



International FJ Organization

Dear FJ friends,

The FJ board has the pleasure to inform you that we have a new mainsail rule.

Unfortunately the formation and approval of the new mainsail rule by the ISAF took much longer than expected, as there were some communication problems with the ISAF. We started the communication with the ISAF about the complete set of classrules, which were discussed during the last European Championship. The ISAF found it to complicated to decide within less than one week about a proposal for a change of the layout of our complete set of rules.

The ISAF didn't realize that incorporated in these renewed class rules there was also our proposal for the changed top- batten. This ment that in the beginning of December we got the bad news that the proposed rule changes were not approved and they would be discussed at the next ISAF meeting in 2003.

Normally when there were only things that we have rewritten you can say that this is well. But with changes like we proposed with our mainsail, where so many people were waiting for you can't accept this delay. From December till now we have discussed with the ISAF how to get a small amemdement in the present rules formally aproved fast. Fortunately the last phase went rather quickly and the ISAF had completed their work in one week. So our rules change per 1st of March 2003. From that moment the length of the top batten is (within restrictions free).

What has been changed in the rule since NieuwPoort?

The **most** important thing that has been changed is dimension of the mainsail. The halfwidth is a fraction wider, and a three-quarter dimension is added. This new measurement has a maximum of 1015mm. In Nieuwpoort we discussed a measurement of 1070 mm but the way the 1070 mm was measured was not according to the ISAF regulations, the 1015 mm is measured according to the ERS (equipment rule sof sailing). Also the top batten length is more or less free now, so we can have top battens from leach to luff. We hope the sails will last longer with such a top batten.

How to proceed with our new classrules?

Of course we will arrange that the new rules are ready as soon as possible. To make this possible we made a planning with the ISAF. From February on, chapter by chapter will be discussed with the ISAF and when big problems arise, we will come back to our councillors to ask their opinions. We expect that we will have the rules ready by mid of June. We suggest that the counsellors will discuss the new rules with the sailors of their country. And afterwards the counsellors will report to the secretary of the IFJO by the first week of July. We will make a summary of all the reports, which will be discussed during the World Championship 2003.

What is the new rule?

Rule 19.5(iv)

Divide existing paragraph b) into three sections b), c) and e)

Insert new rule

(d) Headpoint to intersection of luff and centreline of uppermost batten pocket shall not exceed 1290mm.

Delete present rule and insert:

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(f) At the half leech point the nearest point on the luff including the luff rope shall not be more than 1600mm. The half leech point shall be found by folding head to clew and smoothing the sail flat.

Insert new rule:

(g) At the three-quarter leech point the nearest point on the luff including the luff rope shall not be more than 1015mm. The three-quarter leech point shall be found by folding head to the half leech point and smoothing the sail flat

Summarising the complete revised text:

19.5. Mainsail

- (i) Three sail battens be fixed dividing the leech into approximately equal parts +/- 60mm.
- (ii) A headboard may be fined. The width of the headboard measured at right angles to the line of the luff shall not exceed 120mm at the widest point.
- (iii) No part of the sail shall extend aft of the inner edge of band No.3. The forward extension of the line of the upper edge of the boom shall not be lower than the upper edge of band No.2. The luff of the sail, when set, shall be between the bands 2 and 3.
- (iv) The following measurements shall be taken:
 - (a) Leech, distance in a straight line from upper forward corner of headboard to lower edge of boltrope below centre of clew cringle, shall not exceed 5250mm.
 - (b) Length of middle batten pocket shall not exceed 775mm
 - (c) The length of the lowermost batten pocket shall not exceed 525mm.
 - (d) Headpoint to intersection of luff and centreline of uppermost batten pocket shall not exceed 1290mm.
 - (e) The width of the batten pockets shall not exceed 50mm.
 - (f) At the half leech point the nearest point on the luff including the luff rope shall not be more than 1600mm. The half leech point shall be found by folding head to clew and smoothing the sail flat
 - (g) At the three-quarter leech point the nearest point on the luff including the luff rope shall not be more than 1015mm. The three quarter leech point shall be found by folding head to the half leech point and smoothing the sail flat
 - (v) The leech shall not be hollowed to evade the width measurements.
 - (vi) A double luffed or loose-footed mainsail is prohibited.

When will the rule be effective?

The new mainsail rule will be effective from the 1st of March 2003.

What about the “old” sails?

Sails from 2002 and before may always be used and will normally fall within the new rules. These sails were made with the old rules and when there are discussions they may be measured with the old rule (see FJ class rule 5.7).

We hope that everybody will enjoy this new rule and see everybody as soon as possible on the water with lots of pleasure in your beautiful boat.

Your IFJO-board,

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