



Merlin Rocket Owners Association
Bladebone Cottage
Paines Hill
Steeple Aston
Bicester
OX25 4SQ

Dear Member,

CLASS RULES - CONVERSION TO ISAF FORMAT

A resolution at the 2005 AGM gave the Committee a mandate to convert the Class measurement and construction rules to ISAF format, this being an RYA policy requirement for the retention of National Class status.

The exercise commenced in 2005 has been continued by the RYA and an MROA sub committee lead by Dan Alsop, and comprising a number of those with experience of Merlin Rocket measurement and rule matters.

Draft V16 has now been approved by the main MROA Committee for circulation to members as a consultation draft. We believe it faithfully reflects the intention of the existing Class Rules as they currently stand, thereby honouring the pledge previously made that the ISAF conversion would not be used as vehicle to introduce any changes of intent. Notes on the format of the new rules may be found overleaf.

The full draft can be viewed on the Class website. The link is within the Latest News section on the Home Page.

Printed copies may be obtained from Dan Alsop (contact details overleaf).

The target date for the adoption of this or any subsequent version of the ISAF format Class Rules is 1st October 2014, which is after this year's major events and gives the Class the winter to become accustomed to the new format.

Comments and discussion on the draft are welcome. However should you wish to ensure that your own comments are brought to the Committee's attention, please advise Dan Alsop by E-Mail (dan_alsop@o2.co.uk) or letter by 1st September at the latest in order that they can be included in the report on the consultation exercise which will be presented to the mid-September Committee meeting, when the final format and operative date are expected to be confirmed.

Yours sincerely,

Amanda Tosh
Honorary Secretary

MERLIN ROCKET CLASS RULES - CONVERSION TO ISAF FORMAT EXPLANATORY NOTE FOR ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

At first glance the Class Rules in ISAF format seem difficult to follow. Unlike our current rules which go through the boat's features and measurements component by component in what we have come to regard as a logical progression, the concept adopted by ISAF differs in a number of important respects:

Most measurements are placed in separate tables rather than inside the text of the relevant rules.

Those requirements which can only be determined when the boat is assembled and ready to sail such as the number of crew or the setting of sails inside the measurement bands (termed "Conditions for Racing") are shown in a separate section from those items which can be checked or measured as individual components such as the weight of the centreboard or overall beam. The thinking behind this is that the former cannot be ascertained at initial measurement and would more properly be the subject of scrutineering at events.

A further sensible change is to group all administrative matters together at the start of the document.

The new rules make frequent reference to the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) and Equipment Rules of Sailing (ERS) and it is essential to have copies of these to hand should you wish to study the new rules in detail. These documents can be downloaded as follows:

[http://www.sailing.org/tools/documents/ISAFRRS20132016Final-\[13376\].pdf](http://www.sailing.org/tools/documents/ISAFRRS20132016Final-[13376].pdf)

[http://www.sailing.org/tools/documents/ERS20132016-\[13763\].pdf](http://www.sailing.org/tools/documents/ERS20132016-[13763].pdf)

Printed copies are available from:

ISAF (UK) Ltd, Ariadne House, Town Quay, Southampton, SO14 2AQ
Telephone: + 44 (0)2380 635111

The ERSs specify a standard method of measurement and save many of the words of explanation in our current rules as well as greatly reducing the chance of misinterpretation by any measurer unfamiliar with the Class. The eagle eyed may notice some differences in dimensions between the existing and new rules. These are a consequence of the revised method of measurement; the intention remains to ensure that the new rules will not result in any changes to what is permitted under the current rules.

Dan Alsop, MROA Committee Member (Rules)

30 Broad St

Lyme Regis

DT7 3QE

dan_alsop@o2.co.uk

tel 01 297 444 502 mob 07 712 010 264

V6 27th June 2014