

13 November 2015

To all J/109 Class Association Members:

A proposed change to the class rules regarding a Bob Stay has been developed by the J/109 Executive Board based on discussions at the J/109 Class Association Annual Meeting held 22 October 2015. Current class members are eligible to vote on this proposed change. The link to vote online is provided below, together with an explanation of the proposed amendment and the voting process. Members are requested not to forward this email to other people.

Who can Vote?

Section 3.1 of the J/109 Class Constitution provides that "A Voting Member shall be a legal owner or one designated legal owner in the case of a boat with more than one legal owner, such that each registered boat shall have one Voting Member. Each Voting Member shall have one vote." Voting Members maintain membership by paying annual membership dues and by complying with the J/109 Class Association Constitution and J/109 Class Rules. Note - if you desire to vote on the rules changes and are not a current year member, please go to the class website, update your membership and pay your current year dues.

When can I Vote?

All current members are being sent this email no later than 13 November 2015 notifying them that the official ballot is available. Voting is available online through 23:59 GMT 13 December 2015, at which time the results will be validated and tallied by the J/109 Class Secretary and announced on the class website.

What am I voting about?

Under this Bob Stay Proposal, a J/109 owner would be permitted to install a Bob Stay, but would not be permitted to use it in designated Class events such as the North American Championships unless specifically permitted by the sailing instructions for the event. A Bob Stay would be permitted in local Fleet sanctioned events where specifically permitted under the sailing instructions or local Fleet instructions issued by the Fleet Captain. Local Fleet Captain instructions will not apply to Class sanctioned events. The Executive Board noted that where local Fleet Captains issue instructions allowing the use of a Bob Stay for local Fleet racing under PHRF rules, they should advise the local PHRF rating authority of the issuance of that instruction, so that boats sailing with and without a Bob Stay can be appropriately rated. The Executive Board members voted unanimously to submit the following Bob Stay Proposal to the members of the Class for approval.

The proposal would amend Class Rule 4.3, which provides that "*The following are permitted while racing:*" by adding the following new sub-paragraph:

"4.3.16 A Bob Stay using high –modulus polyethylene fiber (e.g., Dyneema™ or Spectra™) secured in the bow above the waterline and on the Bow Sprit, provided that a Bob Stay may not be used while racing under J/109 one design rules unless specifically permitted by the sailing instructions for the event, or the local Fleet Captain has issued instructions that Bob Stays are allowed for events sanctioned by the local Fleet. Local Fleet Captain instructions do not apply to Class sanctioned events".

How do I Vote?

Click on the following [link](https://j109.org/vote/index.php/458547?lang=en) and record your vote. Please vote only once. You will record your name and hull number when you vote. <https://j109.org/vote/index.php/458547?lang=en>

Results will be announced after 13 December 2015 on the [J/109 Class website](#). Should the proposed amendment be approved by two-thirds of the votes cast, it will become effective on 1 January 2016.

Bud Rogers, J/109 Class Association Secretary
Big Boat, Hull 360