed tank for the duration of racing. Any rule change to permit these devices further needs to go through the correct process.

At the technical meeting at the 2025 Worlds it was an almost unanimous opinion that we should wait for at least two years and see what the market and other classes do. It is an incredibly fast-moving field and any decision should not be taken lightly.

During the current four-year cycle World Sailing are working on an updated Standard Class Rules. The current version is now 17 years old, and some areas could be improved. When the new draft is published, in around two years, we will have to consider whether to update our rules to comply to the new format.

There are no changes to the Technical Committee this year.

Alistair Deaves
Chair - OKDIA Technical Committee
May 2026