

Minutes of the J/109 Class Association Executive Board conference call held on 10 July 2017 at 7:00 pm Eastern Standard time.

Participants:

Bill Kneller
Bud Rogers
David Rosow
Bengt Johansson
JR Rechtschaffer

Measurement process at Block and future NA's:

The measurement team encountered several difficult and ill-prepared boats during the measurement process. Sail declarations and crews swapping created most of the trouble. Additionally, there were problems with sail tag availability from a specific loft. The lack of reliable cell service made verification against the database difficult, if not impossible.

Recommendations:

- Reach out to new participants and participants who we believe will have trouble with the process and offer guidance.
- Create a centralized clearinghouse located on the website with information about what to expect at NA's, how to prepare the boat, and how to make it through measurement and registration. The form would be a good place for people to easily find the information.
- Create and publish a document about how to configure the boat for racing. Bengt and David will work on a draft that can be circulated prior to posting on the website.

Weighing In:

Those weighing in encountered a scale that wasn't perfect and some individuals complained and were embarrassingly disrespectful of the STC volunteers.

Recommendation:

The Class will purchase a scale for use at NA's and will acquire a method to calibrate it.

Boat contact, protest flags, and culture of competition:

There have been several incidents of boat contact which caused damage this season. Most issues of liability have been settled between the involved parties. Another incident has not been settled and one party wants the Class to step in and arbitrate a settlement. The Executive Board states that it is not the Class's duty to do so. However, the Board recognizes that it is their responsibility to establish and reaffirm a culture of competitive, fair and responsible sailing.

Recommendation:

The President will pen an annual letter to the Class to review the year, outline the year to come, and lay out some goals for sportsmanlike competition, the goal for less boat on boat contact, and encourage personal ownership of liability when there is damage.

Technical Committee Review of Rules Changes

ISAF's rebranding to World Sailing and World Sailing's changes or elimination of rules once published by ISAF have required the Technical Committee to review the Class Constitution and Class Rules. The committee reports that it has almost completed its review and will submit its draft to the Exec Board one

week prior to the August 1 publishing deadline. It is expected that any change will simply realign rule references to World Sailing will have little impact on owner's obligations.

New Owners adoption of Class rules:

Joining a new one-design Class can be intimidating and complicated. The Board wants new owners and existing owners who take up OD racing to be compliant and yet understand that the process can be difficult.

Recommendation:

Fleet captains will reach out to nearby existing owners to mentor new owners to help them understand the rules, how to make their boats compliant and to help them understand the culture of the Class.

Building Participation:

How does the Class continue to maintain and build participation at its events?

Recommendation:

Fleet Captains will circle back with those who didn't participate to encourage entry in the coming season. The guide to participation will be created (see Measurement Process above). The mentor program will be leveraged (see New Owners above). The LIS Fleet Captain will try to source inexpensive long term dockage/mooring for visitors who expect to participate at AYC Fall and Larchmont's NA's.

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting date is set for October 12. The start time will be 6:30 pm. Bill Kneller will approach Sail Newport for a meeting room, if appropriate.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.

David Rosow,
Class Secretary