

Here are the comments from the class measurer Chris Winter on the latest rule changes:

There are several rule amendments of the 2009 Zoom8 Class rules for 2010. They are shown as the "Amended Rule" in the ISAF document published ISAF-website, <http://www.sailing.org/1785.php>.

What does this mean to you as the sailor?

1. The first amendment is a wording change in section C1.2 d). The new wording makes it clear that the hiking strap shall always be led under the traveler. As the sailor it is your responsibility to make sure that is the way it is installed in your boat because it can be checked by a measure at any time.
2. A new rule was added C1.3 s). This allows you to sail with or without the fairleads on the cleat that is used to control the traveler. You can now choose which way you want to use the cleat.
3. A rule regarding the sail cloth has also been changed. G3.1 a) now says that the sail shall be constructed from sailcloth approved by IZCA and the OAR. The choice of cloth was voted on at the special AGM in Sweden during the World Championship in 2009. The choice was Dimension Polyant 140 HTP. This was approved by the board at the AGM this winter and as of the effective date of these amendments, is the only cloth that official Zoom 8 Class sails can be made from. This means all sails measured and signed after 11.3 2010 must be made from 140 HTP. Any sails made before this date shall be from 140 medium tempered and can be raced as long as deemed appropriate.
4. Rule G3.2 states that the dimensions of the sail are according to the Measurement Diagram. This is not a change. The substantial change is that the class now has a full size master pattern and each of the 2 approved sail makers (Doyle sails Finland and Doyle Sails Austria) have identical patterns and therefore will make identical sails. This gives us a way to check that new sails are class standard one-design manufactured to the pattern.

This in no way makes old sails illegal or obsolete. Only sails measured after 11.3.2010 have to fit to the pattern. Older sails are legal because they were made to the class rule in effect at the time of their original manufacture. It is only when you buy a new sail from either of the class approved sail makers that it can be checked against the pattern

That takes care of the rules changes. There is one other topic that needs to be discussed, and is not a rule change, but an item from the builders manual that you should be aware of. The builders manual states in section C3.2.3 d) that the traveler arrangement shall be of the RWO brand and gives specific part #'s. At the AGM we became aware of the fact that not all boats have this system. It is the only legal traveler system in the class! If you have a traveler other than this, it should be changed. If your boat came from the manufacturer with a different traveler, you should contact them about replacing it!

Many boats are buried in the snow in Scandinavia now, and may be dug out for the European championship.....you might not have time or the ability to get the correct part before the regatta, so your existing travel can be used, but must meet class specifications (RWO and correct part #'s) for the World Championship in Estonia.

Wish you all a successful season 2010
March 16, 2010
Chris Winter
Zoom8 International Class Measurer