

## **X-OD SAIL MEASURING POLICY**

### **CLASS COMMITTEE APPROVED 29 APRIL 2014**

#### **BACKGROUND**

- XOD sails can currently be measured by anyone, association member or not, although Divisional Captain's approval is implicit.
- There is no log or register of measured sails or who has measured them.
- The required X mark is not always present nor the measurer's name legible. There is no official X mark issued and it is hand drawn by the measurer.
- The XOD rules call up the Equipment Rules of Sailing (ERS) but some of the sail rules are inconsistent with the ERS.
- The XOD class does not currently recognise the ISAF scheme for In House Certification.
- Some (few) instances have occurred when measurers have rejected sails which have subsequently been found to be correct.

#### **IN HOUSE CERTIFICATION**

1. This scheme which does not currently apply to the XOD class, is authorised by ISAF and is administered in the UK by the RYA. Sail makers who chose to offer In House Certification for classes that have ERS compliant sail rules can be granted In House Certification status by the RYA for specific classes who request it and have obtained RYA approval. The Sail makers glue and sew a sequentially numbered sticker onto such sails. This right comes with a sail loft Quality Assurance System, is subject to external auditing by the RYA and is subject to temporary withdrawal of recognition if lapses arise. This is a serious threat to the sail maker and ensures compliance. Withdrawal of approval does happen, with potentially severe impact on the sail maker's reputation. After In house measuring, the sail maker glues and sews an RYA endorsed and sequentially numbered sticker onto the sail. There is therefore an audit trail if the sail is subsequently challenged. Currently not all XOD sail makers adhere to the In House Certification scheme and there is no class restriction on who can make XOD sails. Therefore there will always be a need for independently measured sails.

#### **STEPS TOWARDS IN HOUSE CERTIFICATION**

2. The first prerequisite is to improve the XOD sail rules so that ERS compliance can be sought from the RYA. This will require some work by the XOD Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). Currently the definition of the half heights and the head point of the jib and other details are not in accordance with ERS standard practice. These issues can be corrected with no impact on existing sails. Once compliant, the rules will be offered to the RYA for agreement and to the members as a resolution at the subsequent AGM. Once agreed by the members to allow In House Certification, it can be offered by those sail makers who are registered in the scheme. This will take some time and XOD members' confidence in In House Certification should have grown by then to be able to expect the necessary 75% majority.

#### **IMPROVEMENTS FOR INDEPENDENTLY MEASURED SAILS**

3. The Technical Advisory Committee has run two Sail Measurers' Seminars attended by XOD sail makers, RYA measurers, XOD measurers, future measurers and other interested persons. These

symposia have informed them of where the current XOD rules are at variance with the ERS and has established good and consistent practice in practical measurement. In particular the leech measurement of the spinnaker can be compromised by using any of several non ERS methods. A common procedure has been established and agreed with all attendees, including the big four XOD sail makers, which will prevail even after the XOD rules are made ERS compliant. A total of 35 items for improvement have been identified.

4. From those who have attended a symposium, the TAC will identify those measurers, who have the confidence of their Divisional Captains, to be approved by the Class Committee and put on a list of approved XOD sail measurers and shown on the class web-site. New names can be added subject to a re-run of the sail measurer's symposium or equivalent briefing. Sail measurers approved by the XOD Class Committee can be nominated as approved XOD sail measurers after having been given XOD specific instructions where the rules are inconsistent with the ERS. Sail measurers will be required to use a calibrated tape measure or a Class II measure available from the RYA.

5. New non-RYA approved sail measurers will be invited to have one set of XOD sails independently measured by an RYA approved XOD sail measurer for confirmation, before the non RYA measurer is approved for signing XOD sails. Subsequently if a non RYA measurer believes that a sail is non-compliant he is to seek an independent assessment before having a sail returned to its sail maker. Returned sails have a reputational impact on the sail maker and a returned sail that is ultimately found to be compliant reflects badly on the XOD association.

6. An RYA measurer will, of course, act on his own reputation backed by the RYA. He will also be providing an audit trail through his records of sails measured. RYA sail measurers are insured by the RYA for negligence and consequential liability while non RYA measurers are not.

7. By the time that In House Certification is approved for the XOD class, sail measurement of non In House Certified sails should only be by RYA approved measurers using the, by then, ERS compliant sail rules. Current non-RYA sail measurers will be encouraged and required to become RYA approved by April 2016. There is no RYA requirement to measure more sails or classes than the individual so chooses and nominates.

8. ERS rule H.1.1 prohibits anyone with a vested interest in any particular sail maker from measuring such sails, including himself if a sail maker; outside of the ERS scheme. Divisional Captains and Technical Representatives are to ensure that this rule is always complied with.

9. A list of approved XOD sail measurers, when selected and approved by the XOD Class Committee, will be promulgated on the class website together with any declared interests. From April 2015 only approved sail measurers will be accepted as valid measurers for the XOD class.

10. TAC will consider the viability of XOD pre-printed and sequentially numbered sail measurement stickers

Tony Monks  
TAC Chairman  
12 JUNE 2014